

Village  
News Articles

Jan 11, 1990 - Aug 5, 1993

# Wheeling hoping for July 4 bang

Tues., Jan. 16, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to avoid a repeat performance of last year's anticlimactic Fourth of July fireworks display in Wheeling, organizers are seeking volunteers and donations for this year's event.

Organizers also are planning several fund-raisers in the next few months to meet a goal of raising at least \$7,000 by May. However, organizer Judy Abruscato said about \$10,000 is needed for the Fourth of July parade and fireworks display.

Last year's show was labeled as a "dud" by some residents and even organizers, who said the committee did not raise enough money for a

better display. The committee, comprised of Jaycees and AMVETS members and residents, spent \$5,000 on the fireworks display and \$2,400 on the parade, which included six bands.

The money is raised through donations, fund-raisers and voluntary contributions on water bills. However, because the line for donations appeared on the water bills only a few months last year, contributions were down.

Usually, the committee raises between \$8,000 and \$9,000 for the activities, including \$2,600 from water bill donations.

Abruscato said the committee is off to a good start this year because January water bills contained the

contribution line, and donations already are coming in.

A spaghetti dinner fund-raiser will be held at 5:30 p.m. April 25 at the AMVETS hall, 700 Old McHenry Road in Wheeling. A pancake breakfast also is in the works.

In addition, Abruscato said the committee is trying to attract corporate and business donations and sponsors for floats in the parade. She added that the committee wants to have more floats and fewer cars in the parade, which had 65 units last year.

Parade participants will be handing out red, white and blue balloons to viewers to symbolize the parade theme, "America the Beautiful." The Fourth of July activities coincide

with the annual St. Joseph the Worker's Familyfest, which will be held from July 3 through July 7.

"We're looking for more floats," Abruscato said. "And I do want to really be able to have hundreds of balloons go through the crowd. We really want to have it full with balloons."

The Fourth of July committee meets at 8 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Wheeling's AMVETS hall. The next meeting will be Jan. 24, however, next month's meeting will be held Feb. 21.

For information about contributing, or about becoming a volunteer call Abruscato at 541-8788.



Daily Herald Map

## Panel backs restaurant in center

Sat., Jan. 13, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners are supporting plans for a Mexican food carryout restaurant in a shopping center where last fall village trustees rejected plans for a carryout pizza restaurant.

Village planners were concerned about traffic, parking and litter that the restaurant could generate at the heavily-traveled intersection, at Dundee and Wolf roads. However, plans for the proposed restaurant in the developing Center Plaza take into account the planners' concerns.

Because the restaurant serves only carryout food, the parking lot would not be overcrowded because cars would be parked only for short times, village planners said. In addition, the restaurant's peak business hours, which would be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, would not add to the normal rush hour traffic at the corner.

Oralia Lumbraz, the restaurant owner, agreed to put a trash bin outside the building and supervise the area to avoid additional litter from customers leaving his restaurant.

"It's nice to see another type of a restaurant rather than another hamburger place or a pizza place," plan commission chairman Paul Eisterhold said.

Last July, village trustees rejected plans — even after two attempts by the owner — to open a Little Caesar's Pizza in Center Plaza. Officials said the center could not provide adequate parking for customers during peak evening hours and would increase traffic at the intersection.

## Wheeling planners keep eye on center aesthetics

Sat., Jan. 13, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling planners are keeping a close watch on a proposed shopping center on Milwaukee Avenue in light of planners' recent attempts to clean up the area and other village shopping centers.

Glenview developers Martin and Arnold Golden want to build a 26,900-square-foot shopping center on the northwest corner of Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue. The center, which developers want to open this fall, would house about 15 stores, such as a convenient store, professional offices,

travel agency and a video store, Martin Golden said.

Like many other suburbs, Wheeling has been besieged with new shopping centers. As a result, village planners, like Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold, are paying particular attention to the aesthetics of the centers and their potential viability in the village.

"My main concern is this is a very difficult site," Eisterhold said, adding the back of the building faces Manchester Drive.

The proposed site for Manchester Court also is included in the village's downtown redevelopment



Daily Herald Map

plan to clean up areas in the oldest part of town, especially along Milwaukee Avenue.

The developers say they will work out a plan for the back of the proposed buildings. Then they will go before the plan commission to seek a special use and a zoning variance for the site.

## Wheeling village manager wins pay hike

Tues., Jan. 16, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday unanimously approved a nearly 9 percent pay increase for Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Anderson's current annual salary of \$58,850 will increase 8.75 percent to \$64,000 with the raise. The new salary is retroactive to Dec. 1. He is eligible for another salary review next December.

Anderson, who joined the Wheeling staff in June 1988, started with an annual salary of \$55,000, which was increased by 7 percent to \$58,580 seven months later.

"It's based on performance," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said of the raise. "I think it's the

wish of the village board to compensate their staff in a manner that's appropriate to our standing in the area. We're highly satisfied with his performance."

Anderson replaced eight-year Village Manager Thomas Markus, who left Wheeling to take a job as a city manager in a Minnesota suburb. Markus has since accepted a new city manager's position in a Detroit suburb.

As village manager, Anderson oversees 183 full-time village employees. The village's five department heads, the village attorney and an assistant village manager report directly to him. The village manager also represents Wheeling on the Northwest Water Commission, the group which handles Lake

Michigan water allocation for the village and three nearby suburbs.

During his tenure, Anderson had a hand in starting a village recycling program and forming a second intergovernmental agreement with Prospect Heights concerning the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Anderson, 39, credited the cooperation of the village board and staff as the reason for his performance.

"I'm very appreciative," Anderson said. "I think it reflects confidence in each other in, so far, a good working relationship. It's the support of the board that really gets things done."

Prior to his Wheeling position, Anderson was assistant village manager in Glenview since 1980.

## County clears way for balefill

Wed., Jan. 17, 1990

By LAURA JANOTA  
and DANIELLE ACETO  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Plans for a 142-acre landfill near Bartlett cleared a significant hurdle Tuesday as the Cook County Board granted final zoning approval for the controversial project.

After more than two years of review at the county level, the proposed \$55 million landfill project received unanimous approval from county commissioners who added separate provisions calling for property value and drinking water protection plans for homeowners living within a mile of the garbage dump site.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is proposing to build the balefill — so called because garbage is baled before being buried — on 142 acres at West Bartlett and Gifford roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

Hailed as a potential short-term solution to the state's growing shortage of landfill space, the balefill, if built, would take garbage from the 28 North and Northwest suburban communities belonging to SWANCC.

Before Cook County issues a building permit for the project, however, approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be needed. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency already has granted SWANCC a construction permit.

"This is good news," SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt said of the county board's action. "The zoning issues are all resolved. Now the only hurdle left is the army corps of engineers."

He said an application will be filed with the army corps next month.

In securing county approval, SWANCC agreed to contribute \$1

million annually for the expected 18-year life of the landfill to an escrow fund to be used for — among other things — compensation for homeowners whose property values suffer because of the balefill. The money also will help pay for the closure, maintenance and monitoring of the landfill once it is full.

"It adds a significant level of protection to residents in the area," said Republican County Commissioner Carl R. Hansen of Mount Prospect.

It is "a level of protection that was not earlier contemplated and was added because of the kinds of expressions of concern that have come from residents in the area of the balefill," Hansen said.

Nevertheless, neighboring municipalities and citizens groups are charging the county board with making a "political" rather than "environmental" decision and are rein-

See BALEFILL on Page 7

## BALEFILL: County gives approval

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See BALEFILL on Page 7

## BALEFILL: County gives its approval

Continued from Page 1

forcing their pledge to take their fight to the army corps.

"Their (the county board) minds were made up long ago," said Bartlett Village President John A. Stark, who called the new provisions a "smokescreen."

"This was a political decision from the word go. It was not an environmental decision," Stark said.

Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin, Wayne and Hanover Township currently are suing the county for alleged procedural violations when preliminary zoning on the land was approved in 1987.

Citizens Against the Balefill also has filed a complaint with Attorney General Neil F. Hartigan's office, charging that its due process rights were violated last year as the IEPA considered SWANCC's permit application.

"As long as I am alive, standing and breathing, this balefill will not be operational," said Daniel Kairis, president of Citizens Against the Balefill. "We have brought up some serious concerns."

In what they said was an attempt to alleviate those citizen concerns, county board members Tuesday required SWANCC to implement and pay for the property and drinking water protection plans.

The escrow account, which will total at least \$18 million by the time the balefill closes, will be administered by a three-member body appointed by SWANCC.

Homeowners who believe their property values are damaged or drinking water contaminated by the balefill, would take their claims to the three-member body which would include a civil engineer, a real estate appraiser and a public health specialist.

Appeal of claims would be made through arbitration, with homeowners given the opportunity to take their claims to court if non-binding arbitration is chosen.

Monday, Jan. 15, 1990

# Democrats hit the suburbs

## Being voted in no longer means being Republican

By MADELEINE DOUBEK  
Daily Herald Political Writer

There is a growing trend in the Republican-dominated Northwest suburbs: Democratic village presidents.

Hoffman Estates Village President Michael J. O'Malley, Mount Prospect Village President Gerald L. "Skip" Farley, Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz and Barrington Village President Theodore J. Forsberg all are Democrats.

Their election to those prominent village posts may be further evidence that the suburbs are becoming a little less Republican. Three of the four Democrats were just elected last April, but they all served as trustees before ascending to the village presidency. Schultz, in Wheeling, has been village president for nine years.

Angelo J. Polvere, former Inverness village president, is a Democrat and there are trustees and aldermen sprinkled throughout the suburbs who are Democrats.

But the presidents will argue their party affiliation was not a factor in their election to local positions that are purposely non-partisan. In fact, most residents in the Northwest suburbs probably assume their village officials are Republican. They traditionally have been.

"That basically is the assumption that I've made," admitted Farley. He even fell into the trap of assuming Schultz was Republican.

"I only found out Sheila was a Democrat when I saw it in the paper," Farley said. Schultz's political affiliation made the papers when she was slated recently to run as a Democratic candidate for the Cook County Board.

### Democratic village leaders in the suburbs

Do village residents realize you are a Democrat?



"I don't think that most of them know, and in most cases, I don't think it would matter."

— **Sheila H. Schultz**, Wheeling Village President since 1981, Democratic candidate for Cook County Board



"They (some local Republicans) tried to make sure everyone knew I was a Democrat both times I've run."

— **Michael J. O'Malley**, Hoffman Estates Village President since April 1989



"Everyone who steps into a ballot box and sees Ted Forsberg's name knows he's the Democratic Committeeman of Barrington Township."

— **Theodore J. Forsberg**, Barrington Village President since April 1989, Barrington Township Democratic Committeeman



"I've never made any secret of it and I've never been asked. I don't think they give two hoots and a holler."

— **Gerald L. "Skip" Farley**, Village President of Mount Prospect since April 1989

Daily Herald Graphic

Rarely does their political affiliation matter, the village presidents say.

"I don't think that most of them (the voters) know, and in most cases, I don't think it would matter," Schultz said of her party affiliation. Since she came out of the Democratic closet with the county board slating, Schultz said she has not been treated like a minority.

"There doesn't seem to be any negative connotation," Schultz noted. "It is just that people say they are surprised or didn't know."

When Schultz travels to Springfield to lobby state legislators on municipal issues, she says she often is asked, "What are you?"

"I should say it doesn't matter," Schultz said. "I usually start out by saying this is what I am, but that doesn't matter here."

As the Democratic committeeman in Barrington Township for more than a decade, Forsberg says he has been much more visible than his party colleagues. "I don't have one doubt in my mind that everyone who steps into a ballot booth and sees Ted Forsberg's name knows he's the Democratic Committeeman of Barrington Township. Not one doubt."

Forsberg's affiliation may be more widely known, but it has not hindered his local political career.

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"Once people learn the message and what we're trying to do for the community, they make their decisions based on that. If somebody's doing a good job, he'll be re-elected every time," he said.

O'Malley, who once ran as a Democrat for a seat in the House of Representatives, agrees.

"I don't think it makes a damn bit of difference. There's not a Republican way or a Democratic way to plow the streets or put up street lights or any of the other services," O'Malley said.

O'Malley ran with a slate of Republican candidates in the last local campaign and he, too, has never experienced discrimination as a Demo-

crat. Some local Republicans "tried to make sure everyone knew I was a Democrat both times I've run," he said, but adds that most residents "don't cast stones at you for it."

Schultz believes there are benefits to having Democrats around when Northwest suburban village presidents get together to discuss regional issues. "On region-wide issues, a bipartisan perspective leads to better examination of issues, sometimes, and a more thorough examination," she said.

"I've never made any secret of it and I've never been asked. At least some of the people have found out I'm a Democrat," Farley said. "I don't think they give two hoots and a holler."

Well, Jan. 17, 1990

# Wheeling says no to pizzeria on Milwaukee

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owner of W-a-Pa-Ghettis Pizza may not relocate his Wheeling restaurant to a proposed office center on Milwaukee Avenue. Wheeling officials have decided.

Since last fall, restaurant owner Joseph Mastrototaro has been working with village officials for approval to move his pizza carryout, delivery and sit-down restaurant, at 46 W. Dundee, to the north end of a proposed center zoned for office use on the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues.

After pleading this week with

trustees for a third time, Mastrototaro lost his bid for a restaurant along Milwaukee Avenue — in an area, trustees say, the village is trying to improve.

"This would not enhance the upgrading of Milwaukee Avenue," Trustee William A. Rogers said. "Prior to this request, for the past seven or eight years we've been looking for an office structure on this site. It seems somewhere along the line something is missing because we went from an office building to a special-use restaurant."

Trustees in October agreed to allow a carryout pizza business as a special use on the property. Officials

sometimes grant special use permits for projects not allowed under zoning laws. However, trustees requested Mastrototaro pare down his building plans, originally drawn for the south side of the center.

Village officials were concerned that the pizza parlor would not leave enough room for traffic and may be a nuisance to adjacent residents. This week, trustees rescinded the special use granted in October and rejected Mastrototaro's request to move into a south unit of the center.

"Our objections have been and continue to be that the property use on that site is not compatible with upgrading Milwaukee Avenue and would have some detrimental effects

on the adjacent neighborhood in terms of noise, odor, traffic," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Mastrototaro said he bought the property to open his restaurant and several professional offices, such as real estate, insurance and architecture. A gas station, about 40 years old has been abandoned on the property for the past 20 years.

"I don't want to make one error after another just to put something in their to get rid of the gas station," Trustee Joseph W. Ratajczak said.

Although his lease on the Dundee restaurant expires in a year, Mastrototaro declined to comment on his future plans with restaurant.

# Cable improvements spark service outages

By MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An electrical upgrade project by TCI of Illinois is causing longer service outages to some cable customers than originally anticipated, company officials have told members of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council.

Six of the eight communities represented by the council — Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling — all will receive the new electronic equip-

ment under this project. Two other council members, Bartlett and Hanover Park, have already received the electronic upgrades.

TCI General Manager Mark Hess said originally cable company officials believed the project would disrupt service to customers for short periods of a half-hour to one hour for one day. Three communities still should be affected by only short outages, he said.

However, Hess said, in Des Plaines, Park Ridge and Prospect Heights the company needs to re-

place connectors, which requires more extensive work and the cable service to be out for longer periods.

TCI recently began work in Des Plaines and cable service throughout almost the entire city has been out from about midnight to 8 a.m. nightly for about 10 days, Hess said.

Des Plaines officials said they have received several complaints from residents. Resident Wallace Brush attended the council meeting and questioned why the residents were not given notice about the

cable outages. He also asked if residents would get credit on their bills for the times the cable was out.

Hess said officials did not realize until they had begun the project that some areas would need the extensive work. The company now is working to change its message on Channel 52 to tell customers about the longer outages.

He added that most people do not watch television at those times, but he would work with residents such as Brush who were affected on a possible credit.

*Herald 1-18-90*  
**Internal alerting system to be studied**

The village will review the fire department's current internal alerting paging system to determine which expansions and changes would improve the system for the least cost.

Trustees originally set aside \$20,000 in the 1989-90 budget for the expansion and installation of the fire department internal alerting communications system. However, after receiving only one bid for the system, trustees decided to reject the bid and again evaluate the purchase of in this year's budget.

The Scan-Am Company quoted the cost of the system at \$26,826, which exceeds the budgeted amount by \$6,826.

**Trustees approve addition to shop**

Trustees have approved the remodeling and building addition to Collins Fireplace and Patio Shop.

The shop, at 561 W. Dundee Road, originally was constructed as a lumberyard on property leased from the Soo Line, which is now the Wisconsin Central Railroad, and has been the patio shop since 1977.

The expansion at the rear of the 6,000-square-foot store includes an additional 6,000 square feet of display and sales area and an extra 12,000 square feet for storage and the warehouse. The additional space is needed, owners say, because the business requires a larger area for displaying merchandise and storing the items.

Although the shop borders the railroad tracks, village planners

said, the remodeling of the building will improve the aesthetics of the area.

**Agreement made on firing range**

Wheeling has an agreement with the Buffalo Grove Police Department concerning the use of the firing range by members of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System Emergency Services Team.

Under the contract, Wheeling agrees to assume full responsibility for the all claims, loss, damage or injury to any person or property arising out of use of Buffalo Grove's firing range.

Four members of the Wheeling Police Department are part of the special team. The contract runs from Nov. 1, 1989 to Dec. 31, 1990.

**Firm to examine computer equipment**

Wheeling trustees have unanimously approved hiring a Chicago consulting firm for the village's Community Development Department to analyze the existing computer equipment and determine future computer needs.

The Conlon Group, Inc. will evaluate the current equipment for the department and address various information processing needs of the building, housing, zoning, engineering and planning divisions.

The Conlon Group, which currently is under contract with the village's finance department, will determine the department's needs and the costs. The firm will be paid no more than \$2,970 for about 36 hours of work.

*By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Wheeling trustees have approved plans for a national trucking company to open a warehouse in Wheeling, provided the truck drivers stay off certain village roads.

Consolidated Freightways Corporation of Delaware plans to construct a pickup and delivery truck terminal on five acres along Chadwick Drive, north of Marquardt Drive.

The proposed center, which abuts the Wolf Run Estates subdivision,

west of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport, is in a Wheeling industrial park, zoned general industrial.

The trucking company now dispatches six trucks a day from its Waukegan center to Wheeling to serve about 130 customers in town and several hundred customers nearby. The Wheeling center would provide better and quicker service for the customers and reduce traveling time for the company, said Don Drysdale, a division manager for Consolidated Freightways.

In an effort to lessen the impact on traffic flow and of heavy trucks on some village streets, Consolidated Freightways drivers may not use certain roads as part of the agreement to build the center. In addition to residential roads, restricted streets include Wolf Road, north of Hintz Road; south on Wolf to east of Palatine Road; Hintz Road west of Wheeling Road; and Dundee Road throughout most of Wheeling.

Some trustees said the provision was not enforceable because other trucking companies do not have the restrictions. But Consolidated Freightways agreed to stay off the designated roads unless for local trips.

"The last thing in the world one of our drivers want to is go into an area that is not conducive to our trucks," Drysdale said. "We hope to upgrade the community and the environment... with extensive landscaping."

The company also will stagger its departure schedules between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. to minimize the impact on traffic. The one-story center, which will have 16 doors for trucks, may be later expanded to 32 doors.

*Sunday, January 21, 1990*  
**Trustees OK trucking warehouse**

**Formal airport rules proposed**

*Hurs., Jan. 18, 1990*  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is one step away from having its first formal set of rules and regulations following airport commissioners' approval Wednesday of the proposed safety codes.

The rules and regulations, which outline standards for commercial and refueling operations, requirements for flight instructors and safety codes on the airfield, now await approval of the airport owners — Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The governing boards for the two communities will likely vote on the 26-page document next month.

The airport operates with no formal rules and regulations, which makes it difficult for airport officials — without the authority — to control dangerous activity at the airport. Airport officials have worked on the codes for the past three years, and held a public forum last month for comments from residents and airport users.

"By and large, while there may be a few things we might not be in complete agreement with, we think it's a pretty good document," said Barry Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association. "I think it's liveable."

However, Axelrod said he was not representing all Palwaukee pilots. Axelrod said he was pleased airport officials changed a provision in a former draft requiring flight instructors to be on the airfield while students, who have flying permits, fly. The proposed rules now requires the instructor only be available by other means of communication.

In its ninth draft since 1986, the rules and regulations include sections on who may use the airport, how they should operate aircraft safely and what size planes may be flown there. The codes also outline enforcement and penalties for violations.

Police departments in the two towns will be responsible for processing complaints filed with them by the airport manager. Violators could be fined up to \$500.

*1-21-90*  
**Groups slated to make presentations to board**

Representatives of the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County will give presentations on the functions of the organizations Monday for Wheeling village board members.

Members of Prospect Heights City Council also have been invited to listen to the speakers. The speakers will give overviews of the organizations, as well as provide updates on current issues involving local municipalities.

"The mayors and village managers may be familiar with it, but trustees are not as familiar, and this gives them the opportunity to see what we do," said Rita Athas, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference. "They pay their annual dues, and they should know what they're getting for their money."

*Herald*

**The top meeting**

**Who:** Wheeling Village Board committee-of-the-whole

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

Athas said representatives of the two organizations periodically make presentations to members of the groups.

The Northwest Municipal Conference includes 34 local municipalities and six townships, including Wheeling Township. Wheeling and Prospect Heights are among the participating municipalities.

William Abbott, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, will give an update on the status of the trash transfer station proposed for Rolling Meadows.

# Balefill proposal nears review by Corps of Engineers

1-21-90  
By DANIELLE ACETO  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Five years of unrest over controversial plans to build Cook County's first landfill in more than a decade will come to a head soon.

In less than two weeks the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County formally will ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to approve a \$55 million balefill plan, lauded as a potential short-term solution to the state's garbage crisis.

SWANCC has battled for five years to put the balefill — so called because garbage is baled before burial — on 142 acres near West Bartlett and Gifford roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

"It's been through a lot of review by a lot of different agencies at a lot of different levels of government and all comments have come back saying the project is sound," said Brooke Beal, SWANCC project consultant.

The balefill, which would be a

dumping ground for trash generated by the 28 North and Northwest suburban municipalities associated with SWANCC, so far has survived scrutiny by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which last fall granted SWANCC a construction permit.

Earlier this week the Cook County Board responded with an approval of its own, granting final zoning on the land earmarked for the project.

But all that could prove for naught if SWANCC cannot secure approval from the corps in the coming months.

SWANCC officials say they will on Feb. 1 submit a permit application to the corps, which then must assess the project's potential effect on the surrounding environment and wildlife.

While the IEPA concerned itself primarily with the potential for groundwater contamination, the corps must address and come to terms with the complete scope of the project's effect on the area sur-

rounding it.

And they will do so in the following manner:

- Immediately following SWANCC's application, the corps will entertain written public commentary on the proposal. A 30- to 45-day comment period will ensue and requests for public hearings will be considered.

- Any concerns will be forwarded to SWANCC for their response and all material then will be evaluated by the corps.

- The corps will conduct a study on the potential effect of the balefill on the surrounding area.

- The corps will approve or deny the permit, but no time limit is being placed on when the corps must decide.

"Water quality issues, the effect on wildlife, habitat, environmental impacts, the full range of impact" all will be studied, said Evelyn Schiele, corps spokeswoman. "We're going to take as long as we feel is necessary to do a good job."

Within 90 days of receiving SWANCC's permit application, however, the corps must report to Congress on the balefill's potential impact on the Newark Valley Aquifer, a nearby underground water source serving about 300,000 people.

Opponents of the balefill long have charged the project would contaminate that water supply — a concern that last year prompted federal legislation mandating the corps report directly to Congress on the issue.

Amid all this, opponents say they will continue in their fight to kill the project. They already have requested that the corps conduct public hearings and complete a full-blown "environmental impact statement" on the proposal — a process that could elongate the approval process by as much as one year.

"We've got a couple of aces up our sleeve, but we're not telling anyone," said Daniel Kairis, president of Citizens Against the Balefill. "We've got a long way to go before SWANCC gives up."

## The balefill: What's next?

- Application for permit from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — the last step in the approval process — will be filed Feb. 1 by solid waste agency.

- Army Corps must study the balefill's potential effects on the surrounding environment and wildlife, including the effect on the underground water supply.

- Army Corps will seek written public comment for 30-45 days after application is filed. The solid waste agency will respond to all comments. Balefill opponents are asking for public hearings.

- No time limit is set for the Army Corps decision, but the solid waste agency's option to buy the land expires June 2.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.



Daily Herald Graphic

## A look at 1989 crimes in Wheeling

COUNTRY SIDE  
1-25-90

	1988	1989	% change
Burglary	162	115	-29%
Burglary from motor vehicle	232	193	-17%
Theft	538	480	-11%
Battery	18	11	-39%
DUI	157	159	+1.3%
Total Part 1	1,023	882	-14%

Total Part 1 offenses refers to the number of most serious crimes such as robbery, burglary, theft and auto theft that were committed in Wheeling. Statistical information provided by the Wheeling Police Department.

## Special police operation aids in crime reduction

Beefing up police patrols helped bring about a decrease in Wheeling's crime rate, according to local police.

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

More Wheeling police officers patrolling the village in various guises and at all hours of the day are being credited for a drop in crime in 1989.

Chief Michael Haeger said the increased activity of the department's special operations group has caused a substantial reduction in the number of burglaries committed in Wheeling.

Figures supplied by the department show that total Part 1 crimes, considered the leading indicator of crime in a community, dropped 14 percent in 1989. Part 1 offenses include homicide, robbery, rape, burglary, theft and auto theft.

Including Part 2 offenses, considered lesser crimes, such as driving under the influence, drug law violations, simple assault and battery, Wheeling crime statistics show a 4.4 percent drop in 1989 compared to 1988. Overall, the number of crimes reported fell from 4,356 in 1988 to 4,164 in 1989.

"OVERALL, IT was a very busy year and it was a very successful year," Haeger said.

Haeger credited the special operations group, headed by Sgt. John Stone, with providing the surveillance and patrols that has sent a message to criminals that Wheeling police don't always drive marked cars and work normal shifts.

Created to add flexibility to the department's crime-busting capability, Haeger said Stone's group works both undercover and in marked units and is deployed on various shifts wherever and whenever necessary.

Because of the five-officer group's activity, "we're seeing results in the crime statistics," Haeger said.

AFTER BURGLARIES ROSE from 147 incidents reported in 1987 to 162 in 1988, the number of incidents in that category fell to 115 in 1989, police figures show.

Burglary from motor vehicles continued its downward trend. While there were 261 reported incidents of burglaries from motor vehicles in 1987, there were 223 in 1988 and 183 last year, a drop of 17 percent.

The number of reported thefts also dropped, down 11 percent from 538 in

1988 to 480 last year. The police department now has 39 officers, eight sergeants, two deputy chiefs and Haeger. Village trustees last year added one sergeant and two officer positions to the force.

TWO COMMANDERS ARE expected to join the force this spring. They will add a level of supervision between the sergeants and the deputy chiefs. Haeger said the added personnel have provided the department with the ability to create the special operations group and to focus on particular crime, including gang-related incidents.

"I think that makes people a little more reluctant to come into the community to commit offenses," Haeger said. The chief also said the increasing number of neighborhood watch groups

### See related story on page 14

may have contributed to the reduction in reported burglaries.

Not all categories of crime were reduced in 1989. The number of simple batteries jumped 7 percent to 319 in 1989 from 298 in 1988. And the number of auto thefts rose 22 percent, from 37 in 1988 to 45 thefts in 1989.

OVERALL, THE WHEELING police department responded to 18,686 calls in 1989, up 2 percent from the previous year. But that figure is 11 percent higher than the 1987 figure.

"Obviously, I'm happy that the crime statistics are down and Wheeling is a safer place," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Anderson credited what he said was a more active group of officers for contributing to the reduction in crime.

But rather than say a drop in crime translates into a need for fewer officers, Haeger said he will ask for more personnel in upcoming budget talks with Anderson and later with village trustees. He said the existing crime rate reduction would not have been possible without the additional officers hired over the past two years.

"THE PERSONNEL we've added in the past, we're seeing the results today," Haeger said.

Anderson said Haeger's requests are now being considered and that they will be weighed against other requests for equipment and requests from other village departments. Staff will present the budget requests to trustees Feb. 24 at the village hall.

# Serious accidents up again in 1989: Police

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

1-25-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

While Wheeling may be safer from burglars and thieves, village roads again became more dangerous to drive upon in 1989.

After accidents with injuries jumped dramatically in 1988, they again rose in 1989, with 365 injury accidents occurring throughout the village. Police figures show there were 341 in 1988 and 233 in 1987.

In addition to the injury accidents, three people died in traffic accidents last year, the same number as those who perished on village streets in 1988, police figures indicate.

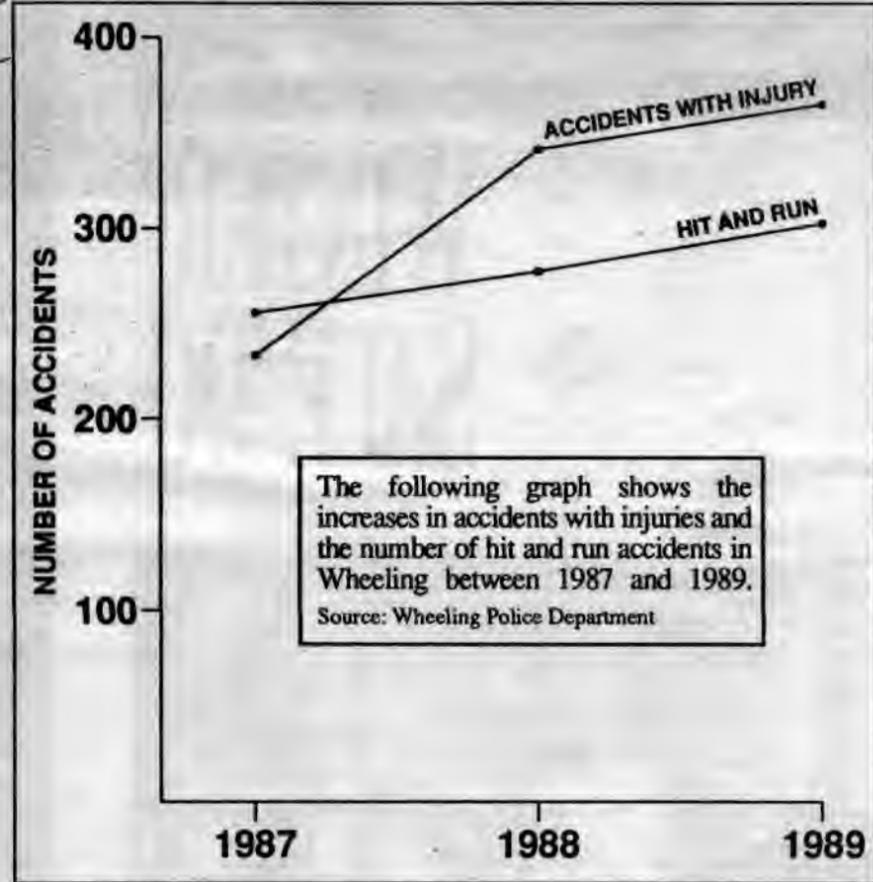
"We are having an increase in traffic accidents, there is no doubt about it," Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

**HAEGER BLAMED THE** higher accident rate on a greater number of drivers who are disregarding traffic laws in the village.

The chief said department efforts aimed at traffic control have been hampered by increases for service in other areas. While additional officers have been used to spotlight burglary and gang crime, Haeger said those efforts have taken away from time officers have been able to spend nabbing speeders and establishing a presence on village streets.

With the increase in accidents and an increase in calls for additional traffic signals, the village has had a traffic study done and is hoping to use the document to secure additional signals in the village, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

The study has shown that the intersection of Wheeling and Palatine



The following graph shows the increases in accidents with injuries and the number of hit and run accidents in Wheeling between 1987 and 1989.  
Source: Wheeling Police Department

roads is the most dangerous in the village and causes the longest delays. Although the village is waiting for a final copy of the traffic report, its preliminary conclusions included adding traffic signals at Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road and at Dundee and Huntington roads.

**ANDERSON SAID THE** village is

now pursuing agreements with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Village of Buffalo Grove to bring traffic signals to those intersections.

As for improvements to other intersections, including Wolf and Palatine roads and Wheeling and Palatine roads, Anderson said the village will have to ask the state to improve those locations.

Tuesday, January 23, 1990  
**SWANCC asks Wheeling's support of balefill**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Officials of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County are asking member communities to support a refinancing of a \$7.5 million loan, a move that would help pay for opening a proposed landfill near Bartlett.

In the first in a series of presentations planned for member governing boards, SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt explained the refinancing plan Monday to Wheeling trustees, with members of Prospect Heights City Council also in attendance.

By Feb. 1 SWANCC will ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to approve the balefill — a step that

would move the organization closer to ending the five years of unrest over the controversial plan.

For five years, SWANCC has battled objections to open the \$55 million balefill — so called because garbage is baled before burial — on 142 acres near West Bartlett and Gifford roads.

But last week, the Cook County Board granted final zoning on the land allowing the balefill, which would accept trash generated from the 28 municipalities associated with the agency.

Those municipalities are under obligation to begin proportionately repaying in May a \$7.5 million outstanding loan for SWANCC. Under the refinancing plan, SWANCC expects to raise \$3.2 million over the

next two years from agency members and from interest.

Wheeling would pay \$110,000 over the next two years, or \$55,000 each year.

Under an interim refinancing plan, SWANCC would buy the unincorporated Hanover Township land for the balefill by June 2 and repay the outstanding debt.

But in fall, an ambitious long-term financing plan, which would include borrowing more money would be adopted.

The refinancing is expected to reduce the amount of money the agency would need to borrow later, wipe out the \$7.5 million debt, improve SWANCC's credit and secure bond insurance.

**SUBURBAN REPORT**

Thursday, January 25, 1990  
**Brunswick set to roll plans for high-tech bowling alley**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A worldwide recreation corporation wants to build a state-of-the-art bowling center along Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

Brunswick Recreation Centers, a division of Brunswick Corp., plans to build a 40-lane bowling center with automatic pinsetters, computerized scoring, a nursery, multi-purpose room, lounge, pro shop and three billiards rooms.

The proposed bowling center would be equipped to accommodate national professional bowling tournaments, said Hank Harris,

vice president of service at Brunswick Recreation Centers.

"It would be one of the most modern bowling centers in the country," Harris said. "It will be a very, very attractive bowling center. We're going to have the latest automated scoring equipment available."

Brunswick representatives are set to make their first pitch about the center to village plan commissioners at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Wheeling village hall, 25 W. Dundee Road.

Harris said Brunswick is "close to purchasing" the 4.5 acres on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of



Daily Herald Map

Mayer Avenue, from the current owners, Sky Harbor Recreational Vehicles.

In order to open the center, Brunswick needs the zoning on the land changed from industrial to business use and gain the approval of the village board.

# Curbside charity catching on

Chicago Tribune  
Feb. 20  
Wheeling pickup project earns praises of Goodwill

By Karen Goettsche

[Waste Management has] gained... and apply it to charitable donations. Goodwill was chosen because they are non-denominational and not-for-profit, and the profit from these donations is used to train people.

The program's trial period will end in May, and if the report continues to be positive, Addleman said he would like to expand it to all of the communities we service in the Chicago area, and perhaps ultimately do it on a national basis.

Jim Wadsworth, president of Goodwill Industries of Chicago, was just as enthusiastic, saying the charity could add two or three communities immediately and as many as 20 within the year.

Kathy Bradley, a Goodwill spokeswoman, said the charity was particularly pleased with the first month's 16 percent participation of the residents.

The donations were of particularly good quality, Bradley noted, saying that "86 percent of the goods collected in the first month could immediately be sent to the stores. Normally, only about 65 percent is immediately usable from the drop boxes."

Wadsworth said donations are down somewhat in the second month, but that does not mean the program is not working.

"Charitable donations have huge swings between peaks and valleys," Wadsworth said. "This method may even them out somewhat because it is so convenient."

David Kowal, Wheeling's assistant village manager, credited the educational efforts of both Goodwill and Waste Management for "an excellent job making sure that residents were aware of the program."

"Wheeling was chosen because it had a good cross-section of people," Bradley said, "and they had been very supportive of the recycling program" begun by Waste Management last April.

# First installment on balefill less than village expected

COUNTRYSIDE  
By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

1-25-90

With the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's balefill running into delays, the organization is expected to soon ask member communities to dig into their pockets to help finance continuing development plans.

But the amount each community will be asked to contribute will be less than the debt municipalities were originally told to plan for, SWANCC executive director Bill Abolt said Monday.

In a presentation before a joint workshop meeting of the Wheeling Village Board and the Prospect City Council, Abolt said SWANCC municipalities must pay \$3.2 million over the next two years in order to restructure past debts and to finance the project.

For Wheeling, the tentative SWANCC plan calls for the village to pay \$55,000 in each of the next two years, Village Manager Craig Anderson said. Under previous payment schedules, the village would have had to pay \$220,000 this year as its share of SWANCC's initial \$7.5 million loan, Anderson said.

SWANCC'S 28 COMMUNITIES are hoping to begin dumping their trash into the balefill, named because garbage would first be compacted into bales before disposal, in 1991. The 200-acre balefill parcel is located in west suburban Bartlett.

After gaining approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Cook County Board of

Commissioners, SWANCC will soon ask the Army Corps of Engineers to approve the balefill plan, Abolt said.

Because of protracted delays, Abolt said SWANCC must restructure existing debt that was scheduled to be paid by the municipalities by May 1. In addition, SWANCC must come up with funds to buy the balefill property. The municipalities must also fund continued design and engineering plans and pay for the construction of the trash site, Abolt said.

Since SWANCC inception, member communities have only contributed \$5,000 toward the cost of the project, with the stipulation that they would guarantee their waste stream to the project. But the communities also agreed to retire the initial \$7.5 million loan taken out by the agency in 1988.

WITH THE REFINANCING of \$7.5 million, the borrowing of \$5 million for the land purchase, and the contribution of \$3.2 million from member communities, SWANCC is looking to generate more than \$15 million within the next four months, Abolt said.

The financing plan will be pitched to the SWANCC executive committee next month and will then be introduced to member communities immediately, Abolt said.

With the refinancing balanced by a contribution from member communities, Anderson said the agency and the communities benefit. He said SWANCC will get improved credit ratings while members will pay less in fees over the next two years.

# Omni honors officer for community work

Wed. 1-31-90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Omni Youth Services will honor a Wheeling Police officer next month for his outstanding work with youth in the community.

Officer William Stutzman, an 11-year veteran of the Wheeling Police Department, recently was named recipient of Omni's Dr. Richard E. Wynn Service to Youth Award.

The annual award is given out in memory of Wynn, the founding president of Omni, who died last April. In the late 1960s, Wynn developed com-

munity support groups for drug awareness and mental health for youths and families in Wheeling Township.

Stutzman becomes the fourth recipient and will be honored at the Omni Mardi Gras, the agency's annual fund-raiser to be held March 3 at Ditka's Trackside in Arlington Heights.

Stutzman was chosen from nominations made by staff members at Omni's Wheeling headquarters.

"He maintains a strong sense of authority while maintaining values," Omni's Assistant Development Di-

rector Jacqui Menich said of Stutzman. "In his work with community youth, he always emphasizes their active participation in programs."

Stutzman also is particularly competent in dealing with physical and sexual abuse cases, Menich added.

In addition, the officer was instrumental in founding a recently formed special task force involving seven Cook County police agencies, which joined forces to combat gangs. Stutzman was one of the officers who investigated whether there was a problem with gangs in the North-

west suburbs and to what extent.

Stutzman, who acts as a liaison between Omni and area police departments, is involved in the First Offenders Project and the Snowball drug awareness program with several school districts, including Wheeling Township Elementary District 21.

"We feel that he's really followed in Dr. Wynn's footsteps in terms of his commitment to the community and the community's youth and family," Menich said. "He's been an outstanding member of the community."

# Police officer faces two disciplinary charges

Wed. January 31, 1990  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners dismissed one disciplinary charge Tuesday against an 11-year village police officer, but said he still faces two other charges of unsatisfactory job performance.

The commission unanimously upheld the charges filed earlier this month by Police Chief Michael F. Haeger against Adrian D. Russell. Haeger is recommending the commission fire the 40-year-old officer, who is accused in all three charges of unsatisfactory job performance and incompetence.

A hearing on the two remaining charges will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 22 in the fire department's training room, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The first two charges against Russell, whose annual salary is \$36,552, outline two separate incidents that happened last year.

However, the third charge also lists 13 other incidents spanning the past six years. Since 1984, Russell has been suspended from the police department eight times for a total of 30 days for those incidents, which include failure to attend court dates, having accidents involving a squad car and for allowing a suspect to escape custody.

Russell's attorney, James R. Truschke, sought to dismiss the third charge because, he argued, the officer already had been reprimanded for the department violations. Commissioners, in dismissing the charge, agreed with a recommendation by Village Attorney James A. Rhodes

that the past record of the officer could be considered, instead, as evidence in the case.

"Counsel is attempting to argue apples and oranges and count them all as apples when they're not the same," Truschke said. "I think it was the police chief's way of prejudicing against the case."

Commissioners, however, rejected Truschke's request to dismiss the first charge based on the same reason. The charge stems from a Feb. 16 incident in which Russell allegedly stopped a driver, who was known to be dangerous, Russell allegedly left the suspect unattended, and when other officers arrived on the scene they found a loaded gun in the suspect's car.

Commissioners found that Russell's participation in an eight-week

field training program following the incident did not constitute a reprimand and that the officer could be charged with violating department regulations.

Russell declined to comment on the case, as did Haeger.

This marks the fourth time in just less than a year Haeger has charged one of his officers with violating department regulations.

Ten-year veteran officer Richard R. Imber was fired last April for gambling and battery. Last September, Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel was suspended for 21 days without pay for upending the village flag in protest of Imber's firing.

Also last year, Michael T. Rompala, a 20-year officer, was suspended for 10 days for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase

# Serious accidents up again in 1989: Police

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

1-25-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

While Wheeling may be safer from burglars and thieves, village roads again became more dangerous to drive upon in 1989.

After accidents with injuries jumped dramatically in 1988, they again rose in 1989, with 365 injury accidents occurring throughout the village. Police figures show there were 341 in 1988 and 233 in 1987.

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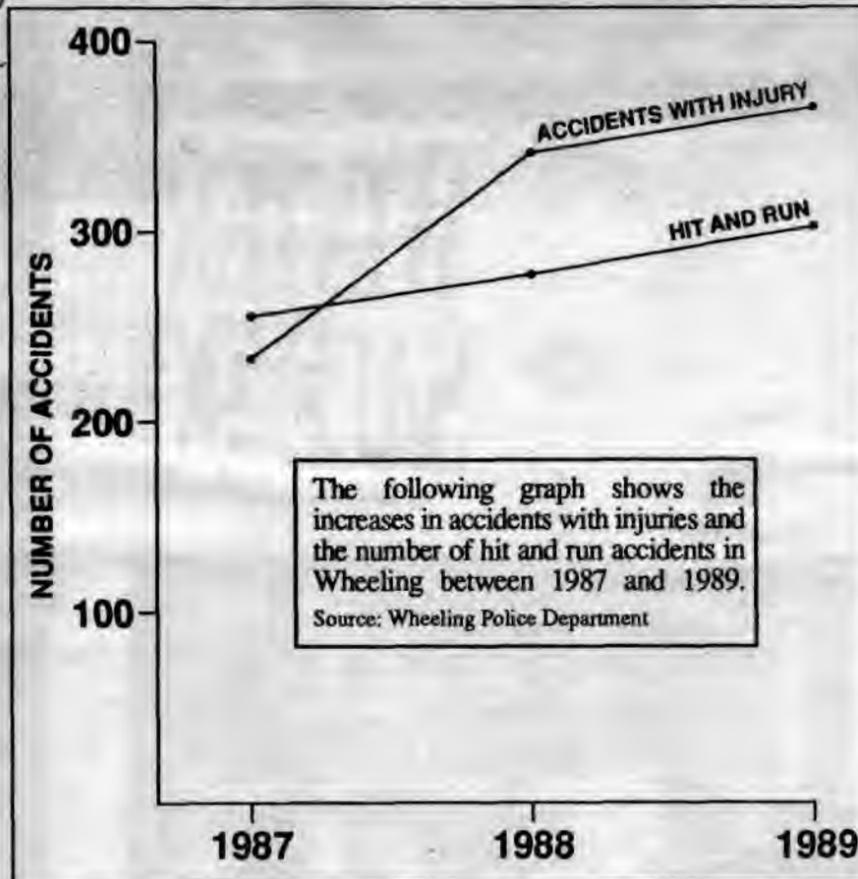
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Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Daily Herald Map

Mayer Avenue, from the current owners, Sky Harbor Recreational Vehicles.

In order to open the center, Brunswick needs the zoning on the land changed from industrial to business use and gain the approval of the village board.

# Customs service studied at Palwaukee

July, Jan. 30, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport may establish a U.S. Customs Service at the airfield, provided airport users agree to pay for the service.

When traveling abroad, pilots based at Palwaukee must first land at another airport, such as O'Hare International or Midway, to clear customs before returning to Palwaukee.

Besides being time-consuming, the additional stop adds wear and tear to airplanes and requires more fuel to land and take off again, airport officials said.

Pilots and the airport's fuel and maintenance operator agree that a customs office at Palwaukee would benefit pilots as well as the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. Such a move requires approval from Gov. James R. Thompson and the U.S. Customs Service.

Fred E. Stewart, Palwaukee Airport manager, said he is surveying about 25 of the corporate jet tenants based at Palwaukee — including those from Motorola Inc., Kraft Inc. and W.W. Grainger Inc. — about establishing a customs service. He has requested a response by Feb. 1.

Stewart estimates the first-year cost of starting a customs service and paying an employee to total about \$70,000. Each year thereafter, the cost would be about \$50,000 to pay for a customs officer, he added.

He said the airport owners "are not in the position of paying" for the service, saying the funding must come from the users.

Stewart is asking tenants who want the service whether they would pay an annual user fee for unlimited use of the office, or pay a fee for each use.

Charles E. Priester, president of George J. Priester Aviation Services at Palwaukee, said he would provide an office.

# Firefighters seek mediation to aid in contract talks

Wheeling firefighters have asked for outside help in negotiating a new contract with the village.

Village officials and firefighters said last week the union, after more than a year of negotiations, has asked that a third party come in and listen to both sides, fire department Capt. Ralph Perricone said.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the village anticipated the request. Rhodes did not say whether the village will agree to a mediator.

Attempts to reach Wheeling Firefighters Association officials for comment were unsuccessful.

The two sides have been negotiating a contract since they were unable to agree on whether the department's six lieutenants should be included in the bargaining unit.

The firefighters have argued that the lieutenants are not management by definition of state law and should be included in the bargaining unit. The village has claimed the lieutenants should be excluded from the union because of their management status.

After losing Illinois State Labor Board and lower court rulings, the village appealed those decisions to the Illinois Supreme Court, which heard arguments on the case last summer. A ruling on the case has yet to be issued.

# Citizens committee planned to comment on police issues

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE 2-1990

For the first time since the Wheeling Police Department was formed, citizens are being asked for input that could have an effect on the force's future job performance.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is soliciting village residents to volunteer for a couple of half-day question and answer sessions that he hopes will yield insights into public perception of the department and the village's police needs.

"I think it's an excellent way to get citizen input into the department," Haeger said.

Applications for the citizen advisory committee were sent to every home in the village along with a community survey concerning the police department. Both were attached to the village newsletter distributed in December.

Those interested in joining the committee have until March 1 to contact the department either by mailing in the survey form or by calling Haeger's office at 459-2634.

THE SURVEY IS the second the village has conducted since 1988, Haeger said. An annual survey is required in order for the department to gain accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Haeger said.

Haeger said the citizens advisory committee idea came from police departments in Massachusetts and Florida, who had used the forum to "extract" valuable information on community concerns.

Already, Haeger said there have been more than a dozen volunteers. He said the department will meet with the groups one or two times for several hours each time. The committee will not meet on a regular basis, Haeger said.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said he hopes the survey and the advisory committee will help the village

and the department "get a little closer to the people."

"THEY MAY perceive that the gang problem is something we should spend more time on or traffic," Anderson said.

If certain specific issues are raised, Haeger said the department would then try to address those points.

"That will help us in developing goals and objectives to settle those issues," Haeger said.

Haeger said the department will also survey its own officers and employees concerning related topics.

SINCE 1987, THE department has been working to meet the standards and policies monitored by the independently-funded national Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Haeger said. The department is hoping to learn this summer whether it will be accredited, Haeger said.

# And now the good news

The past year or so has provided some tumultuous times for the Wheeling Police Department in terms of disciplinary actions against certain officers, but while these cases may be dominating the headlines in the local media it is good to see the department is continuing to focus on ways to improve services.

The planned formation of a citizens advisory committee that would meet with police department officials on occasion to review services and citizens reactions to their encounters with police is an excellent idea that could help foster good will with the community while at the same time giving police a better understanding of community perceptions.

Instead of operating on its own preconceived notions of what people perceive to be the most serious public safety issues affecting the community, the department's initiative might well provide some new insights into the concerns of local residents.

But unlike many other survey programs that are implemented by local units of government, this process also will give officers and employees a chance to provide their own input. This aspect of the program will allow the department to compare notes on what all sectors of the community think about public safety issues.

In addition, results from the respondents will be used to help the department's hierarchy in developing goals and resolving any potential problems that may be identified.

In the short run this endeavor will begin to give law enforcement officials a clearer picture of what residents think about the department. If continued in the years ahead, the program has the potential to help officials develop better understanding among the people they serve.

Hearing set on two allegations

# Board drops one charge against officer

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer *COUNTRYSIDE*

Disciplinary charges against Wheeling officer Adrian Russell, who Police Chief Michael F. Haeger wants fired for alleged incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance, were trimmed from three to two Tuesday.

The Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners, agreeing with the argument that Russell cannot be found guilty of the same misconduct twice, dismissed charges tied to past disciplinary actions.

"I think they ruled on the law," said James Truschke, Russell's attorney. "It (the charge) had to go out."

But while agreeing with Truschke's recommendation to dismiss one set of charges, the board upheld Village Attorney James Rhodes' contention that another charge not be dropped as Truschke requested.

A FEB. 22 hearing has been set to review the two remaining charges. That meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the fire and police training room in the municipal complex at 255 W. Dundee Road.

In December, Haeger charged Russell, an 11-year veteran, with incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance related to two 1989 incidents. In the charge that was dropped, Haeger's attorney, Steve Culliton, argued that incidents for which Russell had already

2-1-90  
been disciplined created a "chronic pattern of misconduct."

In his charges, Haeger said the actions are grounds for firing Russell.

Since 1983, Russell has received five written reprimands and been suspended eight times for a total of 30 days, Haeger's charges show. The suspensions and reprimands are punishment for missed court dates, car accidents and for allowing a suspect to escape Russell's custody.

IN THE REMAINING charges, Haeger alleges that on Feb. 16, 1989, Russell violated department rules when he did not carefully watch a potentially dangerous subject Russell had stopped on Hintz Road. Although the man was later arrested, the charges state the man was left unattended in his car that contained a loaded gun.

Haeger said the incident "unnecessarily placed officer Russell and fellow officers ... in danger of harm."

In the other charge Russell will face Feb. 22, Haeger alleges that on Sept. 2, 1989, Russell released a burglary suspect who would later be implicated in the crime.

Truschke did not seek to have the latter charge dropped. He argued unsuccessfully that Russell was disciplined for the Feb. 16 incident when he was ordered to complete an eight-week field training program.

CITING A MEMORANDUM from Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke to Russell, Truschke said the department was disciplining Russell for the incident and that O'Rourke told Russell he would be fired if he did not take the training. Truschke argued Russell could not be disciplined twice for the same incident.

But Culliton said the department's training program was not considered discipline and that Russell was told that he must complete the class and improve his performance. If he did not, Culliton said, the O'Rourke memo indicated disciplinary charges could be filed against Russell.

Rhodes supported Culliton's contention and let the charge stand.

When Russell's Feb. 22 hearing begins, it will come nearly a year after another officer, Richard Imber, first went before the board of fire and police commissioners on gambling, battery and disorderly conduct charges. Imber was fired by the board last April.

IN THE PAST year, Haeger has asked the board of fire and police commissioners to discipline four officers, including Russell. In addition to Imber, the board suspended Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel for overturning the village flag following Imber's final hearing and suspended officer Michael Rompala for participating in an unauthorized car chase that ended in Chicago.

# Bowling center proposal to be reviewed

*Herald* 2-4-90  
Wheeling plan commissioners this week will review a proposal for a worldwide recreation corporation to open a bowling center in the village.

Brunswick Recreation Centers, a division of Brunswick Corp., plans to build a 40-lane state-of-the-art bowling center along Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Mayer Avenue.

Besides the 40 lanes with automatic pinsetters and computerized scoring, the plans include a nursery, multi-purpose room, lounge, pro shop and three billiards rooms.

The proposed bowling center also

## THE WEEK AHEAD

would be equipped to accommodate national professional bowling tournaments, said Hank Harris, vice president of service at Brunswick Recreational Centers.

The recreation company is in the process of purchasing the 4.5 acres from the current owners, Sky Harbor Recreational Vehicles, Harris said. The proposed 38,000-square-foot center may be opened by the fall bowling season, he added.

However, Brunswick needs the zoning on the land changed from industrial to business use and gain approval of the village board. In addition, the plans also must be approved because the center falls under the village's special use zoning.

Harris said the center would be in line with the village's commitment of upgrading Milwaukee Avenue. "It will be a very, very attractive bowling center," he said.

Brunswick, headquartered in Skokie, also operates bowling centers in Deerfield and Palatine and

## The top meeting

**Who:** Wheeling Plan Commission

**Where:** Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday

formerly in Buffalo Grove. Prior to Brunswick's bid on the land, a competing bowling company had been interested in opening a center there.

# Police on lookout to fill committee

2-4-90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Department is looking for a few good residents to serve on a committee that will help guide the direction of the department.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee, comprised of volunteer residents, will help establish goals and objectives for the 1990s for the police department, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

Patterned after similar successful

committees in Florida and Massachusetts, the group not only will offer suggestions, but also gain a better understanding of how the police department works, Haeger said.

The committee will meet for two, four-hour sessions and follow a strict format to prioritize issues as they are brought up during the meetings.

"We want the people to bring up what they feel are goals and objectives as citizens and what they feel their police department should be doing," Haeger said. "The people should have some input into what their police department does."

While village officials — such as the village manager, president, board and police chief — may already have goals for the department, residents may also have ideas, Haeger said.

"The community we serve may also have priorities," Haeger said. "What we're attempting to do is make sure all priorities are in sync."

There are no requirements for adults to join the committee, and residents may volunteer by filling out a police department survey included in the village's newsletter

this month. Haeger said he hopes to get a cross-section of volunteers from Wheeling.

The survey, which must be returned by March 1, ask residents' opinion on certain aspects of the department, including the performance and appearance of officers. Some other questions poll residents as to their last contact with the department, the promptness of the response, the safety of the community, and a fair rating of the department.

For more information on the committee, call Haeger at 459-2634.

# Wheeling police aim for an elite ranking

2-5-90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department is nearing completion of a three-year process to become part of a group of nationally accredited police agencies.

As a participant in the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Wheeling's police department has spent the past three years preparing to comply with a lengthy set of standards for certification.

Now, the department is just steps away from joining the fewer than 150 agencies in the nation which have completed the accreditation process.

The department is preparing the

next couple of months for a "mock" assessment, conducted by accredited agency members, which would determine whether Wheeling is ready to seek certification from the commission in July, said Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

"It raises the credibility of the agency not only for those who belong to the agency but for the citizens the agency serves," Haeger said. "It also says something about the department — that the department is committed to delivering a high level of service and the department is committed to being a professional police department."

As part of the accreditation process, the department must comply with a list of 944 standards includ-

ed in a 48-chapter manual, which deals with the police department's role, use of force, organization of the department, personnel, training and prisoners.

Some of the standards include updating the department's rules and regulations manual, and conducting a village police department survey.

As the only association in the country that accredits police agencies, the decade-old commission is comprised of representatives from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs Association and the Police Executive Research Forum.

# Wheeling reports decrease in crime

## Additional officers, new units credited with drop

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An increase in the number of officers and a new specialized police unit are credited with a reduction in crimes reported in Wheeling last year.

Overall crimes reported in the village took a 4.4 percent dip last year, while serious offenses, such as burglary, aggravated assaults and battery plunged by nearly 14 percent from 1988.

The number of reports of less serious crimes, like theft, deception, criminal damage to property, and drug and sex offenses, dropped 1.5 percent from 1988 to 1989.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger points to the department's special operations group, or tactical unit, as one of the major reasons for the reduction in crime. The six-officer group, which completed its first full year last year, is assigned to an area which requires the most attention.

For example, the group targeted burglaries last year and placed extra patrols at parking lots and liquor establishments. Burglaries dropped from 162 in 1988 to 115 last year, whereas liquor violations decreased

considerably by 38.8 percent, from 98 offenses in 1988 to 60 last year.

Tactical unit officers adjust for any situation and may be assigned to any shift, depending on the task. They may be in uniform, plain clothes or undercover. They may be driving squad cars, unmarked cars, or walking or riding a bicycle.

"They never know where we're going to be," Haeger said of possible offenders. "We're trying to simply prevent crimes and enhance public safety."

In addition to the tactical unit, two officer positions were added to the force, bringing the total number of police officers to 39. Several other new officers were hired throughout the year to fill gaps left on the department.

The department also is in the process of hiring two commanders, who will provide additional supervision for the department sergeants and supervise when the police chief and deputies are not on duty.

One of the commanders will oversee the special operations and investigations units. The other commander will manage the patrol units and oversee the day-to-day operations of

### Wheeling Police Department Crime Statistics

Offense	1988	1989	Change
Rape	3	6	+ 100%
Robbery	4	4	0%
Aggravated assault/battery	39	36	-7.7%
Burglary	162	115	-29%
Burglary from autos	232	193	-16.8%
Theft	538	480	-10.8%
Auto theft	37	45	+21.6%
Arson	8	3	-62.5%
Homicide	0	2	N/A
Battery/assault	341	360	+5.6%
Deception	126	117	-7.1%
Criminal trespass/damage	571	512	-10.3%
Deadly weapons	19	19	0%
Sex offenses	32	20	-37.5%
Offenses involving children	122	163	+33.6%
Cannabis	80	82	+2.5%
Controlled substance	22	15	-31.8%
Liquor	98	60	-38.8%
Driving under the influence	158	161	+1.9%
Motor vehicle offenses	1,199	1,347	+12.3%
Kidnapping/unlawful restraint	0	3	N/A
*Fatal vehicle accidents	3	3	0%
*Injury vehicle accidents	341	365	+7%
*Total vehicle accidents	1,914	1,997	+4.3%
<b>Total offenses</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>4,164</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>

Comparisons from Jan. 1, 1988 through Dec. 31, 1988 vs. Jan. 1, 1989 through Dec. 31, 1989.

\*Denotes department services or activities, rather than offenses.

the three patrol shifts.

The number of arson cases plummeted last year from eight to three. "Some people decided not to set dumpsters on fire," Haeger said.

An increase in public awareness may have resulted in a doubling of the number of criminal sexual as-

saults — to six from three — reported last year, Haeger said.

"More were reported to us," Haeger said. "I would be willing to bet that a majority of those involved victims who knew their offenders. Women have been very reluctant to report being raped by a friend."

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Mexican restaurant to open in Wheeling shopping center

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A former Mexican food store owner in Wheeling will open a carryout Mexican restaurant in a developing village shopping center.

Wheeling trustees Monday unanimously approved plans for Taqueria Alamo. Last fall, the village board twice rejected plans for a carryout pizza restaurant.

The owners of the restaurant, Ricardo and Oralia M. Lumbereraz, owned La Casa De Alegria Inc., in Wheeling for 19 years before selling the Mexican food store last June. The Lumbereraz's plan

to open the restaurant in about two months.

Last fall, village trustees rejected a second request by Little Caesar's Pizza to open a carryout pizza restaurant. Officials said Center Plaza could not provide adequate parking for customers during peak evening hours and increased traffic at the heavily traveled intersection and Wolf and Dundee roads.

Peak business hours for the Mexican restaurant, however, would not add to the normal rush hour traffic at the corner. Most of the lunch hour traffic would be generated from nearby residents



Daily Herald Map

and Wheeling workers who place group food orders, village officials said.

In addition, the Lumbereraz's agreed with trustees' request to supervise the outside area of the restaurant to avoid litter from customers leaving the building.

## Palwaukee proposal approved

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved an application for nearly \$5.8 million from federal and state transportation agencies for the first year of a new five-year improvement program at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The program, called the Transportation Improvement Proposal, seeks \$46.4 million from the Federal Aviation Administration over five years and includes land acquisitions, building improvements and equipment purchases.

Under the proposal, the FAA funds 90 percent of the airport improvement projects, while the Illinois Department of Transportation pays 5 percent and the airport pays the remaining 5 percent. Under this year's \$6 million proposal, the FAA pays \$5.47 million, while IDOT pays \$303,900 and the airport pays \$303,000.

Palwaukee owners — Wheeling and Prospect Heights — plan to acquire land for the realignment of the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads. The intersection must be moved, airport officials say, to comply with FAA standards for a "clear zone" from the intersection to the airport's main runway.

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Wheeling firefighters drop labor charge

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling firefighters union will withdraw its unfair labor practice charge against the village as part of an agreement reached during contract negotiations.

However, contract talks continue between the Wheeling Firefighters Association and the village, while both sides await an Illinois Supreme Court decision to determine whether their talks will include fire department lieutenants.

Firefighters, who have not received pay raises since April 1988, continue to work under a contract that expired in April 1985, said village Attorney James

A. Rhodes.

The firefighters union filed an unfair labor practice charge with the Illinois Labor Relations Board after village fire and police commissioners amended the department rules in 1988 to require all village firefighters continue to renew their paramedic certification annually.

The agreement reached between the two sides now provides for a maximum number of firefighters who must remain certified as paramedics and a minimum number of firefighters who are not certified. The numbers are relative to the number of employees at the time, but the minimum number cannot fall below 18.

Village President Sheila H.

Schultz said of the agreement:

"It's the kind of thing that speaks well about our ability to work together on issues that are important to both of us."

Negotiations between the two sides began in January 1986, when the firefighters union included only rank-and-file firefighters, not lieutenants. The village had objected to the union's request to include six lieutenants in the bargaining unit and the union appealed to the labor board.

The labor board ruled in the union's favor in 1986, and the village appealed. The Illinois Appellate Court upheld the labor board's decision in 1988 and the village appealed to the state's high court.

### Money slated for village home repairs

Through Wheeling's residential rehabilitation program, village trustees approved issuing \$15,321 for some residents to use for emergency home repairs.

Since 1980, the village has received about \$482,000 from Cook County's Community Development Block Grant program, which funds home-repair projects for low-income residents.

The money must be used to bring houses up to village codes and not for basic remodeling. The loans are reduced by 10 percent each year after the work is completed. After 10 years, the homeowner's debt is eliminated, provided he does not sell his home in that time.

### Village groups to hold fund-raisers

Several village organizations received approval from trustees to hold fund-raisers over the next few

months.

St. Joseph the Worker Church will conduct a raffle from now through March 10. The cost of the raffle tickets, which will be sold at the church and school, are \$5. Prizes totalling \$4,950 will be awarded, with the single maximum value of a prize at \$2,000.

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 will conduct a raffle from Feb. 10 through May 3. The raffle is sponsored by the school district, villages and senior centers in Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling, and the townships of Elk Grove and Wheeling.

Raffles will be sold for 50 cents each at Randhurst Shopping Center in Mount Prospect. The maximum prize will be valued at \$500, while the value of all prizes will total between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

### Misericordia, diabetes association seek funds

The American Diabetes Association,

Misericordia Heart of Mercy and Clearbrook Center for the handicapped will hold tag days over the next couple of months to raise money in Wheeling.

The American Diabetes Association will conduct a tag day March 17 to promote the search for a prevention or cure for diabetes and to improve the well-being of people and their families with the disease. Volunteers with written self-tests and sugar-free suckers will stand on sidewalks and in front of stores asking passers-by for donations.

The Misericordia Heart of Mercy will conduct tag days March 30 and March 31 to collect money for the home for more than 350 mentally and physically disabled children and young adults. Volunteers will solicit donations throughout the village.

Clearbrook Center will hold tag days on May 4 and May 5 for the organization, which promotes, encourages, fosters and provides non-discriminatory activities for developmentally disabled and socially, emotionally and physically handicapped people and their families.

## Center required to improve its appearance

Thurs Feb 7, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to improve the appearance of a shopping center on a busy Wheeling corner, village officials are requiring the owners to install two new signs, additional landscaping and a fence.

The Wheeling Shopping Center has been cited several times over the past year by village officials for violating property maintenance codes. The center is located on the southwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, north of Center Avenue.

Village planners have been work-

ing with the owners and architects to bring the center — which is in a prime location in Wheeling's traditional commercial area — into compliance with zoning regulations.

However, trustees recently debated whether to require owner Ruth Miller to include street addresses of stores in the complex on the two new signs. Store names would not appear on the signs. Instead, the sign would list the addresses of the businesses, which are on all three streets.

A couple of months ago, Trustee William A. Rogers suggested the village begin requiring new shopping centers include addresses to ease confusion for motorists and

shoppers.

New signs are needed at the Wheeling Shopping Center, village officials say, because the current signs are old and cluttered, listing all of the names of the stores in the center.

Miller said that adding addresses to her proposed signs, which would be on both Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, would take away from the signs because numbers also would add clutter.

"I don't want to take away from your sign because I think it's very nice," Rogers said to Miller. "I think it's critically important that ad-

resses begin to appear on our major shopping centers and minor shopping centers all up and down the streets."

Village President Sheila H. Schultz broke a tie vote by trustees that will require the street addresses be included on the signs.

Other improvements approved by the board include, adding three landscape island in the parking lot, painting the canopy on one of the businesses and adding a fence along the boundaries abutting residential areas. The parking lot would be made safer by widening it, moving employee parking to the rear of the center, creating one-ways and reducing parking.

## Pilots group offers plan to reduce airport noise

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

2-8-90

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
Wheeling and Prospect Heights residents in the flight path of Palwaukee Municipal Airport could find their days quieter if suggestions by a pilots association are adopted by its members.

The Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association has called for its 330 members to begin flying over less populated areas when possible and to reduce engine power as soon as possible when taking off.

Provisions of the "good neighbor policy" plan were approved by the

PAPA board in January and were released to members last week.

"We just thought no one goes and deliberately makes noise, but if we have a choice of runways to go and do it," PAPA president Barry Axelrod said. "It just makes it a little more pleasant for people in the surrounding communities."

**THE POLICY CALLS** on pilots to choose runways that would allow them to fly over industrial areas rather than homes on those days when wind conditions allow them runway options.

Typically, pilots try to take off and

land into a prevailing wind. When wind conditions are light, pilots often have the choice of taking off or landing in nearly any direction, Axelrod said. But often the airport control tower will limit those options, he said.

Axelrod said the policy also asks pilots to slow their engines down after takeoff as soon as safety permits. By reducing power, Axelrod said pilots can dramatically reduce the amount of noise that filters down to the ground.

Although the provision of runway selection will have less of an impact

on the airport's noisiest customers, the corporate jets, Axelrod said the request to reduce power could be incorporated by jet pilots.

**SO FAR, PAPA'S** proposal has met with support from airport officials. Wheeling Trustee Bill Rogers, who has lobbied for noise controls at the airport, said the PAPA plan was a good start.

"Certainly, my feeling has always been that airplanes will fly over Wheeling, but if we could reduce the number or reduce the noise, it will be greatly appreciated," Rogers said.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 9)

"It's good to see them doing something like that."

Rogers said he understands that wind conditions and safety concerns often dictate runway usage and other flight elements. But on those days when lighter wind conditions give pilots more options, Rogers said he would support them choosing the options that would distribute the least amount of noise on Wheeling and Prospect Heights residents.

"...If it takes five minutes (more) to get over to another runway so you can take off over the industrial area, we'd appreciate it," Rogers said.

**THE AIRPORT IS** considering a noise abatement program that is now being studied by the Federal Aviation Administration, airport Manager Fred Stewart said.

"I would look at it as more of a positive aspect and we would applaud their recognition of noise problems around the airport and whatever efforts they can to reduce it," Stewart said.

Several months ago, Rogers said some of the flights out of the airport were unnecessarily going over Wheeling. He said an FAA letter indicated that pilots were choosing runways that would conveniently allow them to land nearer their hangars.

Axelrod admitted that some pilots, when wind conditions are light and runway options are available to them, choose runways that decrease the amount of time they spend traveling to get from the runway

### A good indication

**COUNTRYSIDE 2-8-90**  
In reviewing a sign proposal this week, Wheeling trustees touched on an issue well worth following up on, namely whether to require business signs on busy streets to include street addresses.

The concept has merit and should be addressed by the board in the future as a means of not only identifying specific shopping centers and businesses but to help improve traffic safety.

Anyone who has tried to find a specific address on busy northwest suburbs thoroughfares knows the hazard of trying to drive while keeping one eye on the landscape. It is a problem that obviously affects numerous drivers along Dundee Road in Wheeling.

With Dundee Road businesses in Wheeling lacking needed street address indicators, a village ordinance would seem a particularly worthwhile measure.

## Wheeling residential rehab eligibility qualifications

Household size	Low income	Very low income*
1	\$23,350	\$14,600
2	\$26,700	\$16,700
3	\$30,000	\$18,750
4	\$33,350	\$20,850
5	\$35,450	\$22,500
6	\$37,500	\$24,200
7	\$39,650	\$25,850
8	\$41,700	\$27,500

\* Priority given to those who qualify as very low income. Figures are for 1989. Supplied by the Village of Wheeling.

Program targets low-income families

## Village taking applications home rehabilitation funds

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Low-income Wheeling families who are unable to pay for needed home repairs are being urged to apply to the village for funds to fix roofs, paint walls and upgrade plumbing.

Since 1982, the village has spent more than \$360,000 on 13 single-family home projects that left sewers, floors and driveways repaired in homes throughout the village.

Under the federally-funded residential rehabilitation program, homeowners who meet income eligibility requirements can apply for "loans" that would pay for necessary repairs to bring homes up to village construction code, assistant village planner Stacey Rubin said.

Although the village board approved one project Monday night and two others are expected to delete the village's 1990 allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds, Rubin said the village is soliciting applications for next year's batch of rehabilitation projects.

**THE PLAN CALLS** for qualified candidates to receive zero-interest home repair "loans" that are repaid solely by CDBG funds. Only if a recipient moves or dies does he pay back any of the 10-year loan, Rubin said. If the homeowner leaves after 10 years, there is still no cost to the recipient, she said.

"If we have a need for the money in Wheeling, we want to use it," Rubin said. "We want to make sure the word is out."

For more information, Rubin said interested residents should call the village community development department at 459-2620.

Under the program, the village inspects the homes of those applicants who qualify for the money, Rubin said. After a checklist of repairs is developed, the village hires an architect to plan improvements and then hires a contractor to complete the work.

**IN ORDER TO** ensure that recipients meet the income qualifications, Rubin said the village does a complete, but highly confidential, check of the applicants' finances.

"If you don't qualify, I'm not going

to bend over backwards to make you qualify," Rubin said. "It's for the people who really need it. It is important that it go to the right people."

The village has allocated up to \$46,000 in home repairs on some past projects, with the average home repair project costing more than \$26,000. Trustees Monday approved

the second project started last year, allocating \$15,321 to repair sewer lines, replace a furnace and install floor support beams of an applicant.

"It's a good program for aiding those who need that kind of assistance," village Trustee Bill Rogers said. "It has a way of also improving

**"It's a good program for aiding those who need that kind of assistance. It has a way of also improving a neighborhood. It upgrades that establishment and maybe forces others to do the same."**

**— Bill Rogers  
Wheeling Trustee**

a neighborhood. It upgrades that establishment and maybe forces others to do the same."

**THE CDBG MONEY** is funneled to the village through the Cook County board of commissioners. The federal

Department of Housing and Urban Development is the original source of the money.

Rubin said the village is looking for additional applicants for upcoming budget years. If no applicants

come forward, the CDBG money is sent back to the county to give to another municipality, Rubin said.

## Wheeling officials consider addressing issue of signs

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

While Wheeling trustees lament the spread of strip shopping centers, they have found that the centers at least give the village a chance to increase the visibility of address markers.

With the board of trustees Monday ordering the owner of a shopping center to include the center's address on its new sign, trustees again debated the merits of making that provision a new rule for future developments.

Proponents said the measure would allow motorists traveling down Wheeling streets to have a better idea where they are in relation to where they want to be.

"People will be using these signs to tell them north or south or west along with how far they have to go to this or a competing shopping center," Trustee Bill Rogers said. "I think it's important from the standpoint that we want all of our businesses to do it."

**THE BOARD REVIVED** the debate begun nearly a year ago when it asked the community development department to require all developers to include a street address on all signs proposed to stand along a street.

In an unusual split vote, trustees ordered Ruth Miller, owner of the Wheeling Shopping Center, to

include her Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue addresses on signs along those two roadways. Miller won approval of plans to upgrade the center, but was required to add the address to her 26-foot tall sign.

Rogers lobbied that the move made it easier on motorists who often must try to read individual addresses above stores, creating potential safety hazards.

"I think it's critical and important that addresses begin to appear at major shopping centers and minor shopping centers all up and down the streets," Rogers said.

**SEVERAL BOARD MEMBERS** disagreed with forcing Miller to add the addresses to her sign, saying the location at Milwaukee and Dundee is a high visibility intersection. But they appeared to support the overall push to add the location indicators in the future.

After the meeting, trustees Tony Altieri and Joe Ratajczak said the board should consider a formal policy on the addresses. Village Attorney James Rhodes said changes to the village's sign code are now being weighed by the zoning appeals board.

Before those changes are final, that code would have to come before the village board. Rhodes said trustees could then add the address provision.

## Waste agency asks Army to approve balefill permit

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The fate of a proposed balefill near Bartlett now rests with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — the final regulatory agency charged with its review.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, backers of the controversial project, formally asked the corps Thursday for permission to build the 142-acre balefill near West Bartlett and Gifford Roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

A permit from the corps would

clear the way for SWANCC to proceed with construction plans for the balefill.

Yet opponents, many of whom have fought the project since its inception five years ago, are equally confident review by the corps will doom the project on grounds that it would harm the surrounding environment and wildlife.

"Once it gets to the Army Corps, we will finally be heard by an objective agency," Citizens Against the Balefill President Daniel Kairis said.

# Gang fight won't lead police to increase patrols at Wheeling High School

Friday - Feb. 9, 1990  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Five teens were arrested Thursday in what police are calling a gang-related fistfight outside Wheeling High School.

Authorities say the incident started shortly before 1 p.m., when a group of youths, including some

gang members, gathered at a street corner by the high school. When rival gang members drove by in a van, the two groups began trading taunts. A brawl ensued, but police broke it up before anyone was injured, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

All five youths, including a 16-year-old Northfield juvenile, were charged with mob action. Police re-

covered a baseball bat from the scene.

The other four, all from Wheeling, include Rich Mercado, 17; Omar A. Uriostegui, 17; Jose R. Torres, 18, and Freddy V. Leon, 19. Uriostegui and Torres attend Wheeling High School.

All five of the teens are involved with two, and possibly, three gangs,

Haeger said.

More than 100 students gathered outside the school to watch the fight until a dozen police squads from Buffalo Grove, Cook County, Wheeling and a special gangs task force surrounded the front of the building. Most of the students were in the halls between classes or outside during lunch.

The gangs task force, comprising police and municipal officials from Des Plaines, Wheeling, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Glenview and Niles, was formed last fall in an effort to control the spread of street gangs in the suburbs.

However, representatives from

See GANGS on Page 4

she is not interested in applying for the vacancy. Responsibilities of the village planner include working with developers, business owners and residents in developing or redeveloping land in the village. The planner assists the prospective developers in coming up with plans that follow the village's long-range plans. "We're looking for a planner, someone who has experience at planning and the appropriate educational background with several years experience," Anderson said. "It's a challenging job. I think the biggest challenge is just making sure that things develop in a way that most benefit the community as a whole."

Richard D. Greenwood, Sullivan could not be reached for comment. The village has advertised the opening in professional trade publications and already has received some resumes, Anderson said. A hiring group — comprising Anderson, Administrative Assistant David Kowal and Community Development Director Michael Kilitzke — plans to narrow down the field of applicants and then interview "the most qualified" candidates, Anderson said. Anderson will make the final decision within the next couple of months, he added. During the interim, Assistant Planner Stacey Rubin will fill in as planner. Rubin, who has been with the village only five months, said

Robert Sullivan, who has served as planner in the Community Development Department for the last 1 1/2 years, resigned last week. He left Wheeling on good terms to accept a job as a planner for the fast-developing southwest suburb of Orland Park.

"He was doing a good job," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "I think everybody was pleased with his performance. He did a good job."

Sullivan was hired to fill a va-

Whittington said Thursday's fight at the high school, Elmhurst and Huntz roads, may have stemmed from a similar gang-related incident that occurred at an apartment complex on Piper Lane in Prospect Heights a couple of weekends ago.

Whittington said students involved in that confrontation told him that a carload of gang members drove through the neighborhood and were pelted with rocks from rival gang members, who were claiming their territory.

"I thought something was going to

Whittington said that just prior to Thursday's brawl, gang members who were gathered at the corner outside the school called a pay phone in the school lobby and asked for a student, who is in a rival gang. Shortly thereafter, a group of students — some of them gang members — walked out of the school, while dozens of more students followed to watch.

Continued from Page 1

## GANG: Rivals fistfight outside Wheeling High

Squad cars surrounded Wheeling High School after a fight broke out between rival youth gangs.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb



## Wheeling wants experienced planner

Wheeling will accept applications until Friday for a new village planner.

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling High School Principal Thomas W. Shirley downplayed Thursday's incident, saying the school never has had a problem with gangs or gang fights. Northwest Suburban High District 214's gang policy forbids any gangs, gang-related activity, recruitment or gang colors to be worn in schools, he added.

"I'm sure there's some presence of that kind of group here, but it's nothing of major concern," Shirley said. "I think that to have an incident like this when you have so many squad cars, it looks like to the community, 'God, what's happening?'"

Whittington said, "I think they were looking for something to happen." He added that he believes gang members are battling for suburban territory.

rod said the pilots' policy is not a response to a Wheeling trustee's claims last fall that most of the aircraft arriving at and departing from Palwaukee used the north side, or Wheeling side, of the airport.

Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers said that pilots fly over the Wheeling for fuel savings, convenience and to reduce noise on the south side, or Prospect Heights side, of the airport.

"It's something we've been talking about for a long time," Axelrod said. "We just hadn't implemented it yet."

The airport receives noise complaints from residents less than once a week, which Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart characterizes as "infrequent." However, complaints increase in the summer because of more planes and because residents have their windows open.

"We think they'll notice that it'll be a little quieter," Axelrod said. "We want pilots to be aware of where they are flying out of. It's not like they don't do it anyway, but it's just a reminder."

"It's commendable," Stewart said of the policy. "It's not based on any pressure from the surrounding communities."

The Federal Aviation Administration is reviewing a noise compatibility plan for Palwaukee, which would give airport officials more control in reducing noise.

Pilots at Palwaukee Municipal Airport hope their new campaign will help reduce aircraft noise for residents living near the airport. In what they are terming a "good neighbor policy," members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association are suggesting pilots avoid flying over residential areas whenever possible during takeoffs and landings.

When the control tower gives pilots an option on which runway to use, the pilots are encouraged — under the new policy — to use the runway that would least interfere with nearby houses and schools.

PAPA President Barry L. Axelrod said the pilots' policy is not a response to a Wheeling trustee's claims last fall that most of the aircraft arriving at and departing from Palwaukee used the north side, or Wheeling side, of the airport.

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## Palwaukee pilots adopt policy on noise

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights aldermen are expected to review the rules and regulations tonight.

In its ninth draft since 1986, the codes include sections concerning the airport and how who may use the airport and how they should operate aircraft safely.

Trustees also deleted some additional responsibilities of the airport manager and instead gave the responsibilities to the municipalities.

Schultz pointed out that the Airport Commission, comprising representatives from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, already has recommended the municipalities approve the proposal after giving the weight limitation careful consideration for violators.

A minimum \$50 fine to the airport manager. Violators could be fined up to \$500. Trustees added processing complaints filed by the municipalities would be responsible for Police departments in the two municipalities.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz pointed out that the Airport Commission, comprising representatives from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, already has recommended the municipalities approve the proposal after giving the weight limitation careful consideration for violators.

A Wheeling trustee wants to reduce the size of aircraft that would be allowed under a proposed set of rules and regulations for Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Trustees Monday carefully reviewed the proposal, which outlines standards for commercial and refueling operations, require Palwaukee could accommodate up to a 77,000-pound aircraft.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz pointed out that the Airport Commission, comprising representatives from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, already has recommended the municipalities approve the proposal after giving the weight limitation careful consideration for violators.

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The airport, which is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has operated for years without a formal set of rules and regulations. That makes it difficult for airport employees to control

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

## Standards sought for Palwaukee aircraft

# Managers get salary rewards for the risk

By AMY CAHR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Ten years ago, Northwest suburban village and city managers were responsible for hiring and running administrative staffs and dealing with such problems as traffic congestion and waste removal. In return, they were paid about \$27,000 a year.

Today, local managers are responsible for hiring and running administrative staffs and dealing with growing problems such as traffic congestion and waste removal. In return, they are, among other things, paid \$60,000 to \$85,000 a year.

Interest-free loans, cars and healthy annual salary increases are among the perks managers in the Northwest suburbs receive, but the daily challenges they overcome deserve to be rewarded, officials say.

"The job has not really changed," said Tom Fitzsimmons, executive director of the Illinois Municipal League. "The only change is that more things are being put upon us by the federal and state governments."

"Things are not the same today as they were 10 years ago," he adds. "You've got to have computer aptitude and presence of mind of all the things going on. First city dumps were changed to landfills, now we're running out of landfills. What do we do?"

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling, who takes home \$85,000 annually and is the highest-paid manager in the area, says managers are much more involved with intergovernmental affairs now than in past years.

"Managers now assume a policy role with commissions that were only experimental in nature, or non-existent, before," said Balling, who has held the post for 13 years. "Now we've got the Solid Waste Agency, the Northwest Suburban Water Agency and other service agencies. The basic definition of the manager's role hasn't changed substantially, but the issues are more complicated."

The manager form of government easily is the most common in the Northwest suburbs and continues to grow as other areas become more urbanized. The manager, almost always the best-paid municipal official

in town, serves as the chief administrator and is in charge of the town's day-to-day affairs. He's hired and can be fired and disciplined by the village board/city council, which acts as the policy-making arm of local government.

"They (managers) have all the authority," Fitzsimmons said. "They hire all the department heads, they are in charge of personnel and the whole bit. It basically comes to the point where the mayor only presides over the council. Aside from cutting ribbons and that, the council basically approves or disapproves the action of the manager."

The importance of the manager's role has created a high demand for experienced managers, and Northwest suburban elected officials pay their administrators well.

Salaries throughout the state vary depending largely on the size of the municipality, Fitzsimmons said. The presence of a large metropolitan city, such as Chicago, also comes into play when determining salaries.

On the average, managers in central Illinois earned \$49,000 to \$51,000, plus benefits, in 1989.

In comparison, managers in the North shore earned between \$69,000 to \$75,000.

Additionally, many communities offer generous perks to new managers and healthy raises to long-time administrators.

Staff cars, extended vacations and excellent retirement and continuing education benefits generally come with the territory. Schaumburg Village Manager George P. Longmeyer said.

But occasionally, towns will provide an extra incentive to attract prospective managers to the area, as was true in Longmeyer's case.

After serving as Schaumburg's assistant village manager for six years, Longmeyer was promoted to his current post in 1986. One stipulation of the promotion was that he move from his Hoffman Estates home to Schaumburg.

To assist Longmeyer in the move, the village board granted a \$17,000 interest-free loan to pay for preliminary construction costs on the new home. In 1983, the board made a similar move by granting Manager Stephen J. Atkins a \$50,000 interest-free loan to facilitate his move from

## Northwest suburban managers' salaries

<b>Arlington Heights</b> Kenneth M. Bonder \$78,500	<b>Hanover Park</b> Marc Hummel \$58,773	<b>Palatine</b> Michael D. Kadlecik \$72,500
<b>Barrington</b> F. Edward Glatfelter \$62,500	<b>Hoffman Estates</b> Peter T. Burchard \$65,000	<b>Prospect Heights</b> Robert R. Kieley \$53,550
<b>Bartlett</b> Valerie Salmons \$60,000	<b>Inverness</b> Sandy Johnson, administrative secretary \$26,100*	<b>Rolling Meadows</b> Daniel Wentzloff \$63,000
<b>Buffalo Grove</b> William R. Balling \$85,000	<b>Long Grove</b> D.M. "Cal" Doughty \$55,000	<b>Schaumburg</b> George P. Longmeyer \$81,649
<b>Des Plaines</b> Lawrence A. Asaro \$67,500	<b>Mount Prospect</b> John F. Dixon \$68,000	<b>Streamwood</b> Patrick Scheidel \$63,135**
<b>Elk Grove Village</b> Charles A. Willis \$80,000		<b>Wheeling</b> Craig G. Anderson \$64,000

\* Inverness has no manager; Johnson handles most administrative duties

\*\*Was given one-time bonus, bringing 1989 earnings to \$69,342

Source: Local municipal administrators, public records

Daily Herald Graphic

Eau Claire, Wis., to Schaumburg.

But Longmeyer believes the days of interest-free loans may be over.

"There was a time where that was happening a bit," he said. "For awhile, interest rates were high and it was hard to make a transition, so villages would do that. It was a specific problem the economy was experiencing at that time."

Longmeyer and Atkins certainly are not the only recipients of interest-free loans. Managers in Palatine and Hoffman Estates also received similar loans, despite some loud opposition.

In 1987, Hoffman Estates trustees granted Village Manager Peter T. Burchard a \$30,000 interest-free loan despite the complaints of a local patrolman, who criticized the move as a slap in the face of the taxpayers.

In Palatine, Frank R. Munch, village president in 1986, objected to a 7 percent pay hike for Village Manager Michael D. Kadlecik. Favoring a 3 percent cost-of-living increase, Munch said taxpayers should not bear the burden of high salary increases and perks like a car and an interest-free home loan.

This year, manager salary increases throughout the area ranged from 5 percent in Rolling Meadows to 9 percent in Buffalo Grove with the average being about 8 percent.

Longmeyer, whose salary is \$81,649, says there are numerous

reasons for the high pay.

"This area generally pays a good salary for the job," he said. "The responsibility requires the manager to put in a lot of hours. Your family makes a sacrifice, but you've got to do it. You've got to like the job, too."

The high-visibility of the position also necessitates the high pay, he says. Because managers are constantly in the public eye and are always held accountable for their actions, the position can be highly stressful.

But Charles Willis, who has served as Elk Grove's village manager for 23 years, says salary increases for managers are no different than those in any other field. Willis was hired in 1967 for \$18,000 a year and this year he will make \$80,000.

"If you go back 23 years and look at the salaries of reporters or teachers or policemen or firemen, anybody that was being paid money, their salary is substantially higher today," Willis said, adding that those occupations have received the same percentage raises he has during his time as manager.

Willis and Balling are among the highest paid managers in the area partially because of their tenure. Few other managers have held their posts as long as the Elk Grove and Buffalo Grove officials have. In fact, most managers in the area have

See REWARDS on Page 2

## REWARDS: Managers reap benefits with responsibility



**"The basic definition of the manager's role hasn't changed substantially, but the issues are more complicated."**

— Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling

Continued from Page 1

been in their positions less than five years.

More often than not, managers who leave their posts within a short period of time leave to take other jobs, or they simply retire. However, occasionally managers will become the focus of political disputes that end only when the manager resigns or is fired.

"Every two years you could have new bosses," Longmeyer said. "You could have different people and different political issues. You could have a whole board do a 180 degree turn on you. Generally, where you see high changeover in the board, you see a high changeover of managers."

The most recent political dispute came to a close last week with the resignation of Lake Zurich Administrator Edward A. Geick.

Geick was the subject of much criticism from trustees who had taken over the reins of the village board in April and residents for several months prior to his resignation. Residents claimed he misled them regarding a development, and Geick was charged in a lawsuit, recently settled out of court, with sexually harassing a village employee.

Claiming he withheld information from them and they could no longer trust him, trustees threatened to fire Geick and finally demanded his resignation. They got it, but the holdovers from the previous village board supported Geick.

In 1988, former Barrington Village Manager A. Bruce Trego was forced out of office because of "philosophical differences" in the management styles of Village President David F. Nelson and Trego, who held the post for eight years.

But for those managers who just decide to move on, it is often because they are bored with the job.

Village managers traditionally are people who enjoy a challenge, Fitzsimmons said. Once they have met the challenge, they are ready to

move on to the next town. "It is a high-risk business," Longmeyer said. "You can be very mobile throughout the country. You have the opportunity to move around a little bit."

Balling says he, too, would leave his position if he ever felt he wasn't contributing to the community any more.

"Professional advancement is a personal reason why people leave, but certainly the feeling that you are not contributing would be a factor," he said. "That would be my main frustration, if I felt I couldn't continue to foster Buffalo Grove. I've never felt that way. I do feel I've been able to contribute to the success of Buffalo Grove."

# Federal trial nears on cop's discrimination suit

By Mike Wilkinson 2-15-90  
Staff Writer

## COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling is just months away from a high-profile, federal court trial that will provide a ruling on whether its only black police officer was the victim of racial discrimination.

Nearly seven years after the civil suit was brought against Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and the village, U.S. District Court Judge Paul E. Plunkett is scheduled to begin jury selection in the late spring or early summer to finally get the month-long trial under way.

During the hearing, officer Robert Pressley's attorneys are expected to try to paint a picture of discrimination against Pressley.

Pressley's suit contends that punishment given him by Haeger was different than that given other officers and that Pressley's discipline was racially motivated.

**IN HIS SUIT** filed in June 1983, Pressley alleges his Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection were violated in 1983 when he said the chief "retaliated" after Pressley successfully challenged a suspension the chief gave him in 1982.

That two-day suspension was reversed by the village's board of fire and police commissioners. Following that suspension, Pressley's suit contends he was unfairly disciplined and that the chief failed to stop racial abuse Pressley said fellow officers directed at him through cartoons and racial epithets.

But when the case is finally heard by a jury, there will be one less charge

to debate. Last November, Plunkett dismissed one of three charges the court will hear.

The entire case was nearly settled last year, when attorneys representing all sides came to an agreement.

**BUT ACCORDING TO** Pressley's attorney, Alan Freedman, village trustees scuttled that settlement last year. After the village board's decision last year, Freedman said Plunkett reinstated the case.

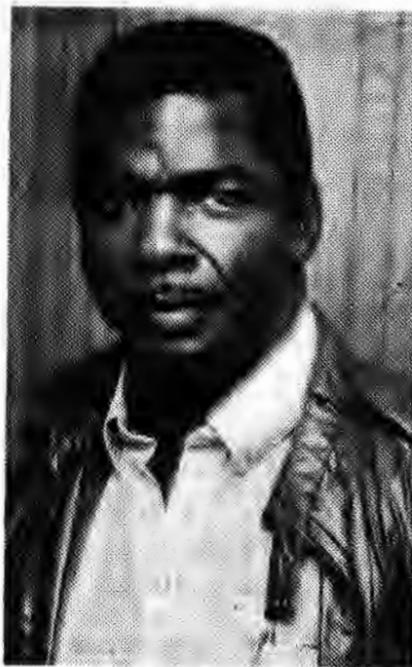
"They refused to settle the case," Freedman said. "The village vetoed it."

Village President Sheila Schultz and Village Manager Craig Anderson would neither confirm nor deny Freedman's claim. They also declined to comment on any aspects of the civil suit, which at seven years is the third oldest case on Plunkett's trial calendar.

Recently examined court records show that Plunkett had dismissed the case in March 1989, pending final orders. The case was reinstated in June 1989 upon Freedman's request. He said the village board decided to go to trial rather than accept the advice of its attorneys.

**FREEDMAN SAID HE** would only discuss the closing and reopening of the case. Like Schultz and Anderson, Freedman declined to discuss the lawsuit, saying he did not want to discuss the case before trial.

But although officials will not comment on the case, court records indicated among other things, Freedman and associate Bruce Bornstein will put the department's disciplinary pro-



Robert Pressley

cedures on trial.

In the complaint filed against Haeger and the village, Freedman and Bornstein say they will try to prove that punishment given Pressley was "to an extent and degree substantially more severe than discipline imposed on similarly situated white officers."

A lengthy battle over what evidence the court will hear indicates that Freedman and Bornstein will parade a host of administrative reviews, which document disciplinary actions taken by the chief against officers, to prove that point in court.

**DOCUMENTS FILED WITH** the federal court in Chicago offer glimpses of those reviews and show that Freedman and Bornstein will reveal more than two dozen disciplinary actions taken against numerous officers, including many still with the department.

In defending the use of the reviews, many of which were challenged by defense attorneys who claimed they were irrelevant to the case, Pressley's attorneys contend that the reviews show that white officers were given less severe punishment than Pressley for offenses more severe than his.

While a legal argument ensued between the two sides over whether some of the reviews were comparable to Pressley's disciplinary reviews, a court magistrate has suggested that many of them do apply to the case. In the end, it will be up to Plunkett to determine which reviews can be used in court.

In the defense of their position calling for the withdrawal of certain reviews, motions filed by attorneys for the village and Haeger contend that some of the reviews also prove that Pressley was not singled out for his race.

**MOTIONS FILED BY** Haeger's attorney claim the incidents cited in the reviews are for dissimilar actions and required different punishment. On several of the issues, U.S. Magistrate Joan B. Gottschall recommended in favor of Haeger's attorneys.

Pressley's suit also contends that  
(Continued on page 20)

## Suit —

(Continued from page 9)

he asked Haeger to put a stop to racial epithets, cartoons and slurs directed at the officer. Motions filed by Freedman claim that Pressley asked Haeger to take action that would put a stop to the practice.

In their response to Pressley's initial complaint, the village and Haeger have claimed that Haeger asked Pressley to "correctly and officially document such complaints" and that he did not.

Court documents also reveal allegations of a connection between Pressley's department battles and disciplinary actions taken against officer Adrian Russell.

**THE RECORDS SHOW** that Russell was one of the key witnesses in Pressley's victorious 1982 board of fire and police commissioner hearing. Russell, who was expected to give a deposition Feb. 8 in Pressley's civil suit, is expected to claim that Haeger unfairly disciplined Russell following his testimony in Pressley's hearing.

Haeger recently asked the board of fire and police commissioner to fire Russell for incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance. A hearing on those charges is scheduled for Feb. 22.

In September 1982, a citizen's complaint sparked an investigation into whether Pressley had been having sex with a woman in a van parked at The Original Granny's restaurant at 831 W. Dundee Road. After an investigation into the incident, Haeger suspended Pressley for breaking department rules regarding truthfulness.

The board of fire and police commissioners overturned that ruling fol-

lowing a hearing in which Russell was Pressley's only witness.

**RUSSELL IS BROUGHT** into the case because defense attorneys use his record as a counter claim to Pressley's charges of racial discrimination. While Pressley claimed he was the only officer in 1983 not to receive a full merit raise because of disciplinary reasons, Haeger's attorneys claimed that Russell also had his merit pay withheld.

Freedman and Bornstein do not deny that Haeger recommended that Russell — a white officer — not receive a full merit increase. But they say Russell was denied his full raise for accumulating too many sick days, although they claim other officers who used the same number of sick days received their full merit raises.

Wheeling fire and police commissioners will review two disciplinary charges against a village police officer at a hearing this week.

In three separate charges, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger accused officer Adrian D. Russell of unsatisfactory job performance and incompetence.

Last month, however, the commission dismissed one of the charges, but upheld the other two against the 11-year department veteran.

The two standing charges outline two separate incidents that involved Russell last year. One charge stems from a Feb. 16 incident in which Russell allegedly stopped a driver, who was known to be dangerous.

Russell allegedly left the suspect unattended, and when other officers arrived on the scene they found a loaded gun in the suspect's car.

The other charge stems from a Sept. 2 incident while Russell was on a routine patrol and was called to

the scene of a burglary in progress.

The charge alleges that the suspect had jumped over a fence to escape.

Shortly afterwards, Russell stopped a man walking on the street, but let him go. Police later learned that the man was the suspect, as he matched the driver's license photo left at the scene of the incident, the charge states.

The commission dismissed the charge because, they said, the officer already had been reprimanded

for the department violations.

# Commissioners to eye disciplinary charges

Monday, Feb. 18, 1990

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling fire and police commission

Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday

# Five youths are charged in gang fight outside WHS

By Mike Wilkinson 2-21-90  
Staff Writer

*Countryside*  
It started several weeks ago, long before the school day began last Thursday. And it will likely continue long after students and teachers stop talking about it.

Two rival gangs battled just off school property last Thursday, drawing a crowd of more than 100 students. More than a dozen police officers were called to the scene to disperse the crowd.

Five youths were arrested and charged with mob action or obstructing police following the disturbance in which a baseball bat was confiscated. No injuries were reported.

Freddy Leon, 19, of 832 Colonial Drive, Wheeling, and Rich Mercado, 17, of 930 Wilshire Drive, Wheeling were charged with mob action, Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said. Jose R. Torres, 18, of 83 N. Wolf Road, Wheel-

ing, was charged with obstructing a police officer. Hermes said all three posted \$100 bond and are expected to appear March 26 in Cook County Circuit Court in Rolling Meadows.

TWO 16-YEAR-old juveniles, both Wheeling High School students, were also charged with mob action and face March 26 court hearings, Hermes said. Principal Tom Shirley said those students, in addition to two others not arrested by police, were suspended for 10 days from school. Additional discipline may be taken against the four, he said.

Shirley said the incident began when a student received a call at a school pay phone. That call challenged the student to come out to the front of the building, located at Elmhurst and Hintz Road.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said that student — from a rival gang — accepted the challenge of a fight

and went out to fight with another gang.

The fight escalated after students, many of whom were on break from classes, left the school to witness the altercation, Haeger said. Wheeling police responding to the scene called for backup and police officers from Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Sheriff's department also responded to the scene.

"THE SEVERITY was lessened by appropriate police response. That police response negated the situation

## See related story on page 8

from getting anymore out of hand than it did," Haeger said.

While police tried to break up one fight, other skirmishes were continuing, Haeger said. Several youths were

arrested at the scene and additional arrests were made later after police located a vehicle suspected to have carried some of the fight's participants.

After the fight, which broke out about 1 p.m., was settled, police continued to patrol the area until 2 p.m., Haeger said, when members of the gang crimes task force arrived on the scene and took over the patrols.

Although Haeger said the incident was a minor "gang fight," he said it also was a "major" incident for the community because of its scope. A similar incident had occurred last fall near the same location, although no arrests were made.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL JAMES Whittington said the fight may have been a result of previous problems between the two groups that started several weeks ago at a weekend party.

High School District 214 Superin-

(Continued on page 8)

## Police, educators meet to compare notes on gangs

By Mike Wilkinson 2-15-90  
Staff Writer

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
Wheeling police and Wheeling High School officials disagree over the definition of an altercation outside the school last Thursday. But the resulting waves of concern following the gang-related incident have caused both to take a closer look at the fight and future reactions to gang activity.

Several skirmishes between local gang members broke out just east of the school, leading police from three area departments to disperse a crowd of students that witnessed the battles, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

But while the disturbance was settled within hours and five males, including two high school students, were arrested and charged with mob action, the incident is continuing to spark talk within the school and police department about its ramifications.

Haeger was granted a meeting Tuesday with school officials, a meeting he said he called for "because I think there has to be a consensus of opinion on how we handle the issue. And the issue is gangs and gang-related activity.

"I DON'T think we would have created a gang crimes task force if I didn't think we had a gang crime problem," Haeger said. He was referring to the group of suburban police departments formed last fall to define and combat suburban gang crime.

After his 45-minute meeting with Shirley and Whittington, Haeger said he has called for a meeting of High School District 214 administrators, the district's six principals and the police chiefs from the towns in which the schools sit.

"This is still a suburban high school setting," Haeger said. "What you have is a visible gang presence. They're not as well organized as city gangs, but they are still gangs and they take on some of the characteristics of a gang."

District 214 Superintendent Steve Berry said Tuesday he would be receptive to hearing more from law enforcement officials about their perceptions of the suburban gang problem.

BEFORE THE MEETING with Haeger, Shirley said the fight last Thursday was between individuals and that it contained gang "overtones." But he would not call the incident a gang fight. Shirley said there has never been a "gang fight or gang war" at the high school.

"It was broken up very quickly," Shirley said. "Those things happen. It's not very uncommon for those

things to occur."

But while Shirley downplayed last Thursday's fight, he said the school has taken steps to keep gangs out of the school. He said the school enforces the district policy on gangs and that so far this year, six students have left the school because of their participation in gangs.

Those rules prohibit gangs, gang symbols or gang recruitment in the district's six buildings. Shirley said students can be given a warning for a first offense, and suspended on second and third offenses.

ONE OF THE students suspended for last Thursday's fight has already withdrawn from the school, Shirley said.

"You have to think of the rights of the rest of the school," Shirley said. "They just don't have the right to create an atmosphere that breeds fear."

Teacher Mary Nestler, hired by the district to work on a project on minority students, said there were gangs within the school but that they do not dominate the student population.

"There is a problem, but not a major problem," Nestler said. "We have a handful of kids."

ARSHIYA KAHN, A managing editor of the school newspaper The Spokesman who has written about the school's gang situation, said gangs are in the school but that they have not disrupted school activities. While Nestler said some students have complained they do not feel safe in the school, Kahn said she, at least, does not fear gang members.

"I wouldn't feel it's a real big problem at all," Kahn said.

School officials said they were guarded in their reaction to Thursday's incident because of a concern that a swift response might cause some students to be unfairly labeled as gang members.

Whittington agreed with Haeger in saying local schools, the park district and the community must take steps to deal with the larger problem of why gang members are joining these groups.

WITH THE HIGH school's 24 percent minority population reflecting a changing community, Whittington said local officials must begin to share the role of helping those youths who are "at risk" to become gang members find other alternatives.

With new members of the community — many of them minorities — feeling alienated from the majority population, suburban gangs have formed, police and school officials said.

(Continued from page 5)

tendent Steve Berry said gang incidents are not a daily occurrence in the district's six schools. "But this incident raises our concern about this kind of thing happening in the schools," Berry said.

Berry said the schools would discipline students involved in gang-related violence the same way they would discipline students taking part in non-gang violence.

Although District 214 is not planning to make any changes in its disciplinary policy on gangs, it may

change its security system, district spokesperson Lena Gubiotti said.

THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY has about seven security guards at each high school, but district officials are now reviewing the system to decide whether that's enough, Gubiotti said.

Wheeling High School's minority outreach programs can also help prevent gang problems, Gubiotti said. "Many of the minority kids who move out to the suburbs feel culturally isolated, so they form cliques or join gangs," she said.

## Fighting back

*COUNTRYSIDE 2-15-90*

Last Thursday's scuffle among an as yet untallied number of purported gang members outside Wheeling High School stirred a lot of interest from onlooking students, administrators and police alike.

And while the incident has spurred concern among parents, police, school officials and High School District 214 administrators as well, local officials are on the right track in terms of resolving appropriate discipline for those involved in the skirmish and taking a longer range view of how to make sure similar incidents don't occur.

The accounts and characterization of the fight illustrate two problems. First is the inability of various officials to arrive at a common understanding of the level of gang activity in the Wheeling community. Second is a similar inability to address the pervasiveness of the gang problem in other suburbs as well.

More important, the comments from the various officials trying to make sure that another fight like this, or one more violent, doesn't occur demonstrates that there is a disparity in the perceptions of just how much of a gang problem there is in this community.

Police department officials, while reluctant to put a firm

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• SOFAS, SLEEPERS, PIT GROUPS  
• FULL LINE OF FINE FURNITURE  
• ENTERTAINMENT CENTER



# Fighting back

COUNTRYSIDE 2-15-90

Last Thursday's scuffle among an as yet untallied number of purported gang members outside Wheeling High School stirred a lot of interest from onlooking students, administrators and police alike.

And while the incident has spurred concern among parents, police, school officials and High School District 214 administrators as well, local officials are on the right track in terms of resolving appropriate discipline for those involved in the skirmish and taking a longer range view of how to make sure similar incidents don't occur.

The accounts and characterization of the fight illustrate two problems. First is the inability of various officials to arrive at a common understanding of the level of gang activity in the Wheeling community. Second is a similar inability to address the pervasiveness of the gang problem in other suburbs as well.

More important, the comments from the various officials trying to make sure that another fight like this, or one more violent, doesn't occur demonstrates that there is a disparity in the perceptions of just how much of a gang problem there is in this community.

Police department officials, while reluctant to put a firm number on how many gang members there may be in Wheeling High School, perceive the gang problem as one that has gradually escalated. They also tend to think the number of students influenced by gangs is greater than some of the estimates from school officials.

What is more difficult to assess is the root of these differing evaluations of the level of gang activity and whether this disparity arises out of the amount of or types of information the school has about gangs versus what the police department knows about the situation.

Meetings like the one held Tuesday between school officials and Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger to review last week's fight are one way community leaders can better understand this issue. Haeger's suggestion that law enforcement officials meet with school officials throughout District 214 to review the current status of gang activity holds some promise of addressing the issue of how to get a better handle on the current problem.

High School District 214 has also taken a positive stand in beefing up policies to bring stiffer punishments for those who flaunt their gang affiliations within the schools.

For their part, Wheeling High School officials have opted to attack the gang problem largely out of the limelight, preferring to handle disciplining of suspected gang members and moving those who don't change their ways out of the school system quietly.

In the last year, school officials say they have removed as many as six students suspected of having gang affiliations out of the school. This quiet message is the kind of signal that is needed to let others know the consequences of those who would jeopardize the integrity and security of the school.

And rather than just focusing on the problem students, school officials and the police seem to have their priorities in order in terms of understanding what is truly needed to fight gangs — providing alternative outlets for these students, some of whom are minorities, to succeed.

Good intentions, however, aren't enough in dealing with this situation. What is needed is a continued and prolonged approach to understanding those who would be swayed by the gangs and finding new ways to reach these teens.

Local officials readily admit they don't have all the answers to this part of the gang problem, but at least they appear on the right track in terms of showing the commitment to discovering them.

## Site of proposed Riverwheel Lanes bowling center



## Wheeling commission gives nod to Riverwheel Lanes bowling center

By Mike Wilkinson 2-15-90  
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE

A proposed Wheeling bowling center that would more than quadruple the number of lanes in the area is within striking distance of gaining village approval.

In their first look at the plans for the 40-lane center, plan commissioners last week decided to give it their approval, pending several minor revisions.

After those changes are made, village trustees will have the final say on

whether keglers will be knocking them down on Milwaukee Avenue, north of Dundee Road.

"We (gave) a positive recommendation toward them," Director of Community Development Mike Klitzke said. "We feel it would be a good addition to that part of Milwaukee Avenue."

**SKOKIE-BASED BRUNSWICK** Corp. has proposed "Riverwheel Lanes" for a five-acre parcel on Milwaukee Avenue, where Sky Harbor

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 13)

Recreational Vehicle business is now located.

In addition to the bowling center, Assistant Village Planner Stacey Rubin said the 36,250-square-foot building will also include a billiard room, a bar, restaurant, pro shop and multi-purpose room.

Future plans indicate developers may also build an office building on the property's Milwaukee Avenue frontage, Rubin said.

Brunswick Corp. official Randy Wagner said he could not comment on the proposed bowling center, saying there were internal matters within the company that must be resolved before the company discloses information on

the development.

**FOR YEARS BUSINESS** owners along Milwaukee Avenue have said they have heard about proposals for a bowling center although none materialized.

But while AMF was the first bowling operator interested in the property, Brunswick came in with the final proposal.

With the expected closure of the 24-lane Striker Lanes in Buffalo Grove, local bowlers will only have Wheeling's eight-lane Jeffery Lanes to bowl on.

Rubin said another review of the plan commission's recommendations is expected at the commission's Feb. 22 meeting.

## Wheeling village planner resigns to take new post

By Mike Wilkinson 2-15-90  
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling's Mike Klitzke, for the second time in 18 months, is looking for some help in the community development department, where Bob Sullivan last week put the word "former" before his title of village planner.

Sullivan, 34, of Brookfield, left his Wheeling post last week to accept a similar position with the Village of Orland Park. Klitzke, the director of community development, said the village has advertised to fill the vacancy and is now accepting applications for the job.

"I'm sorry to see him leave, he had done a good job," Klitzke said.

Contacted at his new job Tuesday, Sullivan said he wasn't looking for a new job when Orland Park officials, including a former co-worker, contacted him in Wheeling.

"I WAS happy there (Wheeling), I wasn't looking," Sullivan said. "I regret having stayed such a short period of time."

He made the job change, he said, because of salary considerations, the demands of the new position and its proximity to his home. While directing Wheeling's planning had Sullivan watching development "fill in" a nearly complete village, he said Orland Park is going through a more "dynamic" growth period where his actions will have more impact.

After Richard Greenwood left the village in 1988 after nine years as village planner, Sullivan was tapped to succeed him. The village planner oversees development proposals, maintains the comprehensive plan of the village and is the liaison between the village and its citizen committees, Klitzke said.

The village has already begun the process of replacing Sullivan, Klitzke said. He said he didn't expect there to be a long delay in picking Sullivan's successor. No one has been named to take on Sullivan's duties before a successor is named, Klitzke said.

**IN A REASSESSMENT** of his brief stay in Wheeling, Sullivan said he was glad he had a hand in saving the village's Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district from potential elimination by the Illinois Department of Revenue. Sullivan was also instrumental in the expected creation of an urban forestry program in which the village will begin a concerted tree planting effort over the next five years.

## Band from Wrigley Field to be in parade

2-16-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents won't have to go all the way to Wrigley Field, at least one day this summer, to experience a part of the Chicago Cubs.

The Wheeling Fourth of July Committee is bringing to Wheeling the "The Neo Passe," the five-piece brass band that meanders through the Wrigley Field stands entertaining fans.

The group will be one of the many units in the village's annual parade, which typically kicks off the morn-

ing of the Fourth of July. Organizations also are working to have another first in this year's parade — a country/western band.

Organizations are planning several fund-raisers over the next few months to help pay for the parade and fireworks show for the festival. A pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Wheeling Lions Club, will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 1 at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

Next, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. April 25 at AMVETS Hall,

700 Old McHenry Road. The dinner, courtesy of Wa-Pa-Ghettis Pizza, will be spaghetti, meatballs, salad and Italian bread. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, \$3 for students, and children under 7 years old eat free.

"I think with these little extras in the parade this year that it should be good," said Judy Abruscato, Fourth of July organizer. "It should be a good year. I think that we started early enough that we can really get the word out to the community."

The committee has a goal to raise \$10,000 for this year's fest and resi-

dents are asked to contribute as little as a dollar to their monthly water bills for the festival.

"Our main concern is that we want to put on a \$10,000 fireworks show this year so it's going to take a lot of dollars," Abruscato said. "If every family in Wheeling gave \$1, we'd have \$14,000 without even trying."

The Fourth of July committee, which could still use volunteers, meets at 8 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the AMVETS hall. The next meeting is set for Feb. 21.

# Wheeling trustee brings touch of green to work

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

2-15-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

It should come as no surprise that green is the color found most often in Elizabeth Hartman's home.

There are green candles, green mobiles and green walls in Hartman's Hollywood Ridge home. Numerous plants (yes, green) complement the single-story ranch.

Outside, the front yard is full of different plants and bushes, with boxwood trees forming a fortress around the house. A garden in back provides a number of vegetables for the family, friends and — occasionally — village trustees.

As the Wheeling Village Board's resident conservationist, environmentalist and its leading recycler, Hartman is well acquainted with those things that are tied either symbolically or literally to green.

**DURING HARTMAN'S NINE** years on the board, the first four as village clerk, the last five as trustee, the board has begun a curbside recycling program, revamped its sign code and just recently initiated discussion on developing an "urban forestry program."

Although frequent visitors to the village board's regular meetings would consider Hartman a quiet trustee, she speaks mostly about those issues regarding landscaping, recycling and village upkeep.

"I guess I've always been interested in landscaping and the way things look," Hartman said. When her travels take her outside Wheeling, Hartman said she notices a community's trees, its sidewalks, its buildings.

At a recent village board meeting, it was trees that again caught Hartman's eye. With the Wheeling Shopping Center at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue looking for final approval of its upgraded facade, signs and buildings, Hartman quickly noticed that the number of trees scheduled for the project wasn't indicated on a revised plan.

**THOSE QUESTIONS WERE** quickly answered by the petitioner. But the question, will this project have enough trees?, was one Hartman will continue to ask.

During all development discussions, Hartman has championed good looks and taste. The Sierra Club member makes sure there are no silver maple trees in a development's landscaping plan, or that the suggested shrubs are large enough.

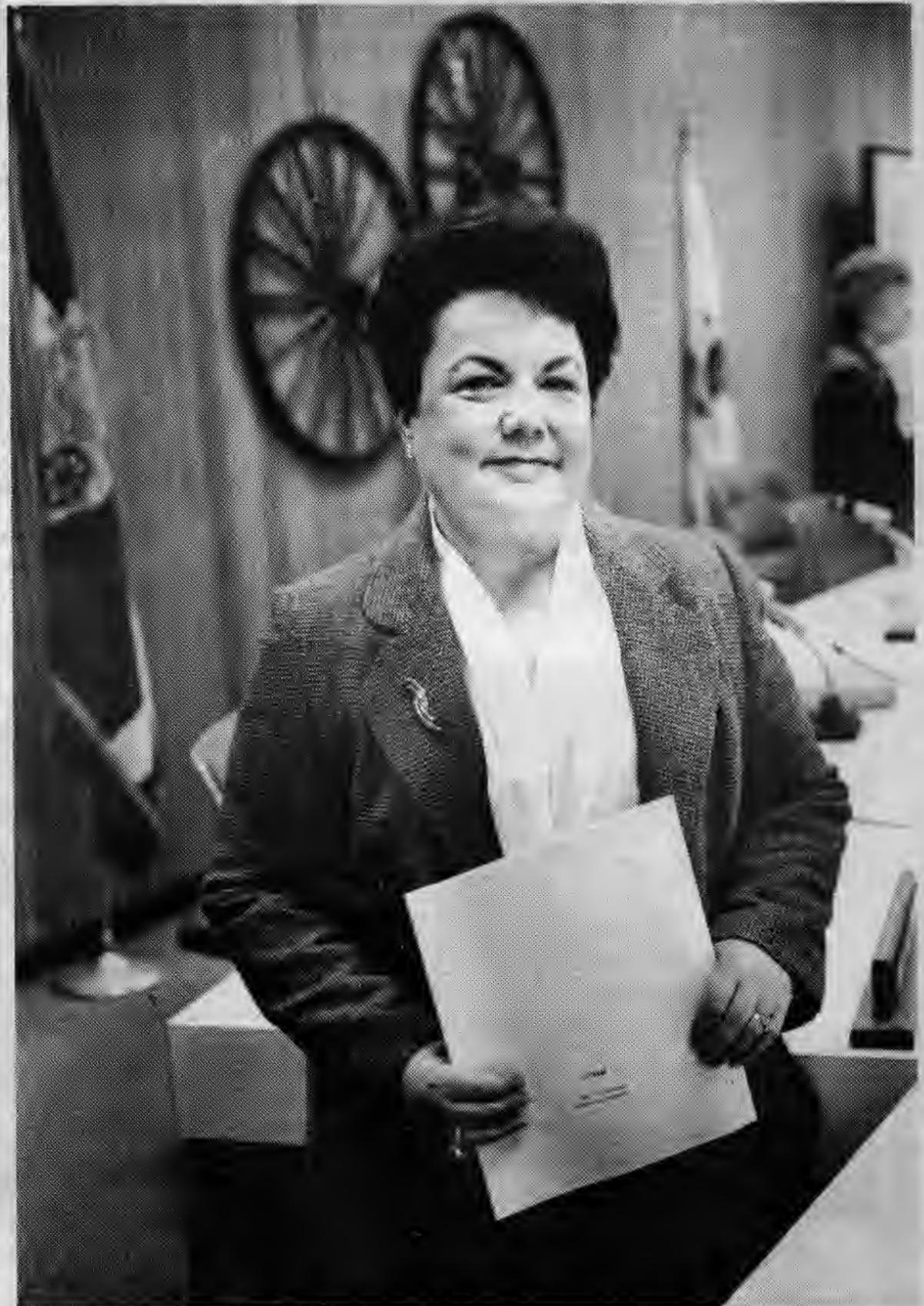
"I think it's a special concern for her, the environment," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "They are quality of life perspectives that she brings to the board."

Hartman grew up on Chicago's South Side, in the Morgan Park-Beverly area. Vacations spent on her father's western Michigan undeveloped property provided a sharp contrast to her native Chicago.

**SHE WOULD RETURN** to Michigan for college, where she graduated from Western Michigan University. Hartman then taught grade school in Michigan public schools before leaving to teach for the U.S. Air Force in Newfoundland and England. It was during her stay in Newfoundland that Hartman met her husband, a career officer in the U.S. Army.

After moving to Wheeling in 1961, Hartman and her husband Glenn raised their two sons and settled in. After a few years as an active PTO member, Hartman became interested in local issues when a new hospital was planned for the area.

Later, she worked with other citizens on a drive for better government, trying to oust village officials suspected of being less than honorable. As a reform movement swept through the village, Hartman was



When she's not using her green thumb to dress up the appearance of her own home, Wheeling Trustee Elizabeth Hartman can often be found championing the causes of beautifying the village through her work on the village board. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

asked to join the group on the village board. After declining a run for trustee, she agreed to campaign for village clerk in 1981.

She won. Four years of taking minutes and watching other board members make all the decisions, many concerning development, Hartman decided she was comfortable enough with making decisions, and making them in public.

"**THE VILLAGE** clerk is a very interesting job, but you don't get to vote on anything," Hartman said.

Now she has voted to bring recycling to the village and has fought for better looking projects throughout the now-crowded municipality.

For Hartman, some of the "changes" have had

(Continued on page 82)

## Green —

(Continued from page 21)

little effect on her lifestyle. While village residents try to get used to separating their newspaper, glass and aluminum from the traditional trash, Hartman only had to change the bin in which she placed her recyclables.

With pride, Hartman announces that her personal recycling efforts stretch back to the ration days of World War II. "If it's worth your while, you recycle it," Hartman said. Once the conflict was over, her recycling didn't stop. Only the weekly trips to the drop-off stations did.

"**INSTEAD OF** having to drive it over to the fire station or someplace, now they drive up to my door," Hartman said.

Hartman's private recycling dovetailed into the village's plan, which may soon include plastics. Although she was once doing it to conserve resources, the village-wide plan has additional motives, including preserving space in area landfills.

And the recycling effort has already been projected to increase the life of the proposed landfill, which Wheeling will use along with 25 other northern suburbs. So the recycling of the past has benefits in the future.

"We have to think about future generations and the kind of world they're going to inherit," Hartman said.

**THE RECYCLING ISSUE** points out the interest Hartman has in her surroundings and making sure they are compatible with everyone else. As a village board member, she said it is the least she can do for her constituents.

# Wheeling to buy \$186,000 computer

Wed. Feb. 21, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Tuesday approved buying a \$186,388 computer system that will keep the village's finance department records more efficiently than the current 10-year-old system.

A new computer system is needed, said village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski, because the current system is "fragile" and is no longer adequate to handle the growth or future expansion in the department.

In addition, the village must replace the system because of "numerous terminal equipment problems, disk drive bearing failures, printer problems and a continuing

inability to receive prompt, reliable service from our software maintenance vendor," Fialkowski added.

Besides daily accounting data, the system will store data for utility billing, business/vehicle licensing and personnel/payroll.

Hewlett-Packard Corp. will provide the hardware — computer terminals, central processing unit, printer, disk drive and backup unit — for \$65,233, while Pentamation-Count Systems will provide the software and training for \$92,410.

Both firms will provide the village with other equipment, such as a laser printer, publishing software, modems and some furniture for the computer center and terminals for \$28,745.

Last fall, trustees approved the two companies after reviewing nine bids from vendors that had submitted proposals for the new system. Advantages that the two companies held over the other vendors included the ability to provide the most training and implementation hours and solid vendor references, according to an evaluation of the vendors conducted by the Conlon Group, Inc.

Installation of the new system is expected to begin in April and should take about six to eight months to complete. The main processing center will be moved to the main office from a smaller room in the east part of village hall, allowing the smaller room to be used as an office.

## Wheeling police hope village will DARE hire drug officer

Thurs. 2-22-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department may begin working directly with village schools to prevent students from getting involved with drugs, alcohol and gangs.

In the proposed \$3.6 million police department budget, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is requesting a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer be hired.

The officer would visit each village school once a week and provide at least 45 minutes of written and oral exercises for students. The exercises, which are modeled after a Los Angeles program, focus on peer pressure resistance training, self-concept improvement, personal safety, decision-making with respect for laws, substance abuse and gangs.

"The purpose of the program is to teach young people about drug and substance abuse and how to say no when confronted by someone with drugs," Haeger said. "It will enhance the police officer so they (students) get a better understanding of the po-

lice officer — that the police officer is your friend."

Wheeling police officer Christina Parr recently returned from an 80-hour Illinois State Police training program in Springfield for the program.

Although trustees will first discuss the program at a budget meeting Saturday, Village Manager Craig Anderson gave preliminary approval to hire Parr for the position so she could attend the training session. A new officer would be hired later to fill the vacancy.

While the officer's focus will be fifth- and sixth-grade students, the officer also would give talks concerning safety, meet with teachers and interact with students during lunch and recess.

In addition, the officer may act as a liaison officer for Holmes Junior High School. The officer would help students understand juvenile and criminal justice procedures, the importance of laws, courtroom procedures, local government and community service.

## Wheeling group hopes to kindle interest in fireworks

By Mike Wilkinson 2-23-90  
Staff Writer

*COUNTRY SIDE*  
With last year's village-sponsored fireworks display in Wheeling labeled by some as more of a bust than a blast, organizers of the event are getting the word out early that the whole thing could go up in smoke unless sufficient funds are raised.

In order to spark a financial interest in the fireworks, the Wheeling Fourth of July Festival committee has started to organize the fundraisers designed to bring in the dollars.

Judy Abruscato, chairperson of the group, said the committee hopes to raise more than \$10,000 this year — double what the committee generated last year.

"What we need is \$1 from every family in the village to put on a fantastic fireworks show," Abruscato said.

LAST YEAR, THE committee spent \$5,000 on nearly 400 pieces of fireworks, Abruscato said. Many derided the 15-minute display. But Abruscato said that this year, the committee is already looking to buy 982 pieces that will hold the audience's attention for nearly 30 minutes, she said.

Besides the fireworks, the committee is also raising funds for the annual parade down Dundee Road. Abruscato said the committee is close to getting a commitment from the Wrigley Field band that plays during Cub

games and is hoping to try to lure a former Cub as grand marshal of the parade.

Abruscato said the committee expects the return of the Illinois State Police band and a mariachi band. A country and western group, Risky Whiskey, will be riding on a float sponsored by Hoyne Federal Savings, she said.

Wheeling residents and businesses who want to contribute to the committee have a variety of avenues. Abruscato said they can send in donations along with their water bills. Although last year a computer error caused the request to be dropped from the water bills after January, Abruscato said they will be on them through June.

IN ADDITION TO the water bills, residents can help out the committee and get some food at two recently announced fundraisers.

Sponsored by the Wheeling Lions Club, the committee has announced an April 1 pancake breakfast at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse. Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger will be the celebrity pancake flipper, Abruscato said.

And on April 25, Joe Mastrototaro will supply the homemade spaghetti and meatballs for a spaghetti dinner at the AMVETS Hall on McHenry Road. For \$6, adults will get all they can eat spaghetti, meatballs, Italian bread and salad, Abruscato said. Children will be charged \$5, with kids under five getting in free, she said.

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

#### Land near airport to be condemned

Wheeling trustees have agreed to begin condemnation proceedings to acquire a piece of land northwest of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The property, known as parcel 53, is located on Wolf Road, directly south of an abandoned service station that the airport has purchased on the southwest corner of Wolf and Hintz roads. The land is needed to relocate the intersection, which must be moved west in order to create a "clear zone" for the airport's main runway, according to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

Airport owners, Wheeling and Prospect Heights, have been unable to agree with the landowners on an amount to pay for the property. Under condemnation proceedings, a court will decide fair compensation for the land.

#### New mini-van for department

The village community development department will replace a 10-year-old van with a new mini-van following trustees approval of the purchase.

Trustees unanimously agreed to buy the new van, which will be gray, from Jack Stoldt Ford, Inc. of Petersburg, Ill., for \$12,500.

The purchase is included in this year's proposed capital equip-

ment replacement fund budget for the community development department. The order must be placed before March 23 to take advantage of the current bid price, but delivery and payment for the van would not occur until after May 1.

#### Eastchester gets OK for improvements

Trustees have granted tentative acceptance of the public improvements in the Eastchester of Wheeling subdivision, giving the developer the responsibility to maintain the improvements.

The public improvements, covered by a \$980,860 letter of credit, includes public streets, sidewalks, water system, sanitary sewer system, storm sewer system, detention basin, curb and gutter, street lighting and all public right-of-way landscaping, and trees.

The improvements were completed in 1987, but acceptance was not granted then because some items were not satisfactorily completed. After a recent inspection of the subdivision, all items are satisfactorily, or have been repaired to the village's satisfaction, village officials said.

A maintenance security deposit of \$98,085 will remain with the village for one year for the 20-acre development, located north of Hintz Road and east of Dundee Road.

# Budget plan shows village to rely on fund balances

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

*COUNTRYSIDE*

Wheeling residents will be driving over more improved roads and walking on more new and repaired sidewalks, according to the 1990-91 village budget unveiled this week.

Village staff has proposed a \$21.4 million spending plan that includes additional spending on legal bills for an upcoming racial discrimination suit, addition of a drug education police officer, improvements to the village sewer system and other improvements to roads and sidewalks.

To pay for the budget, village officials expect to receive \$17.4 million dollars. The balance, Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said, will come from bloated fund balances that the village wants to reduce.

"That's not bad," Fialkowski said of the budget. "We'll see what the board has to say about it."

**TRUSTEES WILL SPEND** most of

also cars for a 35 percent and \$25,000 increase in estimated legal bills, primarily because of the defense of a racial discrimination suit brought by police officer Robert Pressley. That suit, originally filed in 1983, is expected to come to trial this year.

Other big-ticket items in the budget include \$1.4 million for repairing manholes and sewers, \$1.5 million for buying land for the Tax Increment Finance district, and an estimated \$500,000 in contingency money that could be absorbed by labor contract raises, Fialkowski said.

"The budget's not really adding a lot of things," Fialkowski said. "I think it reflects the type of growth that's going on right now. It's slow, but positive."

While the police department has watched its budget grow more rapidly in past budgets, it saw modest, 5 percent growth in its spending plan this year. The staff has suggested the board agree to add an additional officer so that a department veteran can become a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer.

**THE OFFICER, IF** approved, would be assigned to Holmes Junior High School where they would participate in lessons aimed at drug abuse prevention. Community Consolidated District 21 has already agreed to contribute \$5,000 he first year to offset the cost of the officer, budget documents indicate.

The proposed police department budget also includes the purchase of an additional five in-car computer terminals that give officers immediate access to vehicle registration information. The department bought four of the computers, costing around \$4,500 each, last year.

Department officials said the computers, which allow officers to avoid calling the police dispatcher in order to gather the information, led to the arrest of 38 people last year.

Saturday reviewing the budget with all of the department heads. The meeting, open to the public, will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the council chambers of village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The \$21.4 million in spending anticipated for 1990-91 is nearly 7 percent higher than in 1989-90.

Big spending hikes come in the area of capital improvements, where the village anticipates spending \$652,000 on street maintenance, a 37 percent jump over 1989 spending. Budget documents say that money will be spent on repairing a number of village roads.

Village motorists will also see \$74,500 spent on adding traffic signals to two busy intersections. Following a consultant's review of village signals, the staff is suggesting the village pay for new lights at Old McHenry Road and Lexington Drive and at Chaddick and Hintz roads.

**FIALKOWSKI SAID THE** budget  
(Continued on page 12)

Thurs. 2-22-90  
**Village seeks to send news to apartments**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials want to improve the way they inform apartment dwellers of village news.

Reacting to a resident's complaint that he was not informed of the Jan. 31 deadline for buying vehicle stickers, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village will mail information to apartment managers and suggest the information be included in the managers' newsletters to tenants.

James Jones, a resident of Pine Hill Apartments off McHenry Road, told village trustees several residents in his apartment complex had not received notice or applications for the new village vehicle stickers.

In Wheeling, the deadline for buying this year's vehicle stickers was Jan. 31. The stickers cost \$20 for cars, \$25 for recreational vehicles and \$12 for motorcycles. After that, the prices increased by \$25.

Officials typically mails applications for stickers to residents whose cars are registered with the village from the previous year's sticker purchases.

However, Jones said he bought two stickers for his two cars last year and did not receive an application. After learning that a few of his neighbors did not receive notice, Jones questioned whether any applications were mailed to the apartment complex.

"We want to make sure that this is not a hole in the system of some kind," Jones said. He added that bulk mailings delivered to apartments usually are not delivered to the individual tenants, rather it is placed in piles in vestibules.

Although the deadlines were printed on the stickers, he added.

"The responsibility is on the vehicle owner," Fialkowski said. "The expiration date is printed on the vehicle sticker. It's the responsibility of the vehicle owner to procure that license, that vehicle sticker, before the deadline."

## NEWS: Apartments to

## railing

Continued from Page 1

ed three times in the village newsletters and in local newspapers, the village will seek the cooperation of apartment managers in getting the information to residents of apartments, Schultz said.

In addition, village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said a new village finance department computer system, which will soon be installed, will keep better records of the vehicle sticker purchasers. However, residents are responsible for buying the stickers by the deadline,

he added. "The responsibility is on the vehicle owner," Fialkowski said. "The expiration date is printed on the vehicle sticker. It's the responsibility of the vehicle owner to procure that license, that vehicle sticker, before the deadline."

**WHEN THE VILLAGE** sells the old system, Fialkowski said he expects it will bring in \$3,000, far below the \$130,000 the village spent to buy it. The money for the new system will come out of the 1987 capital projects fund, Fialkowski said. In addition to

"The difference is between a system that is 12 years old and one that is modern," Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said. Although the existing system still works, he said "it's time for it to move on."

of computer system the village needed to replace the old system, the village staff contracted with three companies to provide the computers, programs and other equipment necessary to improve the municipal billing and licensing system.

After a lengthy review of what type of computer system the village needed to replace the old system, the village staff contracted with three companies to provide the computers, programs and other equipment necessary to improve the municipal billing and utility bills.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the \$186,000 computer system, scheduled for April installation, will improve the mailing of vehicle sticker and business licenses and utility bills. About 20 minutes before he told Wheeling trustees that he had to pay \$50 in late fees when he bought his vehicle stickers, presumably because the expiration notices weren't properly mailed to his apartment complex, trustees bought a computer system that could save Jones money next year.

James Jones had a problem that might have been solved Tuesday. About 20 minutes before he told Wheeling trustees that he had to pay \$50 in late fees when he bought his vehicle stickers, presumably because the expiration notices weren't properly mailed to his apartment complex, trustees bought a computer system that could save Jones money next year.

For Jones, 30, of 500 Manda Lane, the upgrade to the 1990s — the old system was bought 12 years ago — will not save him any money. While a notice may have been sent to his Pine Hill apartment, it never made its way to his mailbox. When he finally renewed the licenses on his two cars, the licenses cost him \$90, \$50 more than if he had bought them on time.

**TRACKING WATER BILL** payments will also be easier, Fialkowski said, with the village able to have two years' worth of records on bill payers. He said the village will be able to "forgive" late fees if they find that water customers have had a clean record for two years.

While most municipalities handle their billing by computer, Wheeling's existing system could not accommodate that, Fialkowski said. The new system will allow the village to convert its billing to the computer system, he said.

Fialkowski, who has sought the system for more than a year, said it will give department heads immediate information on their budget projections. He said the system will also hold more information and produce results quicker, while hopefully staying away from the "chronic breaking down" the existing system experiences.

the \$186,000 spent Tuesday, the village also spent nearly \$15,000 in consulting fees.

## Wheeling to buy system for better bill tracking

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

*COUNTRYSIDE*

the \$186,000 spent Tuesday, the village also spent nearly \$15,000 in consulting fees.

# Wheeling officer's hearing delayed

Friday, February 23, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners agreed to postpone a disciplinary hearing for a village police officer, charged with unsatisfactory job performance, until next month.

Police officer Adrian D. Russell, an 11-year department veteran, faces two charges of incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance. Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who filed the charges with the commission in January, is seeking to fire Russell.

In requesting a month's continuance for the hearing, Russell told commissioners that his attorney, James R. Truschke, was unable to

attend Thursday's hearing because he had slipped on ice before the hearing and was taken to a doctor.

Commissioners continued the hearing to 7 p.m. March 6 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Last month, commissioners dismissed a third charge after they determined Russell already had been reprimanded.

In his original charges, Haeger listed 13 incidents spanning the past six years, in which Russell had violated department rules. However, Russell had been suspended eight times for a total of 30 days for those violations, which included failure to attend court dates, having accidents involving a squad car and for allowing a suspect to escape custody.

The two standing charges stem from separate incidents that involved Russell last year. In one of the charges, Russell allegedly stopped a driver who was known to be dangerous and left the suspect unattended while he went back to his squad car. When other officers arrived on the scene, they found a loaded gun in the suspect's car. Haeger said Russell's actions put himself and others in danger.

The other charge stems from a Sept. 2 incident while Russell was on routine patrol and was called a scene of a burglary in progress. Russell allegedly questioned a man and let him go. Police later learned the man matched the description of the burglary suspect.

# Northwest Municipal Cable Council to restructure fees

Tu. Feb. 23, 1990

By MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council has decided to restructure membership dues so the costs are based solely on franchise fees.

Currently membership fees consist of either an amount equal to 4 percent of the town's November franchise fees, plus a charge based on the number of times the community used the council. Or the council

takes 5 percent of the town's November franchise fees, whichever of the two amounts is smaller.

But now membership dues will be based solely on franchise fees.

George R. Van Geem, representing Mount Prospect, suggested the council compute the membership fee based on the average monthly franchise fee amount received over 12 months. Each member then would pay a proportionate amount based

on the franchise fees it receives.

Van Geem said basing the membership dues on an average monthly fee instead of on the November fee would eliminate any month-to-month variations which may occur in the franchise fees.

Basing dues solely on franchise fees also may encourage communities to use the council staff more often because they no longer would pay money based on how frequently they used the council. Also, dues

would be directly tied to revenue.

"If the revenue goes up, than the expense goes up. I think that's easy to understand," Van Geem said.

Based on the new structure, membership fees are expected to be as follows for 1990-91: Arlington Heights, \$9,867; Bartlett, \$2,317; Des Plaines, \$6,934; Hanover Park, \$4,555; Mount Prospect, \$7,152; Park Ridge, \$4,075; Prospect Heights, \$1,742; and Wheeling, \$4,658.

# Prospect delays vote on airport codes

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1990

For the second time in two months, Prospect Heights aldermen postponed voting on the first formal set of rules and regulations for Palwaukee Airport.

Second Ward Alderman Warren Sunde recently asked council members to hold off voting on the codes because the airport owners — Wheeling and Prospect Heights — had not yet worked out differences over some airport matters.

City Administrator Robert R. Keily declined to comment on what specific points still remained in question with the two communities. But, last

week during council discussions on the proposal, Sunde requested whether a nighttime curfew could be imposed at the airport to abate noise, and alderman agreed to table the vote.

This marks the second time in two months the aldermen postponed voting on the rules and regulations, which outlines standards for commercial and refueling operations, requirements for flight instructors and safety codes. Last month, alderman tabled the vote after some council members said the proposal should be

studied and discussed later in more detail.

By again tabling the matter, aldermen prevented the issue from getting a "first reading," which then calls for public input. Prospect Heights Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer was upset by the delay and blasted the council for its vote.

"I'm absolutely amazed that this council took it (the ordinance) off the table, and then tabled it again," he said. "If we're going to stifle something rather than deal with it, you've certainly succeeded at that tonight."

You have managed to stall the legislation again."

Earlier this month, Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers questioned several points in the codes, including the maximum aircraft weight allowed. Wheeling board members are expected to vote on the proposal next month.

Third Ward Alderman Carey Chickerno dismissed Rogers' comments because the codes have been recommended for approval by the airport commission, of which Rogers and representatives from both communities are members.

# Wheeling to consider staffing requests

3/1/90 - Trish

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials may increase the number of employees in the village's community development and police departments.

Members of the village staff will review a request by the community development department to hire a municipal inspector and a health inspector, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Anderson had cut the requests from the proposed \$839,810 community development budget, saying the work could be spread out. The cost of hiring the two employees was estimated at \$52,450.

However, trustees were concerned that an increase in the

number of restaurants and food vendors in town would require more personnel to make routine inspections on the buildings.

Anderson said he will compare workloads for Wheeling's inspectors with those in other communities and determine the need for more help. Besides responding to health and sanitation complaints, the sanitarian inspects village restaurants twice a year, regulates food vendors and food machines, exterminates rats, and oversees garbage and refuse disposal.

Sanitarian Daniel Adams has said his work day is spread too thin and hiring additional help would give him more time to make routine inspections.

In addition, staff will review the

need for two more police officers and one social worker for the police department.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger originally had requested four new employees, but Anderson narrowed the request to one in the proposed \$3.6 million department budget.

One of the two officers that trustees are considering hiring would take part in a task force organized to combat suburban gang activity, while the other would be a patrol officer. The social worker would work on matters concerning juvenile or domestic incidents.

The salary for a social worker is estimated at \$30,000, while starting pay for a police officer is \$27,117.

# Herald-3-1-90 Judge on suburbs

In Norb Vandersteen's criticism of Democratic leaders in the suburbs (Fence Post Feb. 4), he praised his Palatine Village Board for being the only municipal government in the Northwest suburbs to rebate to the taxpayers the village's share of the state income tax increase. He implied that this largesse was due to the fact that the Palatine board was elected in a partisan election.

While I appreciate his commendation of his elected representatives, I am happy to inform him that he is mistaken in his statement that they were alone in their action. In fact, the Wheeling Village Board, chosen in a non-partisan election, and sensitive to its residents' tax concerns, voted to reduce the village tax levy by 22 percent.

I would suggest to Mr. Vandersteen that local leaders ought not to be judged on how, in his view, one party has managed the city, but on how suburban leaders, Democrat or Republican, have managed the suburbs.

Sheila H. Schultz  
Village President of  
Wheeling

# Tree plans bear fruit in area towns

March 1, 1990

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The sign is becoming an increasingly familiar one at the entrance to many Northwest suburbs: Tree City USA.

The designation represents more than an occasional tree planting or Arbor Day celebration in the community. Many suburbs now are investing lots of time, energy and money to promote forestry like never before.

And the lavish attention being given by area towns to forestry appears to be rooted in a widespread love for trees that has made them an aesthetic asset for the communities. Some even say trees create a "hometown ambience" that increases the property values and desirability of a town.

"People's love for trees has been a thing that's existed for many years," said Waid Vanderpoel, of Citizens for Conservation, a Barrington area environmentalist group. "It has deep roots, going back to Europe. I believe that in some Celtic religions, trees had religious significance. I don't think it's something that is just taught in schools. It goes back further into antiquity."

"Trees are beautiful," Mount Prospect Trustee Leo Floros said.

"They give a community a look of grandeur."

In his 15 years on the village board, Floros has enthusiastically supported tree programs, saying they increase the desirability, and hence the property values of a community.

"The village has to be a leader, to set a standard," Floros said. "It rubs off on the homeowners and then they are more likely to plant trees on their own property."

"The award is the icing on the proverbial cake," Barrington Trustee William M. Lee Jr. said about the town's Tree City USA designation. "It's the hometown atmosphere, the definite ambience that trees create. We're different from towns that are paved-over farmland — the Schaumburg's of the world. It's part of what we call Barrington: the quaintness, the ambience."

The Nebraska-based National Arbor Day Foundation confers the Tree City USA distinction upon towns which encourage tree-planting and preservation.

Qualified towns must have laws governing planting and preservation of trees, a group of people to ensure enforcement of the laws and a comprehensive urban forestry program and Arbor Day observations.

The municipalities, chosen by



Inspecting a tree at Barrington's own nursery are, from left, Kelly Kerr, Mike Szymanski and Mark Werksman. The village credits the nursery, which provides trees for parkway planting, for helping Barrington gain Tree City USA designation.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

state foresters, must also spend at least \$1 per capita each year on tree-related activities.

Barrington has three village-owned and operated nurseries. The first was established in 1978, but the program did not bear much fruit at first. But in 1986, the public works department expanded its tree-planting and nursery efforts and received the Tree City USA designation. The town has received it each year since.

Like Barrington, many towns have branched out into far more comprehensive forestry programs. But at least one area town — Wheeling — says the award is not a necessity for having a good forestry program. Still others plan to apply or simply are setting up their own individual programs.

Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Hanover Park, Rolling Meadows and Palatine also are local Tree City USA laureates.

But Wheeling foresters say the

Tree City award is not necessary. Officials plan to spend \$43,500 this year to plant about 40 trees along main streets. The village has its own Urban Forest Management program, but the town is not a Tree City.

"To us, it's just not worth it," said Scott Shirley, of village operations and maintenance. "It's just not worth it to go out and spend the money to get a plaque just to say we're in it."

But other towns are doing just that, spending close to half a million dollars on trees each year.

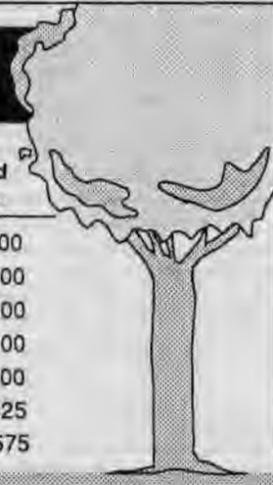
Mount Prospect's forestry department has a proposed total budget of \$452,610, about half of which is used for actual tree removal, replacement and trimming.

Beyond normal maintenance and planting, Mount Prospect is assembling a computer record of every tree in the village, its location, histo-

See TREES on Page 3

## Northwest suburban Tree City USA programs

Village	Participated since	Annual tree-related spending
Arlington Heights	1985	\$260,500
Barrington	1986	103,000
Elk Grove Village	1985	357,000
Hanover Park	1985	200,000
Mount Prospect	1985	209,000
Palatine	1985	294,425
Rolling Meadows	1989	61,575



Daily Herald Graphic

## TREES: Program branches out in suburbs

Continued from Page 1

ry and care. "We've hired a forestry student the past two summers to check all the trees and put them in the computer," Village Forester Sandy Clark said. "Then we will have a record of their care, if they have had diseases or been hit by lightning, things like that."

Rolling Meadows has had a forestry department since 1974, said David Syoen, assistant director of public works. The city applied for and received the Tree City award for the first time this year.

The city has found a unique way to acquire trees, Syoen said. Residents can ask the village to come in and remove unwanted trees from their property which then are planted elsewhere in town. In the past eight years, the village has acquired 45 trees in this way.

"It's mostly pine trees," Syoen said. "A lot of people ask us to take them off their hands. So we transplant them. All the trees by our new water storage tank were donated by residents."

Hanover Park, in addition to its regular forestry programs, is planning to introduce a "tree renewal program" next year. Residents willing to split the cost with the village can replace trees destroyed by the 1988 drought, disease or other disasters.

Elk Grove Village plants about 150 to 200 parkway trees each year and has a massive spraying and maintenance program. The proposed budget for the forestry department, which includes grass cutting, plant-

ing, spraying, new trees and trimming, is \$357,000.

In Arlington Heights, a Tree City USA since 1986, the forestry department plants an estimated 600 to 800 trees per year. The department spent \$260,500 last year.

Barrington's nursery program is unique and actually saves money.

One-inch diameter trees, which the village purchases for about \$30, spend three or four years in the nursery before they are planted in parkways. If they were purchased at a more mature size, they would cost about \$300 each.

In addition, two members of Barrington's public works department are certified arborists, a qualification held by only 120 people in Illinois. In addition to overseeing the nursery, Mike Szymanski and Kelly Kerr inspect the landscape plans for every new development in the village and oversee parkway plantings.

Barrington currently maintains about 5,600 trees on public property. Although the village normally plants about 60 to 80 trees each year, about 200 trees went into public rights-of-way in 1989, said Mark Werksman, public works superintendent.

"We're planting for the future," Werksman said. "Right now, you don't notice those little trees. Fifteen years from now, it's gonna look sharp."

Besides looking good and creating a hometown mood, Barrington officials contend tree-lined streets deter law-breakers.

"We hope that by planting trees along some of our more wide-open streets — like Main Street — we can create a closed-in feeling," Lee said.

Lee said he has no statistics on speeding violations to support his theory on tree-lined versus wide-open thoroughfares. But Lee said, "It's just a natural reaction. People don't think, 'Oh, there's trees, I'll slow down.' But it just happens."

Palatine has been a Tree City since 1985. Each year, the village and its park district apply for and receive the award jointly, according to Assistant Village Manager Kent Beausoleil. In 1989, the total forestry expenditure between the two in 1989 was \$348,425. The village's share was \$294,425.

But even area towns that don't qualify for the award still are making trees a priority in the community. For example:

■ Long Grove: Will order trees for residents, at discount, from Lake County Soil and Water. Some residents are pushing for a city ordinance to prohibit the destruction or removal of trees, even on private property.

# Race case could end up costing taxpayers

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer *COUNTRYSIDE*

Wheeling taxpayers could foot a portion of the bill if the village loses a racial discrimination suit brought by the police department's only black police officer.

After the village board turned down a settlement offer last year, the village's insurance group has placed a ceiling on how much it will pay in either court costs or a judgment against the village.

If the village spends more money than the insurance group offered as a settlement, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village will cover those costs.

Sal Bianchi, executive director of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), said IRMA will only pay \$53,000 in costs associated with the civil suit since the village turned down an offer made by officer Robert Pressley's attorney and pre-

liminarily accepted by the IRMA's attorney. The suit seeks unspecified damages for alleged racial discrimination.

**THE \$53,000** represents the amount of money IRMA attorneys and Pressley's attorney agreed upon in March 1989, Bianchi said.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the settlement was never agreed to and that the court order considering the case settled was inaccurate. He said the village board turned down the settlement offer because it felt no discrimination against Pressley occurred.

"The municipality is not settling the case because no discrimination occurred," Rhodes said. "Any settlement, if even economically feasible, would be considered a loss. And where no discrimination occurred, you can't take economics into consideration."

The settlement offer was turned down by the village board members last April. They were later called into U.S. District Court Judge Paul E. Plunkett's chambers April 26 to discuss their decision in a closed-door meeting.

"He (Plunkett) wanted a meeting with ... the trustees, the elected officials, to discuss how we were to proceed," Anderson said. "What we told him was we were going to proceed (to defend the case)."

"They wanted us to settle and we said no," Anderson said. "So we have to cover it."

Jury selection in the case, originally filed in September 1983, is expected to begin April 13. Officials in Plunkett's courtroom, however, said a criminal case could bump the civil suit to a later date.

**PRESSLEY FILED SUIT** in 1983,

(Continued on page 12)

## Race case —

(Continued from page 5)

claiming his Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection were violated when he said Police Chief Michael F. Haeger "retaliated" against Pressley after he successfully challenged a suspension the chief gave the officer in 1982. Pressley is seeking unspecified damages in the suit.

After a lengthy battle during pre-trial motions over evidence that will be admitted during the trial and over what charges the federal court will hear, the case has been set to begin this spring.

Court documents from 1989 indicate that lawyers had settled the Pressley lawsuit and that the case had been dismissed by Plunkett. That settlement suggestion was turned down by the village board, however, and the case was reinstated, according to court documents.

**ANDERSON SAID TUESDAY** that the village has increased its legal services budget for fiscal year 1990-91 to cover additional attorneys fees or a negative judgment.

The village has budgeted \$100,000 for legal services in 1990-91, up from the \$75,000 budgeted in 1989-90. Finance Director Bob Fialkowski and Anderson said that number was raised because of the possibility of increased funding for the Pressley

lawsuit. Rhodes, however, said that increase was not made to accommodate more spending on the Pressley case.

Fialkowski said the village usually budgeted \$100,000 in previous years but had lowered that level last year.

Pressley's attorney, Alan Freedman, said he would still consider settling the case before a trial, but that he would now ask for more than the \$53,000 he agreed to last March. He would not say how much he would request.

**BUT IF THE** village loses the case, Freedman said the municipality could lose far more than the \$53,000 IRMA would have spent on settling the case.

"My client doesn't even want to go to trial, but he will," Freedman said.

Freedman said the village offered a settlement but for less than \$53,000. That deal, he said, was contingent on Pressley's resignation.

"We thought that was inappropriate since they say he is a competent officer," Freedman said. Freedman said Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who is the subject of the lawsuit along with the village, claimed in a sworn deposition that he considered Pressley a "competent officer."

**"HE'S NOT** going to go," Freedman said of his client. "He has ... nine years left before he retires."

## Police focus on dealing with future gang problems

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer

Three weeks after a gang fight in front of Wheeling High School led to the arrest of five area youths, school and police officials are working on ways to deal with future gang crime problems.

Police Chief Michael Haeger said the police department has continued to investigate the Feb. 8 incident which led to five arrests.

Haeger said meetings with Wheeling High School Principal Tom Shirley and a teacher-parent-student group helped both sides outline how the community will address the gang problem. So far, Haeger said the school's response has been positive.

"I think they're taking the right steps," Haeger said. He said the police department will, however, continue to monitor the gang situation in and around the high school.

**WHILE LOCAL MEDIA** focused attention on the fight, school officials say much of the coverage was overblown and that the confrontation was an isolated incident. They say the fight was one of few this year, although it did involve members of two rival gangs. Four students were suspended for their participation in the fight.

"I'm calling it a disturbance that we handled real well," Shirley said. He said he has talked to district officials about the incident but that no changes have been made in school policy.

Just after 1 p.m. Feb. 8, a group of

youths — some of them Wheeling High School students — engaged in a fistfight. More than 100 other students left the school to watch the fight that was broken up by more than a dozen police from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Shirley has said there are only "a handful" of gang members in the school and that they have been disciplined when their activity interferes with the operation of the school.

**HAEGER AND ASSOCIATE** Principal James Whittington said police and school officials were working on a number of emergency contingency plans, including emergencies that involve gangs.

"The police department is definitely going to be monitoring gang activity in the school and around the school," Haeger said. The police department will make recommendations both internally and to the school following that surveillance, Haeger said.

Haeger met with school officials and with the teacher-parent-student council at a school meeting Feb. 20. He was asked to come and talk about parents' concerns over large parties their children were attending in the area, Whittington said.

The Wheeling Police Department is one of a growing number of suburban communities that have joined a gang-crime task force. The department joined the group in order to better evaluate the area's gang problems and to present a substantial force to combat the problem.

## Municipal conference offices to open at Oakton Community College

By Arnold Grahl

Staff writer

The Northwest Municipal Conference will leave its home of seven years Friday for its first permanent headquarters since its inception in 1953.

The conference will be moving into offices at the Des Plaines campus of Oakton Community College, within a new wing built specifically for that purpose.

**THE CONFERENCE** will occupy 4,000 square feet of office space on the top floor of the two-story addition, while a library on the first floor will be shared by the conference and OCC. The library will house the college's governmental collection and serve as a depository for federal documents.

Oakton will also gain two classrooms on the ground floor of the new

wing.

The new wing was opposed by some students and a few OCC trustees when it was first proposed several years ago because they were concerned about the appropriateness of locating a governmental unit on a college campus. The groups also feared the project would cause flooding, and objected to the destruction of open space on the campus.

**BUT DESPITE** the opposition, the project won approval from the OCC board late in 1988 and construction began in April of last year. The building is now nearly completed, at a cost of \$880,000, which will be split between the conference and the college.

The conference, of which Wheeling and Buffalo Grove are members, will pay back its half of the building cost through a 30-year lease.

# Wheeling trustees set vote on tree plan

March 5, 1990  
 By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling may join a suburban tree association that will help get the village's budding tree program off the ground.

Trustees will vote today whether to join the 10 communities in the Suburban Tree Consortium, which includes LaGrange Park, Western Springs, Glenview, Glendale Heights and Elmhurst.

By joining the consortium for a \$500 membership fee, the village would receive high-quality trees for a reasonable price over a long period of time, said Gary J. Mayerhofer, the village's management intern.

The trees would be used in the

village's Urban Forestry Management Program, an ambitious plan to replace by 1995 a total of 259 trees that have been removed since 1982 from public parkways because of decay, mutilation, age or problems with sewers.

In April, the village plans to plant 71 trees bought from the consortium with \$10,000 trustees set aside last year. The trees will be planted along highly visible places, such as along Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway, Mayerhofer said.

Each year for five years the village budget would include \$30,000 for tree planting. After the tree program becomes more established, Wheeling would become a Tree City USA, which means the town

encourages tree planting and preservation, Mayerhofer said.

Chosen by state foresters, towns qualifying for the distinction must have a tree board, comprising residents or village employees, to develop and ensure enforcement of laws governing tree preservation, planting and Arbor Day observations. In addition, the suburbs must spend at least \$2 per capita for its annual community forestry program to be a Tree City USA.

Wheeling already holds Arbor Day ceremonies and is in the process of developing a tree ordinance and a tree board. However, trustees still are considering whether to require residents to contribute funds for tree plantings on public parkways.

# Disciplinary hearing set for police officer

Mar. 2, 1990  
 By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners will hold a disciplinary hearing next week for a police officer charged with violating department regulations.

In a trial-like hearing, commissioners are expected to review charges filed by Police Chief Michael F. Haeger against 11-year department veteran Adrian D. Russell.

Haeger is recommending the commission fire Russell, who was accused in three separate charges of incompetence and unsatisfactory job

performance.

Last month, commissioners agreed to postpone a hearing set then when Russell requested a continuance because his attorney, James R. Truschke, was unable to attend.

The fire and police commission hearing is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

In January, commissioners dismissed one of the charges, but upheld the other two against Russell, who has been assigned to desk duty since last fall.

Commissioners dismissed the

charge that listed 13 incidents spanning the past six years, in which Russell had violated department rules. Commissioners agreed that Russell, who has been suspended eight times for a total of 30 days, had already been reprimanded for those violations.

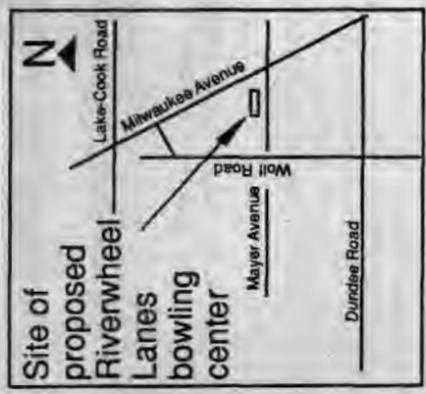
The two standing charges outline two separate incidents last year that involved Russell, whose annual salary is \$36,552.

One charge stems from a Feb. 16 incident in which Russell allegedly stopped a driver who was known to be dangerous. When other officers arrived on the scene after Russell al-

legedly left the suspect unattended, they found a gun in the suspect's car.

The other charge stems from a Sept. 2 incident when Russell was on a routine patrol and was called to the scene of a burglary. The charge alleges that the suspect had jumped over a fence to escape. Russell stopped a man walking on the street, but let him go after questioning him. Later police learned that the man matched a driver's license photo left at the scene of the incident.

These charges mark the fourth time in a year that the chief has accused one of his officers of violating police department regulations.



## Planned bowling center could land TV tournament

By Mike Wilkinson  
 Staff Writer  
 3-1-90  
 COUNTRYSIDE

Developers of a proposed Wheeling bowling center last week announced they want to enlarge their plans for Riverwheel Lanes to accommodate a nationally televised Professional Bowlers Association tournament.

With Brunswick Corp. close to ironing out the plan's details, officials said they will submit new plans showing an increase in floor space for bleachers that would allow them to have a showcase event near their Skokie-based headquarters.

"We wanted to do something entirely different," Brunswick Corp. Vice President for Service Hank Harris said.

The new plan calls for a higher ceiling and a wider concourse, providing enough room, Harris said, to allow for more than 400 people to sit on bleachers. More parking would be provided under the plan Harris outlined for village plan commissioners last Thursday.

**ASSISTANT VILLAGE PLANNER** Stacey Rubin said the new proposal will require Brunswick to seek an amendment to the positive recommendation the plan commission granted the center more than two weeks ago.

Brunswick has contracted with the owner of the parcel, Joseph Freed's development group, to buy the five-acre parcel once the approvals are final, Harris said. He said the company views Wheeling as a good location for a bowling center.

"We don't have a bowling center in Wheeling," Harris said. "We feel the area we have is a good bowling center."

There has long been talk of building a bowling center in Wheeling besides the eight-alley Jeffery Lanes on Wolf Road. While negotiations were under way to sell Buffalo Grove's Striker Lanes and convert that building to retail space, Freed's organization was seeking to put together a bowling center deal with AMF on the Milwaukee Avenue property.

**BUT ONCE THAT deal fell through**, Brunswick took an option on the property and has been working on putting a new, 40-alley center on the parcel. The center would include a lounge area and snack bar and a billiards room.

Brunswick now sponsors a PBA stop at its bowling center in Glendale Heights, Harris said. Brunswick operates more than 120 bowling centers in the United States, he said.

### SUBURBAN REPORT

March 6, 1990  
 Wheeling joins consortium to buy trees

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling will purchase trees for its new tree program through the Suburban Tree Consortium, which enables the village to buy high-quality trees at reasonable rates.

Village board members Monday unanimously agreed to a three-year commitment as a member of the Suburban Tree Consortium, which also includes LaGrange Park, Western Springs, Glenview, Glendale Heights and Elmhurst.

The trees bought through the consortium will be used in the village's Urban Forestry Management Program, an ambitious plan to replace the 259 trees by 1995 that have been removed since 1982

from public parkways because of decay, mutilation, age or sewer problems.

In April, Wheeling will buy 71 trees through the consortium with the \$10,000 that was set aside last year for the program. The trees will be planted in highly visible areas of town.

Although trustees still have not determined whether to require residents to contribute to the cost of the trees, each year for the next five years, the village will budget \$30,000 for tree planting.

Joining the consortium for a \$500 membership fee gives the village a start on reaching its goal of becoming a Tree City USA.

To qualify for the distinction, towns must fulfill a series of re-

quirements, such as forming a tree board composed of residents who would develop and administer a comprehensive community tree management program for the care of trees on public parkways.

Qualifying towns also must adopt a tree ordinance, which would determine public tree care and maintenance.

The communities also must spend at least \$2 per capita for their annual community forestry program and must hold Arbor Day observances.

Wheeling is planning an Arbor Day celebration by holding a tree-planting ceremony on April 27 at Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High School, 221 S. Wolf Road.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Mexican restaurant gets board approval

Wheeling trustees approved plans for a Mexican food restaurant to move into the Creekside Plaza Shopping Center.

The owner, Pedro Sagredo, will operate a carry-out/sit-down restaurant, specializing in Mexican food at the plaza, 236 McHenry Road. The restaurant will seat up to 26 people and 18 parking spaces will be allotted to the business. Peak business hours are expected during lunch time and late afternoon/early evening.

### Suburban library to occupy building

Trustees approved a request

from Prospect Heights Public Library to move temporarily into a building at the Capital Commerce Center at Palatine and Wolf roads.

The library will use the temporary quarters during construction of an addition to the existing building at 12 N. Elm St. in Prospect Heights. The library, which closed Saturday, will remain closed through March 11 and reopen then at the Wheeling site.

Construction on the \$2.38 million addition is expected to begin March 26 and be completed in about one year.

### Subdivision roads win on-street parking

Two cul-de-sacs in the Chelsea Cove subdivision will receive ad-

ditional spaces for overnight parking.

Trustees agreed to allow on-street parking for eight cars in the cul-de-sacs of Dover Place and Barnaby Place at the northeast side of McHenry Road at Elmhurst Road.

Village officials said current parking in the cul-de-sacs is insufficient for the residents, and the additional spaces would not cause any problems for police, fire, and the village's operation and maintenance vehicles.

### Village to observe Cancer Control Month

The month of April will be observed nationally as Cancer Control Month, and Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz is urg-

ing residents to contribute to the American Cancer Society's Crusade.

The annual focus of the crusade is to increase awareness on how to prevent cancer. This year, the crusade will focus on nutrition and prevention of cancer.

### March is American Red Cross Month

Schultz also has declared the month of March as American Red Cross Month and is urging residents to continue to support the agency.

Founded in 1915, the mid-American chapter of The Red Cross provides services for the 8 million people in the 4,110-square-mile, seven-county area of Chicago and suburbs.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### March 7, 1990 Wheeling officer grilled by police panel

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Officer Adrian D. Russell — accused of incompetence — defended his actions Tuesday during a village fire and police commission disciplinary hearing.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who is charging Russell with unsatisfactory job performance, seeks to fire the officer.

The charges against Russell, an 11-year department veteran, stem from two separate incidents last year.

Russell testified Tuesday that he stopped a man on Feb. 16, 1989, near Crescent Cardboard at Old Willow and Wolf roads. The man, a

Chicago police officer on disability leave, was not supposed to be near Crescent Cardboard where his wife worked.

In the trial-like hearing late Tuesday, Russell testified that after stopping the man, he left him alone near his vehicle while Russell went to his squad car to answer a call from a deputy police chief.

"I knew he was on disability leave. I don't know if I believe he was violent and hostile," Russell said.

After two other officers arrived on the scene, they found a loaded gun with about 80 rounds of ammunition inside the man's truck.

Haeger accuses Russell of putting himself and others in a dan-

gerous situation.

"If I had to do it over again, I would not do it the same way," Russell said.

When police commissioners reconvene the hearing at 7 p.m. March 15 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, they will hear testimony on the second incident, which occurred Sept. 2. That night, Russell was on routine patrol when he was called to the scene of a burglary in progress at Adams Roofing, 140 D. Shepherd.

Russell said he questioned a man who was walking about 200 feet from the business and let the man go after he concluded the man did not fit the description of the burglary suspect. Police later learned the man was the suspect.

## EDITORIALS

### March 7, 1990 Democratic board nominations

Voters taking a Democratic ballot for the March 20 primary will nominate seven candidates, from a field of eight, to run in November for suburban seats on the Cook County Board.

Seven members of the 17-member board are elected at large from the suburbs, and 10 are elected at large from Chicago.

In the Democratic primary, the Daily Herald endorses Sheila H. Schultz, Richard J. Phelan, Edward C. Reinfrank, Thomas M. O'Donnell and Lawrence G. Zdarsky for five seats. The Daily

Herald endorses any two of the three remaining candidates — Pat Peter Capuzzi, Ervin F. Kozicki and Patricia Kane McLaughlin — for the sixth and seventh spots on the ballot.

Schultz, of Wheeling, is the only Northwest suburban resident in the field.

Few board candidates match the breadth and depth of her governmental experience. Schultz has done a solid job as Wheeling village president and has developed expertise in key public policy issues by virtue of service on the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Phelan, an attorney from Winnetka, has received the Daily Herald's endorsement for the Democrats' nomination for the board presidency. Reinfrank, of Evanston, has a wealth of experience as an educator. A retired professor of sociology, he also has served on a school board and on an advisory committee to the Evanston schools.

Zdarsky is a plain-spoken young attorney with extensive experience in municipal government, including 10 years as a Berwyn alderman. O'Donnell, of Park Forest, has a background in school finance. He calls leadership and accountability by board members the top issues.

Capuzzi is a self-employed businessman from Midlothian. In discussing county issues, Capuzzi occasionally strays from his point, but he understands some important principles. Kozicki is an office services manager and a former mayor of Hickory Hills. He favors an audit of county spending as one step in containing property tax increases. McLaughlin is an attorney from Palos Park. Although this is her first run for public office, McLaughlin offers thoughtful positions on the issues.

### March 8, 1990 Wheeling to pitch in funds for balefill land

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling will pay about \$4,039 a month in support of a plan to open a proposed balefill near Bartlett.

The village is one of 28 members of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County that has been asked to make the monetary contributions that will help pay off loans needs to purchase property for the proposed balefill.

The money would be used to repay a \$16.25 million loan the agency hopes to secure. The loans are needed, agency officials say, to repay part of the existing \$7.5 million debt loan and to purchase the land in unincorporated Hanover Township, expected to cost about \$5 million.

Based on population, Wheeling's share of the debt totals about \$562,568, with about \$48,467 to be paid this year to the agency.

The fate of the \$55 million balefill

plan now rests with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has been asked for approval to build the 142-acre balefill near West Bartlett and Gifford Roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

Agency officials hope to purchase the land in May, provided the proposal receives all of the necessary permits for the site. The financing plan also must be approved by the communities, which make up more than 80 percent of the agency.

In terms of the amount of money Wheeling will contribute, the village falls about average in the list of 28 contributors. Evanston pays the most at \$1.58 million, followed by Arlington Heights at \$1.4 million.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village may only be required to contribute this year, provided plans follow through and users of the balefill — so called because garbage is baled before burial — begin picking up the costs

### March 8, 1990 - Herald Community blood drive set for March 14 at Village Hall

A community blood drive will be held from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Wheeling Village Hall, 225 W. Dundee, Wheeling. Blood drive coordinator Dan Adams asks eligible donors to stop in and donate.

March and April are Jiffy Lube Blood Donor Appreciation Months in Chicagoland. During these months, every LifeSource donor will receive a coupon for \$3 off their next Jiffy Lube 14-point service.

To be eligible to donate blood, an individual must be in good health, weigh at least 100 pounds and be at least 17 years of age. It is important

to eat a good meal before donating. Blood donations can be given once every 56 days. LifeSource now offers free cholesterol screening with each donation.

This blood drive is held in support of LifeSource, which was formed in 1987 when The Blood Center of Northern Illinois and the American Red Cross established a joint venture. LifeSource is a not-for-profit community service organization which supplies blood, blood components and related services to nearly 60 hospitals in the Chicago metropolitan area.

# Cop denies allegations of incompetence

**A Wheeling police officer Tuesday night defended himself against charges of incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance that were filed against him by the police chief.**

By Michael Ulreich 3-8-90  
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE  
An attorney defending Wheeling police officer Adrian Russell on charges of incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance said that the charges against Russell were in part related to the officer's testimony in a 1982 case involving the village's only black officer.

Tuesday's police and fire commission hearing on the charges filed against Russell by Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger was postponed until 7 p.m. March 15 after a four and a half hour session Tuesday.

Attorney James Truschke said that Russell's problems with the department began in 1982 when he testified at a police and fire commission hearing on behalf of Wheeling police officer Robert Pressley, who had allegedly been observed having sex with a woman in a van parked outside a

Wheeling restaurant.

Truschke said Haeger's charges against Russell may stem from a plan by Haeger to discredit Russell's expected testimony in an upcoming racial discrimination suit filed against the department by Pressley — a charger Haeger's attorney strongly deines.

"IS IT merely a coincidence that before Russell testified in the Pressley case he had an absolutely perfect record and that after his testimony he gets charged with any small thing that happens to him?" Truschke asked.

Russell was suspended for 10 days in August of 1988 for missing court dates and has been suspended at least five times since he joined the department in 1978. Haeger suspended Russell a total of four times for 11 days between 1985 and 1986 before Russell agreed to a 10-day suspension in 1988 in return for the withdrawal of other charges against him.

Attorney Stephen Culliton, representing Haeger, said he couldn't comment on the case against Russell while the hearing was underway, but he denied that the charges against Russell were in any way tied to his testimony in the 1982 Pressley case or the upcoming Pressley discrimination suit.

"That's absolutely untrue," he said.

AT TUESDAY'S HEARING, which ended at 11:37 p.m., Culliton called four witnesses to the stand. He said he will call two more witnesses to testify next Thursday before the defense will present its case.

Culliton charged Tuesday that Russell endangered fellow officers on Feb. 16, 1989, by allowing a potentially dangerous suspect to return to his vehicle. Police later found a loaded handgun and 80 rounds of ammunition in that vehicle.

Russell was also charged with incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance for releasing a burglary suspect he found 200 feet from the scene of a burglary in progress call on Sept. 2, 1989. The suspect was arrested a few days later and charged with burglary.

Russell was called to the stand twice Tuesday, as the commission handled each incident separately. Culliton and Truschke, repeatedly sparred over the line of questioning each employed in characterizing Russell's actions.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 5)

"THESE QUESTIONS are ridiculous and absurd," Truschke said at one point.

Russell testified Tuesday that he had not considered the suspect in the first incident to be dangerous. However, Culliton said that a warning was issued that day during the department's roll call and that Russell was aware that other officers had past experiences with the suspect.

A Wheeling Police Department bulletin had described the suspect as a former Chicago police officer on medical disability for paranoia who was undergoing a stressful divorce and might have been carrying a gun. Russell said the suspect had been known to leave notes in his wife's car while it was parked where she worked in Wheeling on Willow Road. The suspect had been warned to stay away from the property, according to Tuesday's testimony.

Russell testified that he had given the suspect a "pat-down" search after asking him to leave his vehicle. Russell said he was then called back to his squad car to answer a radio transmission from Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke, in which O'Rourke planned to warn Russell of the suspect was potentially dangerous.

"AT THAT point I didn't consider myself to be in a potentially dangerous situation," Russell said. "He was very polite at this point."

While Russell answered O'Rourke's call, the suspect disobeyed Russell's orders to stay in back of his truck and re-entered the vehicle.

Two officers who were called to the scene as backups later searched the truck and found a loaded handgun in a paper bag filled with folded clothes, along with 80 rounds of ammunition.

"Do you feel it was acceptable to put those two officers in that situation?" Culliton asked Russell.

"IF I had to do it over again, I would have done it the same way," Russell replied.

"He was on routine patrol and he

did his job as a police officer," said Truschke in his opening arguments. "He stopped the man, patted him down and got a call from his deputy chief. The question is, were his actions in going back to the squad improper. Were there grounds to even place (the suspect) under arrest?"

Truschke noted that the suspect was later charged with unlawful use of a weapon, criminal trespass to property and disorderly conduct, and eventually had one of the charges dismissed and was found not guilty of another charge.

In the second incident, Russell said that he had stopped a man wearing a bright orange track suit near the scene of a burglary after receiving a description of the suspect as a man about 10 years older. He said he later also received an eye-witness description of the suspect as wearing blue jeans and a green shirt.

THE SUSPECT'S WALLET, containing a driver's license, was found on the scene and Russell testified that he still didn't make the connection between the face on the driver's license and the man he stopped until the man was brought in to be charged in the case a few days later.

During questioning, Russell said he was ordered to take a three-month training session in June in which he was instructed to make driver's license and warrant checks on all suspects in situations similar to the one he found himself in Sept. 2.

Russell testified that he had been the victim of a "con job" and did not believe the suspect was involved in the case.

"As far as I'm concerned, the picture on the license did not look like the subject I stopped," Russell said. "I did not feel this subject was the offender and I felt it was important to get to the scene as quickly as possible. I had no suspicions of him at all. He did a real good con job."

"BURGLARS DON'T normally dress in bright-colored clothes," Truschke said. "In light of the facts, I don't think officer Russell did anything improper."

# Police start over in search for job candidates

By Bob Kehoe  
Managing Editor

3-8-90

COUNTRYSIDE

The search process that began last fall for two commanders to help oversee operations in the Wheeling Police Department's patrol division and investigations and tactical unit has started over again.

After spending an estimated \$13,000 to \$14,000 in the search process that netted 124 applicants for the new posts, police department officials say none of the candidates merited hiring.

"I'm disappointed we didn't come up with somebody, but it wasn't totally unexpected. Any time you interview for positions like this there is always that possibility (you won't find the right candidate)," said Village Manager Craig Anderson, who will make the hiring decision.

Anderson and Police Chief Michael Haeger say they will advertise the positions for a second time and hope to begin the interviewing process in May and to have the positions filled in July. Haeger said the second phase of interviewing candidates could cost the village an additional \$6,000.

**EIGHT OF THE 124** unsuccessful candidates who applied for the posts that will pay about \$45,000 a year were sent to an assessment center to better evaluate their skills. However, Haeger said reports from an outside group that conducted the exercises did not recommend any of the candidates.

Haeger said he too is "disappointed" the interviewing process didn't reap any new hires, but he said he was satisfied that the screening procedures worked well by not leading to the hiring of people who wouldn't meet the department's needs.

The search for prospective candidates began last fall when the village advertised for the positions. One of the new hires will oversee patrol operations while the other will oversee investigations and tactical operations, Haeger said.

In creating the positions, Haeger said the additions will ease some of the burden on the department's deputy chiefs and himself as well as provide more opportunities for the department to focus on innovative approaches to fighting crime.

**WHILE HE SAYS** he is satisfied that the department is doing a good job in its main areas of responsibility such as investigating crimes in a prompt manner, Haeger said some types of work are not getting done, including in-depth analyses of crime

(Continued on page 9)



## Shamrock shimmy

MARCH 10, 1990

Ann Rendek makes her way through the crowd as she carries off empty plates that once contained the traditional St. Patrick's feast — corned beef and cabbage. The pre-St. Patrick's Day luncheon was held at Wheeling's Pavilion Senior Citizen Center.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

## Wheeling Police warn firms of credit fraud

MARCH 10, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department is warning local business to be more cautious when giving credit to customers.

Deputy Police Gary O'Rourke said bulletins were issued Wednesday to local businesses. The bulletin — which is geared toward prime targets of credit fraud, including travel agencies and restaurants — advises businesses to thoroughly verify credit histories of potential clients, O'Rourke said.

The move was sparked after local business owners informed the police department last month that a man allegedly cheated businesses in the Northbrook and Wheeling

area through credit schemes.

One business owner, Al Marks, who owns Latest Travel Dimensions in Wheeling, said he believes the man cheated him of \$754.50 after Marks gave him credit last summer.

Like many businesses, the Wheeling travel agency extends credit to large corporations and businesses to allow them to pay their accounts in one month. Marks said he rarely does extend credit to pay accounts in one week to individuals after first checking their references.

Marks said the man, who claimed he worked for a public relations firm in Wilmette, set up credit last June with the travel agency. Although the man paid off

his accounts at first, he failed to pay the \$754.50 for the last three plane tickets he picked up on Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and Oct. 5, Marks said.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the matter is more a civil one than criminal. Not paying an account is not against the law, but the victim may seek legal action against the customer with a delinquent account, he added.

"I guarantee I've learned a lesson," Marks said, adding he is filing a consumer complaint form with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. "It won't happen again... The smaller accounts we're going to look at with a magnifying glass. Matter of fact, we're going to look at anyone with a magnifying glass."

## Police

(Continued from page 5)

statistics that might yield new strategies for deterring some types of offenses.

"More programs could be developed in the patrol division and in investigations and tactical (work)," Haeger said.

As an example of one area he would like to see improvement, Haeger cited turnaround time in investigating citizen complaints against offi-

cers. Presently, Haeger said it takes the department about 30 days to complete the investigation process. He said he would like to see that turnaround time cut to about seven days.

Describing the qualities he is looking for in a successful candidate, Anderson said, "I'm looking for someone with management and supervisory skills that will be helpful in giving day to day guidance to the sergeants and patrol officers."

# Lawyer: Racism dogged Wheeling officer

March 8, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The attorney for Wheeling police officer Robert Pressley says he will attempt to prove in federal court next month that his client has been subjected to "racist trash" since joining the department more than 11 years ago.

Pressley, the only black officer in the history of the Wheeling Police Department, filed the racial discrimination and harassment lawsuit in U.S. District Court in 1983.

Jury selection for the trial is ex-

pected to begin at 10 a.m. April 13, with the trial set for April 16 in the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago.

In his lawsuit, Pressley charges that Police Chief Michael F. Haeger denied him salary raises and falsely accused him of illicit sexual activity in a case that was later dropped by the village's fire and police commission. The lawsuit also charges that Haeger and others in the department harassed him.

"The charges were brought up because of Officer Pressley's race," said Pressley's attorney, Bruce H. Bornstein of Chicago. "He's been

subjected to racist cartoons and other racist trash during his course of employment at the department."

Although no money is specified in the lawsuit, Pressley is seeking compensatory and punitive damages and back pay from 1983, when the officer did not receive a full-merit pay raise, said Alan M. Freedman, Bornstein's associate.

Attorneys for both sides say they plan to call current and former village police employees to testify.

"Bob Pressley has not identified any person that has given him any racist, derogatory materials nor has

the chief ever seen any information like that around the police department," said William W. Kurnik, attorney for the village. "I don't believe there will be any officer who will testify in their view anything was done that was hostile or racially motivated" against Pressley.

Bornstein said he will call officer Adrian D. Russell, who is facing charges by Haeger of incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance, to testify. Russell also testified on Pressley's behalf in a 1982 incident.

Pressley has been suspended three different times since 1985.

# Palwaukee Airport rules fly by council

March 8, 1990

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Prospect Heights City Council has given preliminary approval to the first formal set of rules and regulations for Palwaukee Airport.

The guidelines outline standards for commercial and refueling operations, requirements for flight instructors and safety codes. Prospect Heights owns the airport with the village of Wheeling, which is expected to vote on the rules and regulations within the next couple of weeks.

Prospect Heights 2nd Ward Alderman Warren G. Sunde voted against the guidelines because he wants stricter controls in some areas.

"You just can't leave loopholes like that and hope an airport can be compatible with the people," Sunde

said.

Sunde wants to set a curfew on evening flights. The proposed plan would allow for flights after the control tower closes at 9 p.m., an option that pilots have had for years. The vast majority of the flights, however, occur while the tower is open.

In addition, Sunde is concerned about noise from airplane engines warming up or being tested. He would like to restrict such testing between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

"If it (evening flights and engine testing) became a problem, we would do something about it," said Prospect Heights 3rd Ward Alderman Carey L. Chickerno, who helped prepare the guidelines. "But at this point in time it is not a problem."

Sunde is also proposing to limit the weight of aircraft that could use

the airport to 65,000 pounds instead of the 77,000 pounds outlined in the plan. That would help reduce noise and extend the life of the main runway, Sunde says.

Finally, the alderman takes issue with a provision that would allow people, under certain conditions, to store, keep, handle, use or transport radioactive waste materials at the airport. Sunde wants to prohibit such material entirely.

"Why even have permission to handle waste at this airport?" Sunde said. "It's ludicrous."

Chickerno, who is a member of the Palwaukee Airport Commission, which spent 18 months drafting the guidelines, said Sunde is making something out of nothing.

Since there currently are no formal rules governing airport use,

there are no checks against airplanes that now might be handling such waste. The proposed guidelines would require notification and permission. Chickerno said the federal government, for example, allows semi-trucks to transport nuclear waste as long as the truck is clearly marked. No formal permission is needed.

"I don't understand what Warren is so excited about," Chickerno said.

The proposed guidelines for Palwaukee are tougher than any other airport in the Chicago area, Chickerno noted.

"The pilots are not exactly jumping for joy over the rules we got in place," Chickerno said, "but they can live with them."

## Palwaukee head:

### customs unneeded

FRI., MARCH 9, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

There is not a great enough need to warrant a U.S. Customs Service at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Fred E. Stewart, manager of the airport, says.

But Charles E. Priestler, president of George J. Priestler Aviation Services at Palwaukee, says he will continue to push for the service at the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

When traveling abroad, pilots based at Palwaukee first must land at another airport, such as O'Hare International, Midway or in another state, to clear customs before returning to Palwaukee. Besides being time-consuming, the additional step adds wear and tear to airplanes and requires more fuels to land and take off again.

Earlier this year, at the request of pilots and Priestler — the airport's fuel and maintenance operator — Stewart sent 25 letters to operators of corporate aircraft based at Palwaukee inquiring whether they would support establishing a customs service there.

Such a move requires approval from Gov. James R. Thompson and the U.S. Customs Service. Stewart estimates the cost of starting a customs service at about \$70,000 and about \$50,000 each year after to pay for a customs officer.

Since the letters were sent in January, Stewart said he has received only about 10 responses. Although most of the responses favor a customs service, the amount of times the service would be used is low, Stewart said.

"Right now we don't have enough indication that there's significant activity to justify it here," Stewart said.

Priestler, though, said he has spoken to at least a dozen corporate jet tenants at Palwaukee who would welcome a customs service. Priestler added that he will be contacting tenants to push the idea.

"I think what's happened is we have to get out and give a sales job on it," Priestler said. "It's just one more service that is needed here. I've had a number of them (pilots) tell me they think it's very, very important."

# Panel recommends firm for Palwaukee audit

FRI., MARCH 9, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport's finance committee is recommending hiring a Chicago firm to conduct the airport's audit this year.

The firm, C.F. Caulfield & Co., submitted the lowest bid — \$3,400 — for an audit of the financial books at the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The highest of the seven bids the airport received was from Arthur Andersen & Co. in Chicago, which quoted \$6,000.

Committee member Henry Levin, of Prospect Heights, suggested hir-

ing the second lowest bidder, Wolf, Weis & Horwitz CPAs in Rosemont, which quoted a cost of \$3,700.

Levin, who had worked at the Rosemont firm before retiring five years ago, said he was familiar and satisfied with the company's work. Levin added that he no longer has any connections with the firm and that smaller auditing companies give "more personal help" than larger firms.

But committee member Elizabeth Hartman and Airport Manager Fred Stewart said commissioners, who must approve the auditors, would question why the lowest bidder was not recommended. Levin abstained

when the committee voted to recommend Caulfield.

The full commission likely will vote on the recommendation to hire Caulfield in the next couple of weeks.

Last year, the Naperville firm of Karrison, Byrne, Jansey & Trimarco, Ltd. conducted the airport's audit for \$2,500.

The increase in costs is not unusual, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

The audit is expected to start in the beginning of May, and commissioners will review the results in July.

March 7, 1990 - Wednesday

# Wheeling budgets repairs, improvements

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

New sidewalks, street lights and trees lining village parkways are a few of the proposals included in next fiscal year's \$21.4 million spending plan for Wheeling.

The proposed spending plan — for the fiscal year beginning May 1 — shows a 6.7 percent increase over this year's \$20 million budget. It also includes funds for a new computer system in the village's finance department and a request for a new police officer to work directly with Wheeling schools to prevent students from getting involved with drugs, alcohol and gangs.

Included in the proposed \$5.4 million water and sewer fund, which is up 5.7 percent from last year, is \$1.5 million for improvements to the sanitary sewer system. A study conducted last year by a Wheaton engineering company found that 24 percent of the sewer overloads in town are caused by deficiencies in the village's sewers and manholes, the holes in the ground used by workers to gain access to sewers.

The village must make the repairs by July 1 in order to comply with the sewage flow standards set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, where the village's sewage is discharged. However, Wheeling is eligible for a 70 percent reimbursement for the design and construction from Build Illinois grant funds to comply with the federal Clean Water Act.

Spending in the motor fuel tax fund is proposed to increase 31 percent, from \$587,615 to \$770,720. Motor fuel tax is the tax drivers pay when buying gas and is distributed through the state to municipalities to use for street maintenance and improvements.

The fund will be used in the village's annual street improvement program, which includes curb and gutter repairs and replacements and several storm sewer extensions.

Streets in the proposed \$652,000 program next fiscal year include: Allendale, Quail Hollow, Diens and Pleasant Run drives, Glenn Avenue,

Third Street, and Shawn, Janice, Muriel and Jefferson courts.

Also included in that fund is the cost for new traffic lights at the intersection of Chaddick and Hintz roads. And temporary traffic signals may be installed at Lexington and Old McHenry roads.

In addition to street repairs, the village plans to remove and replace several deteriorating sidewalks as \$128,710 is included in the \$478,710 capital projects fund.

Sidewalks identified for improvements include both sides of First Street north of Strong, both sides of Second Street north and south of Strong, both sides of Third Street north and south of Strong, and parts of Dundee and Wheeling roads.

The capital projects fund, created in 1987, also includes \$200,000 for a new computer system for the village's finance department. The new system is needed to replace a 10-year-old system that is no longer adequate to handle the growth or future expansion in the department, village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said.

Besides daily accounting data, the system will store information for utility billing, business/vehicle licenses and personnel/payroll. Installation is expected in April and should take about six to eight months to complete.

The police department's proposed \$3.6 million budget shows a slight increase of nearly 5 percent for next year. The budget includes a request to hire a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer, who would visit village schools once a week and provide at least 45 minutes of written and oral exercises for students. The exercises focus on peer pressure, resistance training, self-concept improvement, personal safety, decision-making with respect for laws, substance abuse and gangs.

On the revenue side of the village's proposed spending plan for 1990-91, officials expect to collect only \$17.4 million to pay for the \$21.4 million budget. The difference will come from fund balances, which include money left over from previous years.

## The 1990-91 budget at a glance

Wheeling's \$21.4 million spending proposal represents a 6.7 percent increase.

### Where the money goes

Expense	This year	Last year	Change
Finance & administration	\$1,581,899	\$1,084,432	+45.9%
Tax increment financing	\$1,928,978	\$1,938,478	-0.5%
Capital projects	\$478,710	\$268,000	+78.6%
Community development	\$839,810	\$894,734	-6.1%
Police	\$3,632,855	\$3,461,786	+5%
Fire	\$2,214,752	\$2,237,386	-1%
Bldg./veh. maintenance	\$519,380	\$542,122	-4.2%
Road & bridge	\$1,285,175	\$1,220,045	+5.3%
Motor fuel tax	\$770,720	\$587,615	+31.2%
Water & sewer fund	\$5,448,801	\$5,152,789	+5.7%
Capital equipment fund	\$249,550	\$245,175	+1.8%
Pensions	\$399,650	\$291,400	+37%
Bond & interest	\$2,687,488	\$2,689,197	-0.06%

### Where the money comes from

Revenue	This year	Last year	Change
Property taxes	\$3,935,931	\$6,360,457	-38%
TIF district	\$525,000	\$330,000	+59%
Sales taxes	\$2,900,000	\$2,750,000	+5.5%
Income taxes	\$1,500,000	\$680,000	+120%
Road/bridge revenue	\$1,221,607	\$1,217,515	+0.34%
Water/sewer revenue	\$3,410,000	\$3,349,000	+1.82%
State gas tax	\$530,000	\$470,000	+12.8%
License & permit Fees	\$286,500	\$338,000	-15.2%
Bonds	\$2,647,884	\$2,747,737	-3.6%

### Where you can give your opinions

A public hearing has not yet been scheduled, but one likely will be held at one of the April village board meetings, which are at 8 p.m. Mondays in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Property tax revenues show the greatest decrease next year. Village officials expect to collect \$616,369 in corporate taxes, about 71 percent less than what the village collected last year. That collection is lower because trustees lowered the levy by 22 percent last year, in anticipation of additional money coming in from the temporary state income tax increase.

The village's share of state income taxes is expected to increase by 120 percent, from \$680,000 last year to \$1.5 million this year. That increase, coupled with the quadrennial property reassessment this year, is expected to boost the village coffers

enough to make up for a decrease in the tax levy request.

In fact, Village Manager Craig Anderson expects the village's tax rate to decrease significantly this year.

With a current tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 assessed valuation, a Wheeling resident with a house with a market value of \$126,940, pays about \$317 in property taxes to the village.

Although the new rate will not be known until later this summer when the county releases tax information, Anderson said: "What should happen is that the rate should go down. People should see a decrease."

## Board hopes consortium will cut tree purchase costs

By Bob Kehoe  
Managing Editor

After pooling resources with other municipalities to save money on insurance costs, the Village of Wheeling is using the same principle to beautify local side streets and at the same time prune costs for replacing more than 250 dead trees.

By joining the Suburban Tree Consortium, Wheeling will join a number of other Chicago area municipalities in buying high quality trees at reduced prices while working with the communities on the study of forestry issues.

The village board's approval Monday of a \$500 membership fee in the consortium is the first financial commitment in what officials say will be a long-term investment in adding more trees to the local landscape.

The first of about 70 trees the village purchase this year will be planted by the end of April. In future years, Village Manager Craig Ander-

son said the village will increase its purchases to about 100 trees per year.

ANDERSON SAID WHEELING will pay \$250 per tree through the consortium and will spend about \$30,000 in the first year of the program. The village will take part in the consortium for a minimum of three years.

Participation in the consortium is part of the village's commitment to an urban forestry management program aimed at replacing 259 village trees that have died since 1982. The program also calls for increased attention on spraying and pruning trees.

While the village will foot the bill for the costs of the forestry program, the village is considering implementing a program that would allow residents to request trees be planted in the parkways in front of their homes. Anderson said if such a program is started, the village would likely ask residents to split the costs of the tree planting.

## 1993 date for major Palwaukee expansion

Mar. 13, 1990 - Herald

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials say they will achieve some major long-term goals in 1993 to improve safety conditions at the airport.

The goals include relocating the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads and rerouting the Wheeling Drainage Ditch that runs through the airport and is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Those and several other objectives are included in the airport's ambitious, five-year Transportation Improvement Proposal, which is updated and submitted each year to the Federal Aviation Administration for funding considerations.

The FAA funds 90 percent of the cost of improvement projects, while the Illinois Department of Transportation the airport each pay 5 percent.

A less ambitious alternative plan spreads the projects over a 12-year period, because it is likely not all of the projects can be funded within five years.

Those future development plans were the topic Monday of a joint meeting between members of the Wheeling village board, Prospect Heights city council, Palwaukee Airport Commission.

"1993 is a real banner year and a real target year," Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said. "We finally reach one of our major goals of relocating the Wolf-Hintz intersection."

For years, airport officials have been discussing relocating the intersection, which must be moved west because, according to FAA standards, the airport's main runway ends too close to the roads.

In addition, the drainage ditch also will be rerouted, because it also is too close to the runway and places too many restrictions on developing the property around it.

During this year and next year, the airport will continue to acquire land at the Hintz-Wolf intersection. A second fuel service may locate on the east side of the airport by 1994.

# Police departments wear national accreditation proudly

Mar. 13, 1990

By SANDRA DYBAL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About two years ago, Police Chief Ronald Pavlock decided to take a good, hard look at the Mount Prospect Police Department.

He decided to upgrade and improve things and thought a good way to do it would be through earning national accreditation for the department.

Through the accreditation process, the police department was forced to review its policies, such as how to handle use of force. They also examined the jail cells where prisoners are held.

Although Mount Prospect spent roughly \$100,000 to make improvements in order to become accredited, Pavlock said the cost was well worth the honor.

"We are very proud," Pavlock said. "There were more rewards than costs. You put a lot of work into it, but when it's over you hold your head up high."

Like hospitals and colleges, many Northwest suburban police departments are working to obtain the plaque that boasts national accreditation.

For them, achieving accreditation from the Virginia-based Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. — the only agency in the nation that handles the process — is like being awarded the Good Housekeeping seal of law enforcement.

Of the nation's 20,000 law enforcement agencies, only 134 are accredited. Those Illinois police departments that have earned accreditation are Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove, Schaumburg, Palatine, Wilmette, Glenview, Skokie, St. Charles, Evanston, Palos Heights and the Illinois State Police.

"We had a very fortunate experience," Pavlock said of earning accreditation. "It was about two years of self analysis."

But some departments choose not to pursue accreditation, mainly because working towards some of the 950 rigid standards — ranging from uniform inspections to written procedure policies — can simply prove to be too expensive.

Last year, alderman in Rolling Meadows decided the \$362,345 price tag to initiate changes that would

help them earn accreditation was too costly.

But "most of our policies comply with the accreditation standards," Deputy Chief Richard Hammer said.

Like Rolling Meadows, the Hoffman Estates Police Department adheres to standards outlined in the 48-chapter accreditation handbook, even though they are not accredited. Hoffman Estates, as well as Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Wheeling, and Hanover Park police departments are working towards accreditation.

The national commission says accreditation helps maintain a standard of professional performance for police. It also encourages community input and provides state-of-the-art guidelines for evaluation, a "proactive" management system, and sometimes reduces the cost of the department's liability insurance.

Frank Leahy, director of headquarters operations for the commission, said aside from the initial \$100 application fee, the cost of accreditation varies from department to department.

"It really depends on the agency's size," Leahy said. "The biggest item can be documenting policies and procedures. That's a lot of effort in terms of manpower. Also, sometimes a holding facility will have to be upgraded to care for persons put in the holding facility."

Pavlock said Mount Prospect had to spend about \$80,000 to install lights, vents and doors to upgrade their holding facility "which did not meet with local codes, so it should have been done anyway."

Schaumburg police were the first in the state to earn accreditation, spending between \$30,000 and \$50,000 while making few changes.

But Buffalo Grove Deputy Chief Ronald L. Gozdecki said they spent little — about \$5,500 — to make improvements because administrators were planning a new police building at the time they applied for accreditation. Gozdecki said they will continue to spend \$2,300 over each of the next five years for re-accreditation.

However, when considering whether or not to earn accreditation, Rolling Meadows Commander Douglas Larsson told officials a big problem with the program is the rigid standards, which make renewing the



Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann stands next to the plaque signifying accreditation of the department by a national law enforcement organization. While some Northwest suburban departments believe accreditation is beneficial, others say the honor is not worth the cost.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

accreditation difficult once it is attained. Police departments must renew their accreditation every five years.

"Losing accreditation may look worse than never having it at all," Larsson said.

Mundelein Police Chief Wallace E. Frasier said he has considered the program for his department and has not yet ruled it out as a possibility. However, Frasier said the benefits don't seem to be worth the effort.

"For the time and effort you spend putting it together the payback doesn't seem that beneficial," he

said. "I think that our level of service is equal to accredited departments. Just because you're accredited doesn't mean that you are able to offer more."

But Pavlock believes accreditation does help departments offer more to the residents they serve.

"It does increase efficiency," Pavlock said. "And accreditation includes items such as getting feedback from the community about service and then upgrading it. You survey the community and find out what they expect."

Palatine Deputy Chief Walt Gasior

said he does not think there is an objective difference. "I don't think it's fair to say that accredited departments are better than unaccredited departments," Gasior said. "It's just too intangible of a comparison and too difficult to measure if there is a difference."

But Leahy argues police departments maintain their professionalism by taking a close look at things like policies, juvenile services, investigations, recruitment, community relations, and deployment of personnel.



Wheeling Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen, who is retiring at the end of the month after 43 years in the top slot, stands by one of the village's lime-green fire engines. Koeppen's replacement is expected to be named by March 30.

Daily Herald Photo/Joel Leonard

March 15, 1990  
**Fire chief answers retirement call**

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Fire Chief Bernhardt O. Koeppen has a burning desire to rest when he retires at the end of the month.

And after 43 years of fighting fires, Koeppen — the village's first full-time fire chief — deserves it.

"I don't want to work hard anymore," said Koeppen, who's known simply as "Bernie" by most everyone in town. "I want to rest."

Koeppen's days in the top slot are numbered. He keeps track of the countdown to "D-day" on a calendar from Alexis Fire Equipment Co., which is tacked to the wall behind his desk.

"I'm looking forward to it," Koeppen, 65, said of his retirement March 31. "Course I've got mixed emotions about it. But after awhile that gets out of your bloodstream."

Village Manager Craig Anderson expects to name Koeppen's replacement by the end of the month. The new chief would take over a few weeks later, Anderson said.

The climb up the administrative ladder came as a matter of course for Koeppen, who began as a volunteer firefighter in Wheeling in 1947. At that time, Koeppen — a descendent of one of Wheeling's pioneers, Friedrich Koeppen — was the yard foreman at McIntyre Lumber & Supply. The lumber store now is home to Wicks Furniture, located west of the fire station on Dundee Road.

Back then, all 32 firefighters were volunteers and were called to duty by loud, outdoor sirens set off by the telephone operator. The fire station, which housed one fire truck, was located in a garage at the old village hall on Milwaukee Avenue. The building has since been moved to 251 N. Wolf Road and is now the Wheeling Historical Society Museum.

In 1950, Koeppen became the assistant fire chief in the still all-volunteer department, which had moved to 312 E. Dundee Road near the Dunkin Donuts and Sportmart.

That year, Wheeling's population was 916. From 1950 to 1960, the number of Wheeling residents increased 683 percent.

With the sudden population explosion, came a need for increased fire protection, and Koeppen, who has never lived anywhere but Wheeling, was appointed chief in 1954. He became the first full-time employee of the Wheeling Fire Department in 1969.

A year later, another full-time firefighter was added to the department and gradually more full-time employees were hired to bring the department to its current staff of 41 full-time employees and 14 paid-on-call volunteers.

"It was a major change putting on full-time" firefighters, Koeppen said. "We felt it was going to be a touchy thing but it went smoothly."

The department continued to expand and upgrade. Even its fleet has increased to 10 vehicles, including three ambulances equipped with advanced life-saving apparatus and a hazardous material squad car.

In fact, Koeppen is credited with designing an innovative fire engine reel hose to replace the obsolete folding hose.

Koeppen also put Wheeling's fire

department on the map by becoming one of the first departments in the nation to paint the village's fire engines lime green.

"Red is dead," Koeppen said.

The change was made after a study concluded the color red cannot be seen at night. The study also showed that lime-green hits the spectrum of the eye quicker than any other color, Koeppen said.

"The biggest change in the fire service was in 1974 when we put the first paramedics on," Koeppen said. "That has been one of the biggest accomplishments. . . . These guys take so much pride in their work. When you see a guy come back after saving someone — these guys are just like little kids that just got a new toy. They're so geared up because everything went right."

Although Wheeling's growth never quite equalled a booming metropolis, the village had its share of fires — enough to take a toll on those battling the blazes.

"We don't have the fires like they

See CHIEF on Page 3

**CHIEF: Firefighter Koeppen answers call of retirement**

Mar. 15, 1990  
 Continued from Page 1

have in the city of Chicago," Koeppen said. "But the more people you have the more fires you have. . . . In any fire there's a certain amount of being scared because you never know what you're getting into."

For Koeppen, one incident stands out in particular.

In early 1967, Wheeling firefighters were battling a house fire. It was about 11 p.m. when Koeppen was walking through the house the floor caved. He fell seven feet, landing in the basement. Koeppen's

brother, Bob, another firefighter who was following him, rescued him.

"I always remember that," Koeppen said. "If it wouldn't have been for him (following) behind me, I don't know if I'd be here today. It's one of those types of jobs where you walk into the unknown."

Not everyone was as lucky as Koeppen. In the early evening of Feb. 18, 1963, two 9-year-olds were playing with matches in a home under construction. A fire ensued and both were killed in the blaze.

Since Koeppen joined the department, fires have claimed the lives of

seven people in town.

"In 43 years," he says, "I guess we could be considered pretty lucky."

Fires aside, the village also has "lost" and gained employees. One would think that a front-line observer of 43 years of village politics would have some interesting tales to tell.

On the contrary for Koeppen, who reluctantly admits that his long-time knee problems may have started after the 1967 fall he took. He likes to keep controversy at a minimum.

"I've seen a lot of mayors, lots of managers, lots of trustees come and

go over the years," Koeppen said. "I tried to keep out of politics. Whoever I worked for I said I'd give you my best. I feel I was being honest, sincere and humble."

His relaxed attitude over the years, won't change after March 31. In between resting, Koeppen's future plans include traveling in the States, fishing with his grandchildren and taking care of his daughter's yard.

"It's been gratifying," Koeppen said. "It's been a good job. It's just an awful lot of satisfaction to be able to help. We're known as the good guys. We wear the white hats."

**Firefighters welcome mediator**

Mar. 15, 1990  
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters and village officials will meet for the first time with a federal mediator Friday in an effort to negotiate a new contract.

Although the two sides have held 60 contract negotiating sessions since June 1988, they have been unable to reach a new agreement, said Bart Burns, president of the Wheeling Firefighters Association. After hitting a stalemate in January, union firefighters asked that an outside party join the talks to help negotiate a settlement.

Firefighters, who have not received pay raises since April 1988, continue to work under the terms of

the contract that expired April 30, 1986.

With about 60 issues to negotiate, nearly half are still on the table, Burns said. "The need for some outside assistance is definitely called for," Burns said. "This thing has dragged on for much too long. Half of the issues are still unsolved. We hope the mediator will bring reality and issues to the table to aid us in reaching an agreement."

Village negotiators want to keep the bargaining discussions private. Personnel matters are generally exempt from public discussion under the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

"We're optimistic about the mediation process," Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said. "Mediation

will assist us in negotiating out the final terms." Both sides are set to meet with the mediator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliatory Services at 9 a.m. Friday at the fire station, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Negotiations between the two sides began in June 1986, when the firefighters asked to include six lieutenants in its bargaining unit. The village objected so firefighters petitioned the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

The labor board ruled in the union's favor, and the village appealed. The Illinois Appellate Court upheld the labor board's decision.

The village is now waiting for the Illinois Supreme Court to rule on the case.

# Mediator will join firefighter talks Friday

By Bob Kehoe  
Managing Editor

3-15-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
It may not be as widely covered as the major league baseball lockout, but the ongoing labor dispute between the Village of Wheeling and its firefighters is no less complex.

In fact, there seems little doubt Chicago's boys of summer will hit the field before the village and firefighters sign a new deal.

With their last contract expiring on April 30, 1985, the ongoing disagreement between firefighters and management covers all of the bases — hours, working conditions and salary.

Working without a pay raise since the 1987-88 fiscal year, the firefighters have continued talking with management even though points of agreement have come at roughly the pace of Chicago White Sox victories.

**BUT AS REPRESENTATIVES** for both parties return to the table for another round of talks Friday, there will be one major difference. A mediator will be present.

Hopeful that an impartial third party can bring progress to the protracted bargaining process, both sides

seem more than willing to try again to resolve their differences.

"I'm hopeful this will lead to an agreement. As far as I'm concerned, I'd like to avoid arbitration at almost any cost," said Bart Burns, president of the Wheeling Firefighters Association.

"Hopefully the mediator will provide a constructive awakening and find out what the parameters are of the two sides and determine whether there is any room for movement on the issues," said Village Attorney James Rhodes.

**BURNS AND RHODES** are reluctant to discuss in detail the areas of disagreement. If there is any bitterness between them over the way things have gone to this point, they are concealing it well.

Rhodes, in fact, insists the lengthy talks are merely the by-product of philosophical rather than political or personal differences. Moreover, he said that it is difficult to pinpoint any one area that could be called the main reason for the impasse.

Money has come up as an issue, he said, but it has not been the major stumbling block, a point Burns confirms.

With roughly 60 issues originally placed on the table during the talks and only about half of them resolved, Burns and Rhodes are hoping mediation will bring movement. Rhodes, however, said he will take a "wait and see" approach before deciding on how much mediation will help spur an agreement.

**ONE THING HE** stressed is that the labor dispute Wheeling is having with its firefighters is not unique. Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg are both involved in mediation aimed at bringing progress to stalled contract talks with their respective firefighters. Arlington Heights, Rhodes said, just settled with its firefighters after filing for arbitration. Skokie is already involved in arbitration with its firefighters, he said.

The inability to reach a contract agreement is one of two major issues to be resolved between Wheeling and its firefighters. The Illinois Supreme Court will rule on another lengthy dispute between the parties over whether lieutenants should be included in the firefighters' bargaining unit. A ruling in that matter is expected soon.

# Cop's disciplinary hearing is slated to resume tonight

By Michael Ulreich  
Staff Writer

3-15-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
Wheeling police officer Adrian Russell will take the stand again tonight (Thursday) to defend himself against charges of incompetence.

The hearing before the village police and fire commission will resume at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Wheeling Municipal Building, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Russell could face dismissal from the force if the commission finds against him on the charges filed by Police Chief Michael Haeger.

Russell is charged with letting a potentially dangerous suspect return to his car in a 1989 case in which police backups responding to the same call later found a loaded handgun in the suspect's car. Haeger also charged that Russell released a burglary suspect he found 200 feet from the site of the crime in a separate 1989 case. The suspect who was released was later charged with committing the burglary.

**ATTORNEY STEVE CULLITON**, representing Haeger, said Russell had been warned in the first incident that the suspect might be armed and dangerous. In the second incident, Culliton said Russell had just graduated from a training course on the proper way to stop and question suspects when he let the burglary suspect go.

Attorney Jeffrey Truschke, representing Russell, will begin calling witnesses in Russell's defense after the prosecution rests its case.

Outside the hearing, Truschke

claimed that Russell's history of disciplinary charges and suspensions since 1982 might have stemmed from his testimony in another disciplinary hearing on charges filed against the village's only black officer, Robert Pressley in 1982.

In 1983 Pressley filed a discrimination suit against Haeger and the Wheeling Police Department, charging that disciplinary actions taken against Pressley were racially motivated. The Pressley suit is expected to begin April 16 at the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago.

**RUSSELL WAS SUSPENDED** five times for various reasons since he joined the force in 1978.

An attorney representing Haeger denied last week that the charges against Russell have anything to do with Pressley's racial discrimination suit.

Truschke claimed that Russell's problems with the department also stemmed from his testimony in the 1982 case, when Pressley was charged with having sex with a woman in a van parked outside a Wheeling restaurant.

William Kurnik, an attorney representing Haeger in the Pressley suit, said last week that Russell's testimony in that case was "insignificant." Kurnik predicted that Russell's testimony in the upcoming racial discrimination suit won't play a significant role that suit.

**THE CHARGES AGAINST** Pressley in the 1982 case were later dismissed.

# Wheeling names new fire chief

MARCH 16, 1990  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The fire chief in Lake Zurich will leave his post of less than two years to take over as the new fire chief in Wheeling.

Lake Zurich Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac, 31, will be sworn in for the top spot April 16. Wheeling's first full-time fire chief, Bernhard O. Koepfen, is retiring March 31 after 43 years with the department. MacIsaac was chosen from a field of 25 applicants, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said. Eight of the applicants, all from the Chicago area, were chosen for interviews. Five participated in a day-long assessment test.

"He fared very well in the testing

process," Anderson said of MacIsaac. "He appears to have a good management background. He's been a chief. He's been successful in pulling together what was a volunteer department... and he came highly recommended."

MacIsaac became the director of emergency services/fire chief for the Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department in June 1988.

He previously served as a fire protection engineer in Mount Prospect. MacIsaac, a Buffalo Grove resident, was instrumental in combining Lake Zurich's fire and paramedic departments.

As Wheeling's fire chief, MacIsaac's annual salary will increase from the \$44,000 he was making in

Lake Zurich to \$55,000, plus benefits and a car.

"It's not financial," MacIsaac said. "It's a good professional move," he added, noting the Wheeling Fire Department is nearly twice the size of Lake Zurich's.

MacIsaac will oversee a staff of 41 full-time employees and 14 paid-on-call volunteers.

Until MacIsaac takes over, Wheeling Fire Captain Ralph Perricone will be acting fire chief. Perricone, a 21-year department veteran, was one of the five in the running for the top administrative position, Anderson said.

Koepfen, 65, served as chief for 36 years. He became the department's first full-time employee in 1969.

# Schedule is set on intersection relocation plan

After years of planning, some key projects that will lead to improvements at Palwaukee Airport are getting off the ground.

By Bob Kehoe  
Managing Editor

3-15-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
The long-planned relocation of the Hintz Road-Wolf Road intersection and the rerouting of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch at Palwaukee Airport should be completed over the next three years.

The two undertakings are among a bevy of projects, with a combined price tag of \$83.5 million, scheduled for the airport over the next 10 to 12 years. These and other matters were outlined Monday for Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials, whose municipalities jointly own the airport.

In reviewing the intersection relocation plan, village officials were pleased to learn that the work won't cause major traffic interruptions.

Instead, the plan calls for building two bridges in separate locations over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and out of the right-of-way.

As a result, traffic will be rerouted around the heavily-traveled intersection during the realignment process, rather than closing portions of the roadways.

"There should be no significant disruption of traffic," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

**IN ADDITION TO** relocating the intersection farther away from airport runways as a safety measure, traffic signals will also be added to the intersection.

## Intersection —

(Continued from page 5)

Anderson said construction of the bridges will cost about \$2 million, with land acquisition needed for the work estimated at \$8 million. As with all of the work planned at the airport, Anderson said funding will largely come from the federal government.

Of the total \$83.5 million in planned expenditures, Anderson said about \$49 million will come from federal sources, while the local share of the costs will come to about \$28 million.

The state will also pay for some of the costs.

Local costs, he said, would be funded solely from airport revenues and would not be shouldered by local taxpayers.

"I'm very optimistic about Palwaukee Airport," said Fred Stewart, airport manager. "We've been told we have the support of the state and federal government, and if we get that, I'll be just as happy as can be."

**ALL OF THE** planned airport work, Anderson said, was strongly encouraged by the Federal Aviation Administration to help improve safety.

As for the drainage ditch relocation, Anderson said it will be rerouted away from its present location in the middle of the airport. The ditch would be routed under Hintz Road and turn south at the southern border of the Twin Drive-In before heading east to the Des Plaines River. An environmental impact study must be completed before that plan can proceed.

Although these two projects will be

# Attorney rips Wheeling officer in hearing

MARCH 16, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Actions by a Wheeling police officer during two incidents last year "defy all logic" attorney Steven Culliton said late Thursday during closing arguments in a disciplinary hearing for a 12-year police department veteran.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is charging officer Adrian D. Russell with incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance.

Haeger is requesting the village fire and police commission dismiss Russell from the department for his involvement in two separate incidents last year.

"Officer Russell exposed him-

self and exposed two officers to serious danger," said Culliton, Haeger's attorney. "This defies all logic. This defies all rational police work."

Culliton was referring to a Feb. 16, 1989 incident in which Russell stopped a man near Crescent Cardboard where the man's wife worked. The man, a Chicago police officer on mental disability leave, was left unattended near his vehicle while Russell went back to his squad car to answer a call from a deputy police chief.

Russell had testified that he didn't believe the man was "violent and hostile."

After two officers arrived on the scene, they found a loaded gun with about 80 rounds of ammuni-

tion inside the man's truck.

"He's a damn good police officer," Russell's attorney James R. Truschke, said in his dramatic closing statement.

Although a retired Illinois state police captain testified on Russell's behalf, village attorney James Rhodes, who was presiding over the trial-like hearing, rejected testimony from a Winnetka police official and a retired Niles sergeant saying they were not qualified as expert witnesses.

Rhodes also refused the playing of the department's radio dispatch tape recorded during one of the incidents.

Commissioners were expected to make a ruling on the case by early Friday morning.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling to hire two new police officers

3-20-90

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday unanimously agreed to hire two new police officers, including one who would replace an officer assigned to a new elementary schools beat.

Officer Christina Parr, who has been on the police department for 3½ years, will be the Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer for Wheeling, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

One of the new officers would replace Parr as a patrol officer. The other officer would fill a vacancy on the department when Sgt. Jack Kimsey retires in June after 32 years on the force.

The additions bring the total

number of police officer positions to 41. The starting annual salary for a Wheeling police officer is \$27,117.

As DARE officer, Parr will visit each school once a week and provide at least 45 minutes of written and oral exercises for students.

The exercises focus on peer pressure resistance training, self-concept improvement, personal safety, decision-making with respect for laws, substance abuse and gangs.

"We think it's real important that they start at a younger age to get that kind of a program going in school," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

To prepare for her new duties, Parr recently participated in an

80-hour Illinois State Police training program in Springfield. Although Parr met with some students Monday at Holmes Junior High School, where she may act as a liaison officer, she won't start the new beat until May, Anderson said.

The request for the new officers is included in the police department's \$3.6 million proposed budget for next year, which has yet to be approved by trustees.

Approving the two hirings Monday allows the officers to be enrolled in next month's police academy training course. That way, the department remains at full staff, and the new officers would not have to wait until another training session is offered.

# Residents petition two towns for traffic light at intersection

Wed. 3-21-90

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of two housing subdivisions along Dundee Road are requesting that Wheeling and Buffalo Grove officials erect a traffic light at an intersection they say is dangerous.

The intersection at Dundee Road, Huntington Lane and Lake Boulevard is dangerous for drivers attempting to turn onto Dundee from the two subdivisions on either side of the main thoroughfare through Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, residents say.

"We urge you to act before there is any serious accident or injury to any resident of either Buffalo Grove or Wheeling," said Norm H. Bergslien, who at a recent Wheeling village board meeting represented the Arlington Club subdivision, which is on the north side of Dundee Road in Wheeling.

Bergslien and Martin Kramer, who was representing Cambridge on the Lake condominiums, presented village board members with petitions, which they say, contain 435 signatures from residents of Arlington Club and 327 signatures from Cambridge residents. Cambridge on the Lake is on the south side of Dundee Road in Buffalo Grove.

The petitions urge village officials to erect a traffic control light at the

intersection as soon as possible.

Representatives from the two subdivisions also made the same plea and presented copies of the petitions to members of the Buffalo Grove village board.

The intersection is one included in a study the village conducted last summer that found the intersection met criteria to warrant traffic signals. Although there were no accidents reported during 1986-1988 at the intersection, the study recommended a traffic signal be installed there.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village is waiting on a response from the Illinois Department of Transportation to determine how much money the state agency would contribute to the cost of the traffic signal.

Wheeling is responsible for Huntington Lane, while Buffalo Grove takes in Lake Boulevard and the state transportation agency maintains Dundee Road. Wheeling estimates the cost of construction at \$78,100.

"The cost of the light based on one fatality is certainly going to be worth the cost of the light," Kramer said. "One more traffic signal out of a dozen on Dundee Road won't make a difference."

Said Village President Sheila H. Schultz: "We will continue to do what we can to move that along."

the most noticeable to motorists and those who live near the airport, other major activities center around land acquisition and the demolition of existing buildings near the site. The acquired parcels will add open space around the airport and its runways.

The planned demolition of the Hangar Restaurant at the corner of Palatine and Milwaukee Road will be one of the changes to the landscape, Anderson said.

"THE HANGAR Restaurant has to be demolished at some point and, frankly, we'd like to dress that area up," Anderson said.

Adding one to two fixed-base operators to the airport also is on the agenda. The operators would primarily offer services to plane operators.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Village president to address club

3-20-90  
Wheeling Village President Sheila Shultz will address the ZONTA Club of Northwest Cook County Area at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Palm Court Restaurant, 1912 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. She will address the status of women in community service. Shultz, who is a candidate for Cook County Board of Commissioners, is the president of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, vice president of the Illinois Municipal League, an appointed member of the Cook County Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee and employed as the head of the circulation department at the Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling. For more information call Dolores Bricker at 253-2340, ext. 552.

March 14, 1990  
**Palwaukee eyes 2nd fuel service business**

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials may seek proposals for a second fuel service business as early as 1992.

The airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has only one fuel company, Priester Aviation Service. Besides fuel, Priester's service offers aircraft storage, maintenance, sales, rental and engine accessories.

A second fuel service business, or

Fixed Base Operator, would break up Priester's monopoly and provide competition for service at the airport, officials say.

Included in the airport's recently proposed Capital Improvement Program, which spreads projects over a 12-year period, is a plan to request proposals for a second FBO in 1992. The second FBO would be located on the east side of the airport in 1994, according to the plan.

The 12-year proposal includes other major safety improvement projects, which airport officials have

submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for funding consideration under the agency's Transportation Improvement Proposal program. That ambitious plan, which must be updated and resubmitted every five years, is more like a "wish list" of airport projects because not all of the projects can be funded within five years.

The FAA pays for 90 percent of all improvement projects. Construction of an FBO, however, would not be eligible for federal funding because it involves a private business. The

remaining 10 percent is shared equally by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the airport.

"We understand that there will be another FBO," said Charles E. Priester, president of Priester Aviation Service. "I think it's proper. As long as operating rules and obligations (of the two businesses) are equal, that's fine."

The two communities bought the airport from Priester in December 1986. Last year, the communities agreed to take over all maintenance at the airport from Priester.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Drug education officer in hirings proposal**

HERALD - MARCH 19, 1990

If Wheeling trustees approve hiring two police officers this month, they will, in effect, approve the police chief's request to hire a police officer to work directly with students.

In the police department's proposed \$3.6 million budget, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is requesting a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer.

The officer would visit each village school once a week and provide students with exercises focusing on peer pressure resistance training,

Anderson said he is requesting the hirings now so that the new officers could be enrolled when the next police academy training course is offered in mid-April. That way, the department would remain at full staff, and the officers would not have to wait until another training session is offered, Anderson said.

Meanwhile, students in the gifted program at Wheeling's Holmes Junior High School, where the DARE officer may act as a liaison, will attend Monday's meeting as part of their Student Government Day.

self-concept improvement, personal safety, decision-making with respect for laws, substance abuse and gangs.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said he will ask trustees Monday to approve hiring an officer to replace the DARE officer, who would likely be a current village police officer. Anderson also will ask trustees to approve hiring another patrol officer to fill a vacancy expected on the department when Sgt. Jack Kimsey retires in June after 32 years of service.

**The top meeting**

**Who:** Wheeling Village Board

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

**WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES**

Wed. 3-21-90  
**Village honors retiring fire chief**

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz has declared Friday as "Fire Chief Bernhardt O. Koeppen Day" in the village.

Koeppen, who is retiring at the end of the month as the village's first full-time fire chief, also was awarded a plaque from the village honoring his "43 years of devoted service to the village."

"I felt proud and gracious that I was part of the village and helped shape its destiny through all the many years," said Koeppen, who is 65.

**Schultz announces 'Contribution Day'**

Schultz also proclaimed May 3 as "A Lifetime of Contribution Day" in recognition of the theme for the Second Annual Senior Citizen Celebration Day.

The celebration day, which is cos-

sponsored by the Northwest Suburban High School District 214 community education program and the village of Wheeling, is designed to encourage and develop programs and activities to meet the needs of District 214 and Wheeling residents.

**Wheeling establishes 'Prayer Week'**

Schultz declared the week of April 29 through May 5 "Concert of Prayer Week."

In addition, the first Thursday of May each year will be Wheeling Day of Prayer. All residents will be encouraged to "participate in daily individual prayer and provide prayerful support for government and business leaders to provide wise, courageous and ethical leadership 'under God' at the local level through to the international level," according to the proclamation.

Copies of the proclamation will be sent to each house of worship within the village to publicize the Day of Prayer and Concert of Prayer.

**Village sets charity tag day**

The Salvation Army will conduct a tag day in Wheeling on June 1 and June 2.

Trustees unanimously approved the tag day for the not-for-profit organization, based in Chicago, which will conduct the fund-raiser at shopping centers and all village stores.

**Wheeling approves staff reclassifications**

A Lake Bluff consulting firm reclassified the current positions and pay plans for Wheeling's 20 clerical staff at the village hall.

Trustees approved the results of the study started last fall by the PAR Group, Paul A. Reaume, Ltd. in

Lake Bluff. The study was conducted to eliminate some of the inaccuracies and deficiencies that crept into the village's classification system over the years.

According to the results of the evaluation, a finance clerk, which falls under the category of fiscal assistant, would have a starting pay of \$15,712 a year, with the highest pay at \$22,109.

Most of the village's clerical staff, such as secretary/typists, license and permit clerks, fall under the category of office associate and would receive a starting annual salary of \$18,189, according to the evaluation.

Although the reclassification may have lowered some pay ranges for certain employees, they will not see a decrease in salary. Rather, their pay will be frozen until it synchronizes with the pay range of the position.

**GOP board winners both dead and alive**

Wed. 3-21-90

BY DAVE MCKINNEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Based on incomplete results Tuesday, Cook County Republicans appeared to have elected a dead man Tuesday for county board, while Democrats chose a slate of seven that had Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz among the contenders.

The Republican primary race for seven suburban seats captured headlines shortly before the primary because of the party's push to get deceased county commissioner Harold L. Tyrrell elected.

The party appeared to be successful, with Tyrrell, who died of a heart attack in February, running sixth in the field with 62,037 votes.

Tyrrell's apparent win came at the expense of little known political outsider, William Russ, a Berwyn car dealer with no prior political experience.

Based on incomplete returns, the top Republican vote-getters followed by their unofficial totals were Carl R. Hansen (73,852), Mary



Sheila H. Schultz

M. McDonald (72,776), Allan C. Carr (70,039), Richard Siebel (69,086), Aldo DeAngelis (62,495), Tyrrell, Herbert Schumann (61,306) and Russ.

In the Democratic suburban county board race, eight candidates were vying for seven seats. Based on incomplete results, Schultz had 84,634 votes.

**Chicago firm rejected for Palwaukee audit**

Thurs. 3-22-90

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners will not hire a Chicago firm for the airport's annual audit because, they said, the company does not have its own telephone.

Commissioner Dan Quiery said Wednesday that when he recently tried to contact the firm, C.F. Caulfield & Co. in Chicago, he "had difficulty reaching them" because the company's telephone number was listed under a law office number.

The auditing firm shares an office, switchboard and telephone number with the law firm of McCracken & Walsh, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport mana-

ger for finance and administration.

"The size of the firm is important to us," said Commissioner Henry Levin, who abstained when the airport's finance committee voted to recommend Caulfield earlier this month. "I would not go with a larger firm because we're lost in all the accounts... They do not have their own phone number. It's unusual that they don't have their own firm — that they're that small. We would have trouble reaching them."

However, a call to directory assistance gave a Chicago telephone number for Caulfield. There was no answer to calls late Wednesday.

The airport's finance committee had recommended hiring Caulfield

because the firm submitted the lowest bid — \$3,400 — to review this year's books at the airport.

All but one commissioner, Chairman Robert Strauss, rejected Caulfield. Then commissioners unanimously approved hiring the next lowest bidder, Wolf, Weis & Horwitz CPAs in Rosemont, which quoted a cost of \$3,700.

Although Levin worked for the Rosemont firm before retiring five years ago, he said he no longer has any connections with the company.

Last year, the Naperville firm of Karrison, Byrne, Jansey & Trimarco, Ltd. conducted the audit for \$2,500. This year's audit is expected to begin in May; commissioners will review the results in July.

# Conviction ends sad chapter for Wheeling cops

THURS., MAR. 22, 1990

By PETE NENNI  
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

The initial shock and grief that gripped the Wheeling Police Department in the wake of Officer Kenneth Dawson's death five years ago is gradually wearing off.

About 80 percent of the force now wears bullet-proof vests. As the first Wheeling cop killed during a crime, Dawson's name occasionally creeps into conversation. Dawson, said Deputy Chief Michael Hermes, has not

been forgotten.

His memory and the way he died were revived again by Hermes, fellow officers and Dawson's family on Wednesday when Cook County Judge Fred G. Suria Jr. convicted 31-year-old Larry Strickland in the policeman's Nov. 5, 1985, shooting death.

Larry Strickland had struggled with Dawson when the officer arrived in the Cedar Run subdivision and tried to question him about a residential burglary. Suria said the East Chicago Heights man was ac-

countable and responsible for Dawson's death, even though his brother, Tyrone, admitted to pulling the trigger. Tyrone was convicted two years ago and sentenced to death.

"I think it's a big turning point for me, the fact that both defendants were found guilty," Hermes said of the verdict and his own emotions. "I don't want to classify this as a good feeling. It's a relieved feeling."

In all, 27 Wheeling police officers attended Wednesday's hearing in the Cook County Criminal Courts Build-

ing in Chicago to show their support for Dawson's family and their love and respect for their fallen comrade and "to see for themselves that justice does work," Hermes said after the hearing.

He was Dawson's training officer and knew him as a man "who lived for his family," which included his wife and three daughters. The 41-year-old Dawson had built his home in Kildeer and also built a small airplane, which he planned to fly at Pal-Waukee Airport the night he

died.

Hermes recalled that he was not on duty the night of the shooting, but heard about Dawson's death about a half hour after it happened. Dawson was killed by a single gunshot wound to the chest. The initial reaction in the Wheeling Police Department was confusion, Hermes said, but that soon gave way to shock and disbelief.

It could have been anyone. By

## THURS. 3-22-90 POLICE: Man guilty in cop killing

Continued from Page 1

chance, the call was assigned to Dawson, a 14-year veteran on the Wheeling police force, who was working in the middle of his shift that night.

"The department will never get over it," Hermes said.

He admitted that the tragedy has remained in the forefront in the department, in part, because the trials of the Strickland brothers have dragged out for so long.

It took five years to bring Larry Strickland to trial and convict him of Dawson's murder. During that time, attorneys argued before the Illinois Supreme Court whether Strickland should have been given medical attention for a gunshot wound to his finger before he was questioned by Chicago police.

However, while Wheeling police are pleased with the guilty verdict, it's still hard for them to understand what happened and why Dawson died that night on Cleo Court in north Wheeling.

"It's one of the things you don't associate with working in Wheeling," Hermes said.

# Suburban turnout buoys Dems

3-22-90

By DAN ROZEK  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buoyed by primary results showing they out-poll the Republicans, suburban Democrats say they are optimistic they can shatter the GOP lock on suburban seats on the Cook County Board this fall.

Republicans, who hold all seven suburban seats on the 17-member county board, refuse to concede any seats, however.

Democratic candidate Sheila H. Schultz, who is Wheeling village president, predicts suburban Democrats will win seats on the board in the November general election.

"I'm confident about that," said Schultz, the leading vote-getter among both Republican and Democratic suburban Cook County Board candidates. "I feel very good about it (the Democratic slate)."

With all but eight precincts reporting, Schultz collected 126,083 votes and was joined on the slate by Thomas M. O'Donnell with 125,178, Patricia Kane McLaughlin with 123,608, Phelan with 117,679, Ervin F. Kozicki with 109,154 and Edward C. Reinfranc with 109,105 and Pat Peter Capuzzi with 107,902.

Among suburban Republicans, incumbent Carl R. Hansen of Mount Prospect collected the most votes, with 100,952. He was joined on the Republican slate by Mary M. McDonald with 99,811 votes, Allan C. Carr with 95,708, Richard Seibel



Sheila Schultz

with 94,360, Aldo A. DeAngelis — who will challenge Phelan for the board presidency — with 85,157; deceased county commissioner Harold Tyrrell with 84,763 and Herbert T. Schumann with 88,874.

Republican leaders plan to meet early next month to select a replacement for Tyrrell, who died in February.

Republicans and Democrats agreed some of the higher voter turnout in the Democratic races came because the high-profile primary battle for board president attracted more voters.

But Schultz said there is more to the numbers than that.

"The Democratic turnout in the suburbs is increasing," she said.

"The voting patterns are changing," Hansen disputed that.

"The Democrats got more votes in some areas because there was more excitement in their races. That's not an unusual occurrence," Hansen said, agreeing some Republicans and independents may have crossed over to vote in the Democratic primary.

Schultz said she is uncertain why she collected the votes, although she agreed she may have drawn strong support from women voters.

"If there's a race where voters do not know a lot about candidates, women might tend to vote for a woman candidate," Schultz said.

Given the presence of the high-profile Phelan and the strength of the suburban slate, Schultz said she believes at least several Democrats can be elected to the board. Phelan is eligible to win a board seat, even if he loses the race for president.

Hansen acknowledged the campaign will be difficult for Republicans, although he was not willing to concede the Democrats any suburban seats.

"I don't consider anyone a shoo-in," Hansen said. "In December, everyone considered Stan Kusper a shoo-in (as Democratic nominee for the board presidency) and he finished fourth of four."

Republicans have held all seven suburban board seats since 1986. A lone suburban Democrat, Jeanne Quinn of Oak Park, served on the board from 1982 to 1986.

# Safety-Kleen to resubmit plans a fourth time

FRI., MAR. 23, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the fourth time, an Elgin chemical processing company will resubmit plans to relocate an Arlington Heights storage center to Wheeling.

Safety-Kleen Corp. in Elgin recently withdrew its third request for siting approval on Jan. 12 because the company published in the newspaper a public hearing notice which contained an incorrect date, said Ellen Jurczak, environmental permit manager at Safety-Kleen.

Jurczak said a new application will be submitted to Wheeling within the next month. The village board must hold a public hearing within



Daily Herald Map

four months after the request is submitted.

Safety-Kleen withdrew is second application last November, citing an error in the mailing process to notify residents near the proposed site. Officials withdrew the first application because it was missing a date on a form used to advise residents of meetings.

"It certainly is easy to make those kinds of mistakes," Jurczak said. "We're being extra careful with this because our legal counsel tells us that other application have been derailed because of things like the wrong date being published in the newspaper. It's the kind of thing that if it got overlooked and someone noticed it and appealed it, we could be forced to withdraw and start the process over from the beginning."

Safety-Kleen wants to relocate and expand an Arlington Heights storage center to 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road, just east of Glenn Avenue in Wheeling.

The corporation recycles hazardous wastes and processes solvents from cleaning machines, typically used for car parts and dry cleaning. However, the proposed Wheeling center would be used only to store used solvents, waste oil and anti-freeze, which are considered hazardous wastes, before hauling the wastes to processing centers.

The delays have provided extra time for Safety-Kleen to add more information to its application, such as a formal traffic impact study, Jurczak said.

# Wheeling to test more commander hopefuls

FRI., MAR. 23, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Dissatisfied with test results for new police commanders, Wheeling officials will spend \$8,000 to test new candidates for the two positions.

In January, the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Arlington, Va., conducted an assessment center in Wheeling. The center is what the testing process for hiring commanders is called.

However, village officials did not find that any of the eight candidates who tested — two from the Wheeling Police Department — were qualified for the two newly-created positions of commanders. The village received about 150 ap-

plications for the positions, which Wheeling officials had planned to fill this month.

"We weren't satisfied that any of the candidates were the best suited for the position," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

"There were some more qualified than others, but when all was said and done we didn't feel any were best suited for the role."

The commanders, exempt from a rank, will provide additional supervision for department sergeants and supervise the department when the police chief and deputy chiefs are off duty, typically on nights and weekends.

Under the exempt rank, the village board oversees the commanders, who will be paid \$45,079 a

year.

The village already has spent \$15,212 — \$3,212 over what trustees had budgeted — for advertising the position nationwide and for the candidates' expenses.

Haeger estimates the cost to redo the process at \$8,090, which is almost evenly divided between the cost of the tests and the candidates' expenses. Advertising for this assessment center, which likely will be held in May, will be kept in state this time, Anderson said.

"They (commanders) need to have exceptionally good management and supervisory skills coupled with police experience," Anderson said. "We are looking for some very special people to fill the role. It's a big responsibility."

# Lake Zurich official tabbed for Wheeling fire chief

By Jeff Graunke  
Staff Writer

Lake Zurich Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac was announced Monday as Wheeling's top fire official, replacing long-time chief Bernie Koeppen, who is retiring this year.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said MacIsaac won the job because of his strong management and supervisory background and his experience in handling a number of complex tasks in Lake Zurich.

"When all is said and done, he was the best qualified candidate. He's got a good strong management and supervisory background, and in Lake Zurich he helped pull two departments into one," said Anderson in reference to the consolidation of the Lake Zurich firefighters and paramedics.

"It's a rather substantial step for me," MacIsaac said. The Wheeling Fire Department is about double the size of Lake Zurich's with double the activity, he said.

**MACISAAC WILL BEGIN** the Wheeling position on April 16 with an annual salary of \$55,000. His current salary with Lake Zurich is \$44,000.

In making the transition, MacIsaac will find some complicated issues awaiting him.

Wheeling firefighters are now in mediation over contract negotiations with the village, a dispute that has run for more than four years. MacIsaac said he will have to do some research to be familiar with both sides before he comments on the situation.

Anderson said he doesn't think the complex labor situation with the firefighters will be a problem for MacIsaac, who he said had firsthand experience on management's side in Lake Zurich firefighter contract talks.

**DURING THE NEXT** month before he assumes his new post in



Lake Zurich Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said he is looking forward to the challenge of leading the Wheeling Fire Department, which is twice as large as the department he now heads. (File photo by Kathy Tray)

Wheeling, MacIsaac said he will work closely with Lake Zurich officials to insure a smooth transition.

"Timing is good for the village and the (Lake Zurich) department," MacIsaac said. He explained there is a lull in the administrative activity in the department with the budget already submitted.

"(MacIsaac) and I had started a real good working relationship. I can't fault him. It's a good step for him," said Lake Zurich Village President Jim Kay.

"He did a fine job to bring us from a volunteer to a full-time depart-

ment," Kay said. "There's no doubt he built a strong department."

**THE NEARLY TWO** years as fire chief in Lake Zurich provided him with good experience, MacIsaac said. Under his direction, the Lake Zurich paramedic and fire departments were consolidated into one department. The new combined department went from a volunteer staff to a full-time paid department under MacIsaac's guidance.

MacIsaac also negotiated the department's first union contract with the firefighters, he said.

In addition to successes, there were disappointments. MacIsaac said he was disappointed the department couldn't resolve some things with the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District, which contracts services from the village. He was also disappointed by the "rumor mill" and "bickering" in the department and village.

"I think I've experienced every emotion and every situation," he said of his tenure in Lake Zurich.

**PRIOR TO BEING** appointed fire

## Fire chief —

(Continued from page 5)

chief in Lake Zurich in 1988, MacIsaac worked as a fire protection engineer in Mount Prospect. In that position MacIsaac was responsible for coordinating activities between the building department and fire prevention bureau, special projects and functioning as the village safety director, assistant training officer, and administrative coordinator of the department's paid-on-call firefighters.

MacIsaac holds an associate in applied science degree in fire science from William Rainey Harper College and an associate degree in fire protection and safety technology and a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University.

## Safety-Kleen hearing delayed

A tentative public hearing that was set for April 16 for the Village of Wheeling to review a Safety-Kleen proposal to build a hazardous waste processing facility on the south side of Hintz Road at Glenn Avenue has been delayed.

Village officials said the hearing on the proposed facility will now not be held until June or July.

Safety-Kleen officials requested the delay in the hearing date after the firm listed an incorrect hearing date in the public notice they were required to publish about the meeting.

The earliest possible date for a future siting request before the village board would be 90 days after the refile date.

# Schultz tops all in county board primary

COUNTRYSIDE 3-22-90  
She may not have spent \$1 million on her campaign and she never appeared on a single television commercial, but Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz beat Richard Phelan in Tuesday's Democratic primary.

The win came in the somewhat low-profile Cook County Board race, however, not the free-for-all that marked the contest for county board president.

With 100 percent of the precincts reporting, unofficial vote totals from the Cook County Elections office show Schultz tallied 126,083 votes — 8,000-plus votes more than Richard Phelan, whose name appeared on the county board ballot as well as under Cook County Board president.

Since he won the primary battle for county board president, Phelan's name will not appear on the Demo-

cratic Party county board slate.

**INSTEAD, SCHULTZ WILL** be joined on the Democratic Party county board slate by runner-up Thomas O'Donnell, who garnered 125,178 votes; Patricia Kane McLaughlin, 123,995; Ervin Kozicki, 109,154; Ed Reinfrank, 109,105; and Pat Capuzi, 107,902.

The Democrats will face a field of seven Republicans who were unopposed in Tuesday's primary.

Phelan finished fourth in the Dem-

## More election results start on P. 13

ocratic balloting for county board commissioners with 117,679. Had he not won the race for county board

(Continued on page 8)



Sheila Schultz

(Continued from page 5)

president, he could have run for a county board seat.

After a late night in which she went to bed without knowing where she had finished in the seven-way race for six slots on the November ballot, Schultz awoke to some bright totals Wednesday.

"I'D LIKE to think it was my qualifications and endorsements that made the difference, but I know ballot position (her name appeared second) and gender probably have something to do with it as well," Schultz said.

Buoyed by her showing in the primary, Schultz is hoping to stir more interest in the November county board election than voters showed for Tuesday's race. Even though she was disappointed with the low voter turnout Tuesday, Schultz said she was pleased with the apparently growing number of suburban residents casting Democratic Party ballots.

As far as the focus of her campaign for November is concerned, Schultz plans to continue emphasizing that suburban residents need better representation on the board and that they should know their county board commissioners.

That recognition factor, said Wheeling Township Committeeman Eugenia Chapman, is one of the keys that led to Schultz's impressive primary showing.

**CHAPMAN SAID THE** fact that Schultz received more votes than any other Democratic candidate was a reflection of her statewide political involvement.

"It shows the kind of reputation she has, even outside of Wheeling," Chapman said. "Her participation in government has gone far beyond the boundaries of the Village of Wheeling."

"I really believe it's good for the county board because the citizens can look at the seven Democratic nominees — and seven Republican nominees — and pick the ones that are really going to represent the suburbs."

Schultz ran unopposed in 1989 for a third term as village president. She is also president of the Northern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), a regional planning and zoning agency responsible for initiating solid waste incentives in the northwest suburbs. She is also active in the Northwest Municipal Conference.

# Commission clears officer on three of four charges

COUNTRYSIDE 3-22-90  
By Michael Ulreich  
Staff Writer

After being found guilty on only one of the four disciplinary charges that were pending against him, Wheeling police officer Adrian Russell was back on the street last week while awaiting a determination on his penalty.

Russell, who had earlier been assigned to a desk job pending the outcome of the charges, was cleared by the commission on two charges of incompetence and one allegation of unsatisfactory job performance.

The marathon hearing last week was a continuation of the initial March 6 hearing on the charges against Russell. One other charge initially leveled against Russell by Chief Michael Haeger was dismissed before the hearing process began.

"I defended over 100 police officers on similar charges," said Russell attorney James Truschke, "and that's the first time I've ever seen a verdict that not only found him not guilty on three counts, but said he acted as a good police officer in three of the four counts."

**RUSSELL WILL FACE** an April 3 disciplinary action on the one infraction. At that time Haeger will issue a recommendation on what punishment Russell should receive. Haeger declined comment on what his recommendation will be.

Police and fire commission chairman Edward Main read the four verdicts at 1:37 a.m. Friday, after the three-member board deliberated for almost two hours in executive session.

After the "guilty" verdict was read first, Russell said he was filled with apprehension that the next three counts would go the same way. But when Main announced that Russell was cleared on the three remaining charges, he allowed himself a small moment of relief.

"I'm happy with the outcome so far," Russell said. "So far I'm happy right now."

"IT'S A good thing I've got a nice, stable client," Truschke said. "He's taken this very much in stride. He's looking forward to going back on the street. That's what he wants to do, that's what he was trained to do."

Truschke said he expected that Russell would not be fired for the one conviction because it was the least serious charge the officer faced. He said the decision by Haeger to return Russell to the street patrol was another indication Russell would not be fired.

"I still wish they had found him not guilty on all charges," Truschke said. "But it is still a victory for our side. Obviously the verdict shows that the chief can't charge a police officer with these garbage charges and that there should be some substance to the charges."

Russell had been charged with incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance for his actions in two 1989 incidents.

**HE WAS FOUND** guilty of unsatisfactory job performance for allowing a man who was believed to be armed and dangerous to return to his car despite earlier warnings that care should be taken in stopping the man for questioning. Police later found a loaded handgun and 80 rounds of ammunition in the man's car.

The commission ruled that Russell exposed himself and other officers to a dangerous situation and should have known he was dealing with a dangerous individual.

In the second incident, Russell released a man he stopped near the scene of a reported burglary who later turned out to be the offender.

"What happened here was officer Russell responded to a call properly and he got fooled," Truschke said. "Do you really want to set a precedent where if an officer is fooled by a defendant, that shows he's incompetent?"

**IN THE SECOND** incident, the commission found that Russell followed proper procedures in

stopping and questioning the burglary suspect.

Hugh McGinley, a retired Illinois State police commander, was allowed to testify as an expert witness for Russell and said that Russell's actions in both incidents were justified.

McGinley testified that "every stop is a potential hazard, there is no such animal as a routine stop." "We consider every stop to be a dangerous stop," McGinley said.

**IN FACT, MCGINLEY** said, proper police procedure would have placed the suspect in the cab of the truck, where he could be confined, rather than allow him to roam free outside the vehicle.

In the second incident, McGinley said, "there was not much more he could do. He stopped the individual, questioned him, and then he had to get to the burglary because he was the first responding car and the burglar could still be inside the building."

Haeger's attorney, Steve Culliton, had seemed to gain some momentum earlier in the evening when he had two of Russell's expert witnesses, Winnetka Deputy Chief Joseph Sumner and retired Niles police commander James Gerhardt, dismissed because they couldn't prove that they were experts.

"The litany of facts are too complete," said Culliton in his closing arguments. "Officer Russell exposed himself and two other officers to a dangerous situation. These rules are not there to protect everybody but Mr. Russell. They are there to protect him also."

**BUT TRUSCHKE GAVE** an emotional ending argument in which he called the charges against Russell a "piece of (manure)."

"If officer Russell was half as bad as they say he is, if he were one-eighth as bad, he would have killed himself by now and 50 other people," Truschke said. "He's a damn good police officer. Is he perfect? No. Are you perfect? Am I perfect? I think he did the right thing. At that point he did the only thing he could."

Daily Herald, Sunday, Mar. 25, 1990

# Eight agencies seek funding from Wheeling

Eight social service agencies will seek funding from Wheeling for next year.

Representatives from the agencies will give 15-minute presentations before the village board Monday and answer questions about the agencies and the services they provide.

Agencies vying for funding include Horizon Children's Center, Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA), Omni Youth Services, Resource Center for the Eld-

erly, Fighting Back Task Force, Shelter Inc., Northwest Mental Health Center and Salvation Army.

Each year, social service agencies submit applications and appear before the village board seeking money, which comes directly from local village taxes. Several agencies also are funded by state agencies, townships, private businesses and contributions.

This year, Wheeling trustees agreed to contribute more than \$85,000 to local social service agen-

cies. Omni Youth Services received the most funding — \$61,000 — followed by Horizons Children's Center with \$13,180 and Salvation Army with \$5,250.

Last December, trustees declined adopting criteria — like other local governments — that agencies would follow in order to receive funding. For example, Wheeling Township requires agencies provide services for needy township residents to be eligible for funding.

## The top meeting

**Who:** Wheeling Village Board  
**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.  
**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

## Funding woes waiting in Palwaukee wings

Sat., March 24, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport must increase its sources of income in order to pay for maintenance and the ambitious safety improvements scheduled at the airport over the next 12 years, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

"Funding is going to be a very difficult problem for us," Stewart said this week.

"We anticipate a shortfall of funds the year after next that must be met in some manner."

Stewart said he expects the airport's fund balance of \$900,000 to be reduced to \$453,600 by April 30, 1991, and to be deleted by 1992 without some additional revenues.

Stewart is seeking suggestions from officials in Prospect Heights and Wheeling, the airport owners, on ways to increase revenues.

In addition, the four members of the airport commission's finance and management committees have formed a special committee to study ways to augment revenues.

Some suggestions include increasing fees charged to pilots for aircraft storage, increasing fuel tax fees, borrowing money or creating a new source of revenue, Stewart said. Rather than increase revenues, however, airport officials could extend the length of time even longer for capital improvements, Stewart added.

After recently taking over the airport maintenance from the former

owner, George J. Priester Aviation Services, airport officials are in the process of buying equipment to keep up with daily operations.

In addition, airport officials have outlined \$83.5 million in capital improvement projects planned for the airport over the next 12 years.

One of the first projects is the relocation of the Wolf/Hintz roads intersection, which must be moved west in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration safety standards.

The special committee is expected to meet in the next couple of weeks and make recommendations to the airport commission April 18 so that any fee changes could be implemented by May, the start of the fiscal year.

Sat. Mar 24, 1990

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Shultz to speak at ZONTA meeting

Wheeling Village President Sheila Shultz will address the ZONTA Club of Northwest Cook County Area at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Palm Court Restaurant, 1912 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. She will address the status of women in community service. Shultz, who currently is a candidate for Cook County Board of Commissioners, is the president of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, vice president of the Illinois Municipal League, an appointed member of the Cook County Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee and employed as the head of the circulation department at the Indian Trails Public Library District in

## Towns to buy equipment to maintain airport

Fri., March 30, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 and BILL COLE  
 Daily Herald Staff Writers

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is on its way to taking over maintenance of the airfield now that the owners have approved agreements to purchase equipment.

Officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the airport owners, recently approved a lease-option agreement to buy maintenance equipment for the airport.

The agreement enables the two towns to borrow money to buy the equipment and repay the loan over a number of years with airport revenues.

Last year, airport owners agreed to terminate a mainte-

nance contract with Preister Aviation Services — the former airport owner — in order for the towns to assume responsibility for the work.

Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen, in separate votes, recently agreed to jointly borrow \$1 million and spread the repayments over 10 years. The recent purchase agreement for \$89,000 includes a tractor, mower and two trim mowers.

The total cost of the equipment is expected to be \$995,300, including \$700,000 for snow equipment.

By taking over the maintenance, airport officials say the cost of purchasing equipment and hiring employees to do the work would be less than or equal to what they

were paying Priester.

In addition, the maintenance work could be done on an as-needed basis.

After questioning the cost of the equipment, additional manpower, and whether the change would save money, Prospect Heights 4th Ward Alderman Tom Merle rejected the purchase.

"My concern is that you can meet your financial requirements that you anticipate with these expenditures," he said.

"We have to operate the airport, and it appears to be more desirable and cost-effective to operate some of the services within the city that owns it," Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer said.

# Sentencing in cop killer case set to begin today

By Michael Ulreich 3-29-90

Staff Writer

Proceedings that will help determine whether Larry Strickland, the convicted murderer of former Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson, gets the death penalty are expected to begin today.

Strickland's sentencing hearing is set for 9:30 a.m. today (Thursday) in the courtroom of Cook County Criminal Court Judge Fred Suria Jr. at the Criminal Courts Building, 26th Street and California Avenue, Chicago.

Strickland, 31, was convicted March 21 of Dawson's 1985 murder, two years after his brother was convicted of murder charges and sentenced to death in the same case.

Dawson was shot and killed on Nov. 5, 1985, after he answered a call on Cleo Court in the Cedar Run subdivision. After he stopped the two Strickland brothers, Dawson struggled with Larry Strickland and was subsequently shot by Tyrone Strickland.

### TYRONE STRICKLAND, WHO

had claimed the gun went off accidentally, was convicted on Feb. 11, 1988, after a bench trial before Suria. With the latest court action in the Strickland case, Dawson's widow is hoping the death penalty proceedings will be the beginning of the end of her ordeal.

Linda Dawson said that she would probably not attend the death penalty hearing. She said she was satisfied that both men who were involved in

her husband's death had been convicted.

"I was ecstatic with the conviction," Dawson said. "It's nice to have it over with. To my great relief, the justice system moved slowly but accurately."

**DAWSON SAID SHE** did not want to comment on whether Larry Strickland deserved the death penalty.

"They were found guilty, that's all I care about," she said. Although Larry Strickland did not pull the trigger of the gun that killed Kenneth Dawson, as an accomplice to the murder he is eligible for the death penalty, said Maureen McHale, spokeswoman for the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Suria ruled March 21 that Larry Strickland should be held responsible for the murder of Dawson, a 41-year-old Kildeer resident and 14-year veteran of the Wheeling police force.

**FOUR TO FIVE** carloads of Wheeling police officers are expected to attend today's hearing, a police department spokesman said. McHale said as many as 27 Wheeling police officers were in attendance in Judge Suria's courtroom March 21 when Larry Strickland was convicted.

Dawson's wife said she wanted to thank the Wheeling police officers who have been so supportive in the years since her husband's death. "It's been an emotional thing," she said. "The Wheeling police force has given us extraordinary support, both morally and otherwise. You couldn't ask for better people."

Back Initiative, is a communitywide substance abuse prevention effort formed last fall by Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village. Fighting Back, which comprises 110 agencies from the District 214 community, is seeking \$2,000 from all of the municipalities it encompasses. Wheeling included. Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA) Northwest, which did not receive funding from Wheeling last year, is requesting \$5,000 to provide temporary emergency apartment stays for low-income and disadvantaged families in the area.

Other agency requests include: Omni Youth Services, from \$61,000 to \$64,000; Resources for the Elderly, from \$1,300 to \$1,500; Shelter Inc., from \$4,600 to \$4,850; and the Salvation Army, from \$5,250 to \$5,500.

# Wheeling hears agencies' pleas for funding

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

also was not funded by Wheeling last year, is asking for \$1,500 to pay for the \$5 minimum fee that some clients cannot afford for comprehensive mental health services.

Horizon Children's Center is asking for \$25,000 — nearly twice as much money as the agency received last year from Wheeling — to pay for teachers' salaries and other increased expenses.

A communitywide substance abuse prevention task force, a temporary housing shelter for the needy and a mental health clinic are among the social service agencies seeking funding this year from the village of Wheeling.

Eight agencies are asking for a total of \$109,350 for next year to provide services to Wheeling residents. Representatives from each of the agencies made their funding pleas Monday before Wheeling Trustees, who are expected to vote on the request at 8 p.m. April 16 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. The newest group, the Fighting

Thurs., March 29, 1990

# Palwaukee work to fly high for years

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Fred E. Stewart took over the helm at Palwaukee Municipal Airport just over two years ago, he foresaw his future.

"I could see me busy for years down the road," Stewart said in January 1988, shortly after being named airport manager.

He was referring to the major safety and maintenance improvements needed to carry the airport through the turbulent transition from private to public. Ever since the \$22 million buyout from George Priester, the Federal Aviation Administration's requirements that would bring Palwaukee into full compliance with safety regulations have been hanging over the heads of the airport officials, including the new owners, the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights.

It's been said that at one time there were more than 300 obstacles — trees, posts, parts of hangars, ditches, roads and air space — blocking Palwaukee's path to full compliance with safety requirements.

"Practically every hangar here is built too close to the runway," Stewart said.

Although some steps have been taken to meet the requirements, a recently outlined plan of Palwaukee projects for the next 12 years or so shows Stewart will be busy for many years. At least with this plan, the former Ponca City, Okla. airport manager will have direction.

With an intersection realignment, a ditch relocation, restaurant demo-

## Palwaukee Municipal Airport's \$83.59 million Capital Improvement Program

Year	Major projects	Total year's cost*
1990	■ Acquire land for Wolf/Hintz intersection relocation Environmental assessment for Wheeling Drainage Ditch relocation	\$6.3 million
1991	■ Construct bridges for road location Acquire drive-in theatre property for ditch relocation	\$9.1 million
1992	■ Relocate Hintz Road Begin Wheeling Drainage Ditch relocation Request proposals for second fuel and service operation	\$8.85 million
1993	■ Relocate Wolf Road Complete drainage ditch relocation	\$8.71 million
1994	■ Construct east fuel and service facilities Construct east side taxiway parallel to the main runway	\$12 million
1995	■ Demolish The Hangar Restaurant Construct northeast t-hangars	\$7.6 million
1996	■ Reconstruct main runway Construct northeast fuel and service facilities	\$11.45 million
1997	■ Reconstruct and widen east-west runway Acquire land on northwest to create runway clear zones	\$6.41 million
1998-2002	■ Complete security fencing around perimeter Construct corporate hangars in northwest	\$13.2 million

\* The costs listed are for all projects for each entire year, not only those projects listed. The projects listed are just a few of the major improvement plans included in the proposal.

lition and building constructions, the plan incorporates all of the major additions and construction projects that have long been the root of controversy between the owners since they bought the airport in 1986. It also includes some new projects and plans for increasing revenues at Palwaukee, the 49th busiest airport in the nation.

Called Palwaukee's Capital Improvement Program, the ambitious five-year plan details all of the proj-

ects included in the airport's Transportation Improvement Proposal, which must be updated and resubmitted every five years to the FAA for funding considerations. (The FAA funds 90 percent of the airport improvement projects, while the Illinois Department of Transportation funds 5 percent and the airport pays the remaining 5 percent.)

"We've tried to lay it out logically within a reasonable realm of expense," Stewart said. "What it amounts to is somewhat a critical path of analysis of what we have to do" to comply with FAA requirements and Palwaukee's own safety standards.

The year 1993 promises to be one of accomplishment for the airport, which — bordered by Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine, Wolf and Hintz roads — is an ideal location as a reliever for O'Hare International and Waukegan airports.

Included in the lofty list of goals for 1993 is the completion of probably the most noticeable alteration — the completion of the Wolf-Hintz intersection realignment.

That project would be spread over two years, mainly to stretch the cost of construction. After the necessary land has been acquired, Hintz Road would be moved in 1992 to arc north and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection. The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Marquardt Drive and bow west, slicing

the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate west.

The relocation is needed, officials say, because the airport's longest runway ends too close to the intersection. Unless the roads are moved, the useable length of the 5,200-foot runway must be reduced to create a "clear zone," according to FAA standards. Many of the corporate jets, which generate much of the revenue needed to operate the airport, could not use a shortened runway.

Moving the intersection is an issue long debated by neighbors, some Wheeling officials and at least one Prospect Heights official. They were not convinced of the need for the relocation and they even feared it would extend the length of the runway, creating increased traffic and noise.

But, airport officials have insisted the runway would not be lengthened and air traffic would not be increased. Although the process has been long, leaders from both communities last fall approved the intersection plans — also spelled out in the Capital Improvement Program — in a second intergovernmental agreement between the towns.

That agreement also put to rest Wheeling officials' fears that the village would lose prime commercial

See PALWAUKEE on Page 3



Palwaukee Municipal Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart will head up the airport's ambitious \$83.59 million improvement program.

Continued from Page 1

property to the land acquisitions needed for the relocation. But they've been assured that the airport would use only the minimum amount of land acquired for the relocation and return the unused property to Wheeling for its development.

Another major capital improvement is the relocation of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which meanders through the airport and empties into the Des Plaines River across Milwaukee Avenue. The ditch also runs too close to the airport's main runway and places too many restrictions on land to be developed around it.

The plans call for buying one of the few surviving suburban drive-in movie theatres next year and realigning the ditch through it during 1992-93. Years ago, officials also had considered enclosing the ditch.

While airport officials realize the program carries with it many contingencies based on the amount of funding the federal and state agencies would funnel their way, they also are taking strides to see that Palwaukee can carry its weight in money to fund projects.

In fact, because the airport has already been taking steps to reach

some of the goals in the plan, the airport's reserves are dwindling.

Stewart said he expects the airport's fund balance of \$900,000 to be reduced to \$453,600 by April 30 1991, and to be deleted by 1992 without some additional revenues.

"We're spending every dime we take in and most of it goes for projects you can't see, like land acquisitions," said Wheeling Trustee and airport Commissioner William A. Rogers, who has kept close scrutiny over the airport progress. "It's like building a house. You dig a hole and then you lay a foundation and that stays for three months. And then all of a sudden you see a house come up."

Although airport officials may opt to borrow money for the project, other revenue increasing alternatives include increasing fees charged to pilots for aircraft storage, and increasing fuel tax fees, which are paid by the fuel provider to the airport.

Rogers and officials agree that the plan likely would be adjusted over the years depending on the money picture. That brings the airport into a sort of Catch-22.

In order to bring in more money, Palwaukee may need to offer more

services, including starting a second fuel and service business to provide competition for Priester Aviation Services, the current sole provider. However, until some improvements are made at the airport, there simply is no room for another fuel and service provider, or Fixed Base Operator.

Under the plan, officials plan to seek proposals for a second fixed base operator in 1992, with the intention of locating on the east side of the airport in 1994. Future plans call for a possible third operator.

Throughout the 12 years, intermittent improvements are planned, including reconstructing and widening some of the runways and providing adjacent taxiways. In order to create clear zones, demolitions are planned for the southeast corner of the airport, including The Hangar Restaurant and Priester's flight school.

Although the projects seem endless and the road getting there will continue to be a rough one, airport officials remain optimistic that Palwaukee will someday fit the bill of FAA standards.

"It's a very challenging project and each day that something gets done brings a great feeling of satisfaction," Stewart said. "So how can that be frustrating?"

# Cop says chief silenced him on bias case

Thurs. March 29, 1990

By LAURA JANOTA  
and TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said Wednesday he ordered a black police officer not to discuss with the press his racial discrimination case against Haeger because the chief wanted the case to receive a fair trial.

The verbal order, which Haeger made March 16, prohibits Officer Robert Pressley from publicly discussing his racial discrimination case against the village — filed in 1983 — and from making any comments on disciplinary actions involving other officers.

Pressley filed a second lawsuit Tuesday against Haeger, charging

his right to free speech had been violated by the verbal order.

The lawsuit seeks to lift Haeger's order and prohibit disciplinary action against Pressley if he talks about the discrimination case or about disciplinary action against Officer Adrian D. Russell. Russell is to be a key witness for Pressley's discrimination case.

"I was concerned about my ability to get a fair trial," Haeger told a federal judge Wednesday.

Haeger told U.S. District Court Judge John A. Nordberg that he overheard Pressley tell reporters on March 15 at village hall — during a fire and police commission hearing on disciplinary charges against Russell — that Pressley

would make a statement March 16 about Russell's case.

Russell's attorney, James R. Truschke, said the charges of incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance were drummed up against Russell, who is white, in an effort to discredit his testimony in Pressley's case.

The discrimination case is likely to be heard in June.

Nordberg, who is expected to rule today on whether the order will stand, said: "I think it is bizarre that this case ends up as a result of an alleged, admitted oral conversation when there is no record."

Haeger said he was called out of town after the order was made and had not yet put it in writing.

# Recyclables and reusables getting paired up in Schaumburg

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 4-2-90

By Jim Michalski

Schaumburg is making spring cleaning a little bit easier for some residents this week with a pilot program for curbside pickup of "reusable" goods that should, at the same time, lessen the burden on swelling landfills.

Beginning Monday, 3,000 households in southwest Schaumburg will be able to donate unwanted clothes and small appliances to the Salvation Army by placing them at their curbs with other recyclable goods such as newspapers, glass and aluminum.

Once a month, the Salvation Army will have four trucks trailing Laidlaw Waste System's recycling truck to pick up the reusable goods. Along with clothes and small working appliances such as toasters and irons, residents can put out "garage sale" items such as kitchen utensils, vases, games and other household goods.

Mark MacLeod, solid waste and recycling coordinator for Schaumburg, said the pilot program will be reviewed in six months, and he hopes eventually to expand the program to the rest of the village.

"The program fills an immediate need to reduce the waste going into landfills, and yet people can feel good about contributing to a worthy cause," MacLeod said.

Peter Matsukis, regional recycling coordinator for Laidlaw, said, "Our ultimate goal is to reduce the waste going into landfills, either through recycling or reusing." Matsukis said Laidlaw plans to expand the program, which is done at no additional cost to residents, to other villages with curbside recycling programs.

Matsukis asked that residents place the items next to their re-

cycling bins in the morning to minimize theft. North suburban Wheeling has a similar program operating between Waste Management Inc. and Goodwill Industries.

Schaumburg residents participating in the program have been given clear plastic bags for the reusable items. Residents can contribute larger items, such as refrigerators and furniture, or receive receipts to write off the materials as tax deductions by calling the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army officials say the curbside program will make their pickup services more efficient while

making it simpler for people to contribute.

"It will help people donate easier, since most work during the day and it's difficult to schedule a pickup time," said Maj. John Sullivan, administrator of the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Chicago. "It will help us get a better quality material and save us money by not having to drive back and forth to pick up things."

Sullivan said the items will be taken to thrift shops and sold, with the proceeds going to help the indigent and the Rehabilitation Center.

# Wheeling officer suspended for poor work

4-4-90

By VICKI SPEER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police officer Adrian D. Russell was suspended Tuesday for 30 days without pay by the village's police and fire commission, despite Police Chief Michael F. Haeger's demand for dismissal.

"We do not believe that this single incident of unsatisfactory job performance constitutes a substantial shortcoming which would be sufficient cause for dismissal," Commissioner Edward Main said. "We do find a continuing pattern of incidents that indicate an officer who needs to take serious steps to improve his job performance."

Russell, 40, smiled and shook hands with his attorney, James R.

Truschke, as the commission announced its decision following a four-hour hearing. Russell, a 12-year police department veteran, declined to comment.

Truschke said the decision, which will cost Russell about \$3,000 in pay, is too harsh, but nonetheless dubbed it a "definite victory."

"It was a very minor sentence that they imposed," Truschke said.

Haeger had accused Russell of unsatisfactory job performance and incompetence over his handling of two separate incidents last year. Haeger cited seven missed court dates and six accidents involving Russell's squad car.

"He is an inept, incompetent officer who performs unsatisfactorily. The only appropriate penalty, I be-

lieve, is discharge," said Haeger's attorney, Stephen Culliton.

The fire and police commission ruled last month that Russell is guilty of one charge of unsatisfactory job performance but not guilty of the other two charges.

In the Feb. 16 incident for which he was sentenced Tuesday, Russell left a man unattended after stopping him near Crescent Cardboard at Old Willow and Wolf roads, where the man's wife worked. The man, a Chicago police officer on mental disability leave, got into his truck while Russell went to his squad car to answer a call from Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke. When two other officers arrived at the scene, they found a loaded gun with about 80 rounds of ammunition inside the truck.

# Chief's gag order struck down

By LAURA JANOTA  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

APR. 3, 1990

U.S. District Court Judge John A. Nordberg ruled Thursday that an oral order prohibiting a Wheeling police officer from talking to the press is unconstitutional.

But Wheeling Police Officer Robert Pressley, who filed a civil rights suit Tuesday against Wheeling Police Chief Robert Haeger because of that order, remained silent Thursday on the advice of his attorneys.

Pressley, ordered by Haeger March 16 not to publicly discuss his pending racial discrimination case against Haeger and the police department, still has no right to talk about the case because the judge did not strike down a written department rule, said Bruce Bornstein, an attorney for Pressley.

The April 1989 regulation calls for an employee to get prior approval from the police chief before discussing work-related litigation matters, Bornstein said.

Attorneys for Haeger had no comment on the judge's ruling.

Another suit will be filed challenging the Wheeling Police Department's written rules, Bornstein said.

Haeger testified Wednesday that he ordered Pressley not to discuss his 1983 racial discrimination case against the police department with the press after he overheard the police officer tell reporters March 15 that he would have a statement for

them the next day regarding a Board of Police and Fire Commissioners disciplinary case involving another police officer, Adrian Russell.

Russell is expected to be a key witness for Pressley in the upcoming racial discrimination trial against the police department.

Haeger said comments from Pressley on his own case or Russell's case could hurt the morale of the department and undermine Haeger's authority.

Nordberg, however, called Haeger's oral order "overly broad." "The orders ban protected First Amendment free speech and are unlawful," Nordberg said in a 90-minute opinion delivered from the bench.

# Wheeling eyes weekly yard-waste pickup

APR. 3, 1990

By BILL COLE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling officials are studying a plan for weekly pickup of residents' grass and leaves while eliminating one of two weekly collections of household trash.

Phil Murphy, general manager of Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, said one day of the two-day-a-week garbage service could be changed to yard waste and recyclable pickup only with no additional service charges.

Wheeling, like other municipalities, is faced with a state law that goes into effect July 1 prohibiting garbage haulers from dumping grass, leaves and other yard waste into landfills.

Buffalo Grove recently adopted a similar program, and Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said reaction has been favorable.

"We did not do a community survey," Anderson said, "but Buffalo Grove did and the results seem to indicate the people would prefer that to having a third truck come down their street."

With recycling becoming more popular, two days of household garbage pickup per week will not be necessary, Anderson said.

"People have less household waste to put out for disposal," he said.

Under the plan, which would go into effect July 1 and run through November, residents would have to place grass clippings and other

small yard waste into a garbage can or in special paper bags.

Larger brush would have to be bundled in 2-foot-by-4-foot piles.

Murphy said the bags would have to be purchased and are available now at some stores for about 50 cents. He said he expects the price to come down as more manufacturers enter the market.

Murphy said it also would be possible to expand the current recycling program.

Newsprint, tin, glass and aluminum currently are separated for pickup. Murphy said plastics could be added to the list. An additional charge of 95 cents a month would be required to cover extra pickup costs, he said.

*Herald 4-7-90*  
**Road improvement contract approved**

The Wheeling village board has awarded a contract for improvements to 10 village streets to Palumbo Brothers, Inc. of Hillside.

Palumbo was the lowest bidder with a \$549,225 bid for the project. Robert D. Gray, Jr., the village's director of operations and maintenance, said in a letter of recommendation that Palumbo "has performed similar municipal street improvements and is pre-qualified with the Illinois Department of Transportation to undertake a project of this nature."

The streets slated for improvement include Allendale Drive, Quail Hol-

low Drive, Diens Drive, Glenn Avenue, Pleasant Run Drive, Third Street, Shawn Court, Janice Court, Muriel Court and Jefferson Court.

**Palwaukee Airport plan directed to workshop**

A resolution approving the scope of a revised plan for Palwaukee Municipal Airport has been deferred to a workshop.

"There are some questions we need to ask and I would like to get a better idea of what equipment will go in here and what it will mean to the community," said Trustee William A. Rogers. "This is the first time as commissioners that we have

seen how this thing looks."

Rogers said he also has questions about runway lengths, the weight of planes that will be using them and the height of the runways.

Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. pushed for approval of the preliminary plan, however.

"I am comfortable with it," he said, adding that the entire plan has been detailed already by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission and the village engineering committee.

**Village turns to county for road improvement**

Based on community input, Wheeling Village Engineer James G. Ed-

mond has contacted the Cook County Highway Department and requested that the striping of the "right turn only" lane eastbound on Hintz Road at Wolf Road be improved.

The current striping is worn away and not seen, Edmond said. In a letter to a Wheeling resident who suggested the improvement, Edmond said he expects the county — who is responsible for the street — to address the issue.

"I expect the county to address the request for better delineation within a reasonable period of time from receipt of the letter," he said. "In addition, the chief of police has informed me that this intersection has and will continue to be patrolled to enforce this right turn intersection."

*APR 15, 1990*  
**Palwaukee ponders hike in tie-down fees**

BY JOYCE KELLY  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Officials are considering increasing "tie-down" fees, or parking rates, at Palwaukee Municipal Airport as a means of generating more income to operate the airport.

Fred E. Stewart, manager at the airport, said the finance and management committees of the airport commission recently considered raising rates as a viable means to support the operation, mainly on a short-term basis.

Pilots now pay between \$85 and \$175 to park their planes, depending on whether they use a hangar. The committees did not decide, however, the amount of an increase.

Stewart said that after reviewing

the airport's current rates and the rates at other airports, the committees believe rate increases would be appropriate.

The committee members also are considering increasing the tax the airport charges when fuel is sold there.

And while the committees mostly considered ways of generating income for the airport's funding over the next few years, funding for its recently proposed \$83.6 million capital improvement program was considered.

Palwaukee officials have outlined a plan of projects for the next 12 years, which includes realigning an intersection, demolishing a restaurant, relocating a ditch and constructing some buildings. The plan also includes some new projects and

plans for increasing revenues at Palwaukee.

Increasing the airport rates and the fuel flowage fees, Stewart said, would not have a very significant impact on the long-term goals of the airport.

However, the finance and management committees of the airport commission discussed increasing leasing and rental fees of airport space as a lucrative source of revenue for Palwaukee.

Stewart said the committees will continue to research the issue of generating funds and attempt to supply the airport commission with more specific suggestions, including dollar amounts, April 18. The commission may or may not accept the recommendations of the committees, Stewart said.

*APRIL 10, 1990*  
**Controversial Wheeling sergeant resigns**

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police sergeant who successfully fought charges last year that he showed disrespect for the village by upending the Wheeling flag, has resigned from the department.

Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel and his wife, Elizabeth, who also is a Wheeling police officer, will serve their last days on the department this week. Michael quits on Saturday and Elizabeth on Wednesday.

Michael Staufenbiel, an 18-year department veteran, was suspended for 21 days without pay last September after he pleaded guilty to turning the village flag upside down following a stormy discipli-

nary hearing last April for a fellow officer.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger had sought to demote Staufenbiel, claiming the sergeant's outburst showed disrespect for the village and could impair his ability as a supervisor. But village fire and police commissioners decided against demoting Staufenbiel, pointing to his past record and his sincerity in apologizing for his actions.

The Staufenbiels plan to move at the end of May to Colorado, where the couple was married last October. Although neither has a confirmed job there, Staufenbiel said he and Elizabeth are fond of Colorado and want to "get away from Wheeling."

Staufenbiel said he has become frustrated with the Wheeling police department.

Since January 1989, Haeger has charged four officers with violating police department regulations. Most recently, police officer Adrian D. Russell, a 12-year department veteran, was suspended for 30 days without pay accused of unsatisfactory job performance during an incident last year.

"That's the unfortunate part that the public thinks we're a bunch of yahoos and that's not the case," Staufenbiel has said. "If they (village officials) have a question about everybody's dedication, they shouldn't because everyone is dedicated."

*Courtside 4-5-90*  
**Strickland's violent past recounted**

**Prosecutors recounted Larry Strickland's violent past during a hearing last week which will help decide whether he receives the death penalty for his part in murdering a Wheeling police officer in 1985**

A death penalty hearing last week for convicted murderer Larry Strickland was continued until April 18 after a prosecution witness described Strickland's murder of a suburban youth when Strickland was 15 years old.

The state of Illinois is asking that Larry Strickland, 31, be sentenced to death for his role in the murder of Wheeling police officer Kenneth Daw-

son on Nov. 5, 1985. Both Strickland and his brother Tyrone, residents of south suburban Ford Heights, have been convicted of murder in Dawson's death. Tyrone Strickland has already been sentenced to death after his conviction in 1988.

Dawson was shot and killed in 1985 while answering a call on Cleo Court in north Wheeling. Testimony showed that while Larry Strickland wrestled with Dawson outside his squad car, Tyrone Strickland picked up a gun and shot the officer.

On March 21 Cook County Criminal Court Judge Fred Suria Jr. found that Larry Strickland was guilty of murder for his part in Dawson's murder.

Strickland was also found guilty of kidnapping for abducting a Buffalo

Grove man and his grandson and nephew shortly after Dawson was shot.

He was also convicted of attempted murder for shooting at a Chicago police officer during the subsequent chase, which ended in Chicago when the Buffalo Grove man drove the car the Stricklands had commandeered into a Chicago police squad car.

Testimony last week at the Cook County Criminal Courts building centered on the death of "Big Bird" Reece in 1974 outside an East Chicago Heights school building.

Strickland's death penalty hearing was continued Friday until 1 p.m. April 18 in Judge Suria's courtroom in the Cook County Criminal Courts building, 26th Street and California Avenue, Chicago.

Thurs April 5, 1990

## Suspension of Wheeling cop called 'rebuff'

By VICKI SPEER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The attorney for Wheeling police Officer Adrian D. Russell charged Wednesday that his client's suspension is a rebuke to Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, but Haeger denied that it's personal.

Despite Haeger's recommendation for dismissal, the Wheeling police and fire commission late Tuesday suspended Russell for 30 days without pay for unsatisfactory job performance. Commission members called the sentence "a step up in the progressive discipline he has received up to now."

But James R. Truschke, Russell's attorney, claims the decision was a victory, and maintains it foreshadows the end of Haeger's tenure. Haeger battled hard for Russell's dismissal, and the commission's refusal to fire the officer paves the way for Haeger's own ouster, Truschke said.

"The chief put his job, his reputation, his prestige on the line," Truschke said. "The board rebuffed him."

"Absolutely incorrect," Commissioner Rita Strzyk said. The penalty was as stiff as possible, short of firing Russell, she said.

"I don't agree with them at all that it was a minor penalty," Strzyk added. "Thirty days of a man's pay is a lot. Plus, it goes on his record."

Haeger, appointed Wheeling police chief in 1982, said Truschke's opinion reflects only the attorney's own antipathy. Though the ruling was contrary to his recommendation, Haeger said it is part of the process, and does not rebuff him as an individual.

"I don't think he speaks for the police department, I don't think he speaks for this community, I don't think he speaks for the village manager, I don't think he speaks for the village president and I don't think he speaks for the village board," Haeger said.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson, who has sole authority to hire

## Commissioners suspend officer

*Courtesy 4-5-90*  
Wheeling police officer Adrian Russell was suspended without pay for 30 days Tuesday for failing to exercise proper care during a 1989 traffic stop of an allegedly armed and potentially dangerous suspect.

After meeting behind closed doors for an hour and 40 minutes, the board of police and fire commissioners opted to suspend the 12-year veteran rather than terminate him, as Police Chief Michael Haeger had recommended.

In issuing the suspension, the commission said that while Russell's actions didn't warrant his dismissal, Russell needs "to take serious steps to improve his performance."

Russell hugged his wife Lee and accepted the congratulations of several fellow officers after the verdict was handed down at 11 p.m. Tuesday.

He declined comment on the suspension, saying that Haeger had commanded officers not to comment on any cases involving litigation with the department.

"At this time I don't feel I could comment because the chief told me not to," Russell said.

"I'm just glad it's over," said Russell's wife, Lee Allen-Russell, a police dispatcher who said she was

also prevented from commenting further on orders of the police chief.

Haeger also declined comment Tuesday, as did his attorney, Steve Culliton.

Russell's attorney, James Truschke, said his client had not decided whether to appeal the commission's sentence to a higher court.

"The chief came in like gangbusters asking for his job," Truschke said. "He's got a problem with his own men. He's got a problem leading his men. He should try to lead by example. He's trying to lead by fear."

In Tuesday's aggravation and mitigation phase of Russell's sentencing hearing, Culliton, for the first time, brought up Russell's previous record of eight suspensions and seven reprimands since 1984, claiming that the record showed a "chronic pattern of misconduct."

Of Russell's 15 disciplinary offenses, six were filed for his involvement in accidents with his squad car and seven were for missing court dates.

Russell had last received a 10-day suspension in September, 1988, for missing court dates.

## OFFICER: Penalty called rebuff to chief

Continued from Page 1

and fire the police chief, declined to comment.

But Commission Chairman Edward Main complained, "I think he (the attorney) should take his victory, if that's what he wants to call it, drink his champagne and leave the running of the village of Wheeling to the powers that be."

During commission hearings, Haeger argued that Russell, 40, should be fired for his handling of a February 1989 incident, during which the 12-year department veteran left a man unattended after stopping him near Old Willow and Wolf roads.

The man, a Chicago police officer on mental disability leave, then returned to his truck, where officers later found a loaded gun with about 80 rounds of ammunition.

Stephen Culliton, an attorney for Haeger, argued that the incident points out Russell's "chronic pattern of misconduct." He cited seven missed court dates and six accidents involving Russell's squad car.

The suspension will cost Russell about \$3,000. Commissioners said the single incident of unsatisfactory job performance of which Russell was found guilty is not cause to fire him. Russell could not be reached for comment.

## Give a helping hand

*Courtesy 4-12-90*  
Finding something to do on the weekends is not a problem for most of us, but the Village of Wheeling could use the help of its residents next Saturday, April 21.

What the village needs is a helping hand in cleaning up some of the major thoroughfares that have become home to stray garbage tossed out window by many a passing motorist.

The annual clean-up day, promoted as "Up With Wheeling Day", is a good chance for everyone to give something back to the community they live in without having to open up their wallets and without having to adopt a political philosophy.

All you need is a pair of work gloves and an appetite for the free lunch the village provides for those who take part.

Aside from the benefit of helping to clean up the local landscape, you also might meet some new friends. The clean-up campaign kicks off at 8:30 a.m. behind Village Hall.

## Wellness van set to wheel into Wheeling

*Wed., April 11, 1990*

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents may receive free health checkup when the Wellness on Wheels van makes its third trip through town Thursday.

The Wellness on Wheels program, coordinated by the village's board of health, provides medical care for residents who otherwise cannot afford it. Mount Prospect is one nearby community that also has participated in the Wellness on Wheels program.

The mobile health center will

wheel through Wheeling at 8:30 p.m. and depart at 11:30 p.m. Thursday from the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Representatives from the Cook County Health Department will provide physicals for students, health counseling, tests for anemia and diabetes, blood pressure screening, vision and hearing tests, dental check, immunizations, self-breast exam, urinalysis, pap smears and pelvic exams, prostate and testicular exams and cholesterol screening.

For a slight additional fee, resi-

dents may be referred to a specialist's care.

Residents interested in participating in the free checkups must schedule an appointment with the county health department at 865-6100. The health department must have at least 10 appointments, and no more than 16 a day, for the van.

Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams encourages residents to call the health department to determine whether they qualify for the free health care even if they are not sure. The county has a list of eligibility questions, including basic financial

information, that determine whether residents qualify.

"I think it's a really worthwhile program," Adams said. "The focus of it is prevention. I think it's really important because a lot of things end up being serious and can be caught and treated at an early stage. The success rate of treatment is much higher then."

This is the third time the van has come into Wheeling. Last year, the two programs were successful. However, a stop planned this past January was cancelled because of low participation, Adams said.

Countyside  
4-5-90

After 43 years of service, Wheeling Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen is calling it a career. (Right) Koeppen chats with Dan Suerth and Mike Huth.



## A fond farewell for proud chief

Bernie Koeppen may no longer be the fire chief of Wheeling, but he is still keeping his eyes and ears open for fires.

As he retired last week after 43 years with the Wheeling Fire Department, Koeppen said he planned to keep on listening to the fire department radio scanner in his house.

"I'll be listening," he said. "I'll be checking to see how fast they get to the fires."

As a child, Koeppen lived on a vegetable farm his family owned on Dundee Road, just a hook and ladder or two from where his office sits in Wheeling Village Hall. Then a bustling community of only 350 residents, Wheeling's subsequent population and development boom have worn well on the chief, who insists he's not the type to retire to a warmer climate.

"I guess I intend to die here," he said of Wheeling, "because I don't intend to move anywhere."

When Koeppen joined Wheeling's volunteer firefighters in 1947, he knew nothing about fighting fires. He said he quickly learned through experience.

"I loved it, but I never would have dreamt that I would put in 36 years as chief," said the 65-year-old Koeppen.

In 1954, he became chief of the volunteer fire department, and in 1969, he took over as the village's first full-time fire chief. But he only grudgingly gave up the duty of going into the heat of the action.

"When I was young, they couldn't keep me out of a fire," he laughed. "But you slow down as you get older."

The Wheeling Fire Department changed a lot over the years that Koeppen was in charge. "In 1947, if we had 30 or 35 calls a year, it would have been a lot," he said. "Today, we're just under 3,000 calls a year."

Koeppen has vivid memories of fighting some tough fires: a 1963 blaze that killed two 9-year-old boys; a fire in Wheeling High School's library, sparked by a Molotov cocktail thrown through a window; and the crash of a single-engine airplane into the Acco International Inc. factory.

But one of his toughest fights as fire chief was his battle against the tradition of red fire trucks. In 1971, he became the first fire chief in Illinois to introduce fire engines that were lime-yellow, a hue the eye sees before any other color.

"It was hard to bust that tradition of red and black fire engines," Koeppen said, never one to let tradition stand in the way of justified change.

"I guess red stood for fire and black stood for smoke," he said. "A lot of these young firemen still like their fire engines red."

I loved it, but I never would have dreamt that I would put in 36 years as chief.

# Police find most comply with car insurance law

COUNTRYSIDE 4-12-90

With the state's mandatory motor vehicle insurance law in effect for more than four months, police in six suburban communities find that most motorists appear to be complying with it.

None of the departments has experienced significant problems enforcing the new law, and all allow officers some discretion in ticketing violators.

The law, which took effect on Jan. 1, requires all motor vehicle owners to carry liability insurance against death, injuries or property damage resulting from traffic accidents.

An insurance card, issued by the provider of the coverage, must be kept in the vehicle, even when it is being driven by someone other than its owner.

Violators face fines of from \$500 to \$1,000, and possible suspensions of vehicle registration.

Asked about compliance in Buffalo Grove, Sgt. Stu Parets said about three-fourths of the people have insurance cards.

Wheeling Chief Gary O'Rourke had a similar assessment, saying, "I think generally, the vast majority are in compliance."

Hoffman Estates Police Sgt. John Gomoll and Schaumburg Lt. Howard Winkelhake saw things in a similar light.

Palatine appeared to be the exception.

In that community, the only one in which statistics were immediately available, 134 tickets have been issued to drivers who could not produce an insurance card, according to Deputy Police Chief Michael McDonald.

"Indications are that one out of four drivers are not in compliance," McDonald said.

He added, though, that he expected to see an increase in compliance as the motoring public becomes aware of the law.

## Fines are small

McDonald also noted, however, that the of maximum fines assessed by judges seems to be very small in uninsured motorist cases.

Gomoll referred to a somewhat similar phenomenon.

"What I'm hearing is, the judges are throwing it out if (violators) come to court and can show proof of insurance," he said. "They're getting the \$500 fine if they can't."

In at least one community, allowing officers some latitude in enforcing the law was aimed partly at maintaining good public relations.

"It could be one heck of a PR tool, either way," Rolling Meadows Commander Timothy Lonergan said. "You're always going to have a portion of the public saying, 'No one ever told

me,' about the law's provisions."

Enforcing it too stringently, he pointed out, could result in citizens asking, "Don't you have something else to do?"

Officers in Rolling Meadows, as in the other municipalities, may demand to see the insurance card in the course of a traffic stop, accident investigation or any other legitimate reason to pull a motorist over, Lonergan explained.

"You don't stop people just to see their insurance cards," Winkelhake agreed. "There has to be some other violation."

## Exceptions

Police in most communities outlined examples of mitigating circumstances under which officers might issue warnings to violators, rather than traffic citations.

"If you borrow a neighbor's car to drive to the store and are stopped for another offense, the officer probably would not issue a citation," Winkelhake said. "It would probably be a verbal warning."

"If your mother's driving your car, and there's evidence the vehicle is most probably insured, a warning would be the likely result in Wheeling, O'Rourke added.

While warnings were given somewhat routinely in Buffalo Grove during January, except in cases where motorists were involved in serious violations such as drunken driving, police expect to do selective enforcement of the law in June to emphasize its importance, according to Parets.

"We continue to educate the public (on the law's importance)," he said.

Gomoll, however, questioned the propriety of giving an officer leeway in making enforcement decisions.

"It's not his job to determine guilt or innocence," he insisted. "If an officer sees what appears to be a violation, then he's obliged to write the necessary tickets. If there are extenuating circumstances, then that's why we have judges and courts."

And in some cases, a ticket would be all but automatic, officers in all the municipalities pointed out.

"In an accident, it's almost mandatory," Winkelhake said, explaining that it's for the welfare and benefit of the other person involved in the collision.

And ultimately, all the departments subscribed to the position stated by MacDonald. While officers are allowed discretion, he emphasized, "It's the law and our policy is to enforce it."

# Free speech fight?

COUNTRYSIDE 4-12-90

## Cop may challenge department rules

Wheeling police officer Robert Pressley, whose racial discrimination suit against the village will begin in June, is expected to issue a statement on his case in the next week despite a gag order from Police Chief Michael Haeger.

Pressley's attorney, Alan Freedman, said in addition to Pressley's statement, the officer will probably go to court to challenge the constitutionality of the department's rules barring employees from commenting on pending litigation.

Freedman said Pressley's statement will describe what Freedman called racism in the Wheeling Police Department and within Wheeling village government.

"There are so many things that have been kept secret," Freedman said.

"Ultimately my client is going to make a statement, probably within the next few days. It will probably be a written statement because my client is still afraid of being harassed by the chief. People are going to find out what's really going on in the Wheeling Police Department and about racism in the village of Wheeling."

Haeger declined comment on the department's gag orders Tuesday. Attempts to reach the attorney representing Haeger in the case, William Kurnik, were unsuccessful.

Freedman won a court injunction against Haeger two weeks ago when he asked for a restraining order lifting the chief's gag order against his client. Freedman claimed that Haeger's gag order was a violation of Pres-

sley's constitutional rights to free speech.

On March 29 U.S. District Judge John Nordberg granted Pressley's request for a restraining order. However, the judge ruled that since department regulations prohibit police officers from speaking to the press about outstanding litigation, Pressley still couldn't comment to the media about his suit.

Freedman said he still wasn't sure whether the chief's gag order was applicable to written as well as oral statements.

He said Judge Nordberg did not rule on the constitutionality of the department's rules regarding statements on litigated cases.

Freedman said his client would probably challenge the constitutionality of the department's rules and regulations regarding statements made by officers.

The effects of the departmental rules on commenting about cases to the media were in evidence last week when Wheeling police officer Adrian Russell was issued a 30-day suspension by the village's police and fire commission for unsatisfactory performance. At the time, Russell said he declined comment on the ruling because of department rules.

Russell's wife, a dispatcher with the police department, gave the same reasoning in declining comment on her husband's ruling.

Pressley, who was also present at the hearing along with some other officers, likewise declined comment on the Russell ruling.

"I'd like to comment but I'm afraid that the chief will discipline me," Pressley said at the time.

# Recycling effort generating good will

Countrywide 4-12-90



BILL OAKES/Pioneer Press

Workers from Waste Management make a pickup in Wheeling Friday along with a crew of workers from Goodwill Industries who are after a different kind of recyclable material.

donations, has been greatly reduced under the pickup system.

Wheeling, in fact, was selected by Goodwill and Waste Management, who run the program cooperatively, as the prototype community for the pickup program because it seemed to be fertile philanthropic ground.

"The demographics were right," Wadsworth explained. "It's progressive, and open and receptive to this kind of an idea."

And being a comparatively affluent community, of course, its hand-me-downs were more likely to come from the top shelf.

Ultimately, they go to racks and bins in Goodwill outlets, where they expand the revenue stream for job training programs, a representative of the agency said.

Palatine Public Works Director Andrew Radetski, meanwhile, cautioned that a pickup program might have a downside in his village.

"We'll have people putting out garbage, yard waste and recyclables as it is," he pointed out. "It takes time and effort. You'll have eight bags out there. It's possible to overload the residents with too much (sorting responsibility)."

beyond the numbers in tabulating the plan's success.

"The quality has surprised us," he revealed. "It's been much better than what we get by other collection methods."

He added that "waste," the amount of unusable

holds, the approximate number Goodwill had hoped for, have been participating in the program, he calculated.

## Surprising quality

But Wadsworth looks

will official.

That quantity, said Wadsworth, is especially heartening because, historically, winter is a lean donation period.

Between 15 percent and 20 percent of Wheeling house-

Goodwill Industries has found that, in Wheeling, at least, charity does begin at home: or more specifically, at the curb.

Two-thirds of the way through a six-month trial run, Goodwill officials say a program under which clothing, toys, small appliances, kitchen utensils and other household items are picked up at the curbs of donors' homes has exceeded expectations, and will eventually be expanded into neighboring communities. It is now unique to Wheeling.

James Wadsworth, president of Goodwill Industries of Chicago and Cook County, said last week that while there are no immediate plans to include Palatine in the pickup system, that village could be incorporated into it someday.

Since the program began last December, Goodwill trucks, which follow Waste Management crews once a month as they collect recyclable materials at about 5,600 Wheeling homes, have picked up 26,000 pounds of donated material.

In its initial stages, alone, the program garnered 2,074 bags of reusables that may not have been received had donors been required to use drop boxes, according to another Good-

## SUBURBAN REPORT

Daily Herald

# New word for Wheeling recyclers: plastics

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents soon may add plastic milk jugs and laundry detergent containers to the list of items they separate from their weekly garbage, as village officials plan to include plastics in Wheeling's curbside recycling program.

Trustees will vote Monday to renew the village's recycling program that began last May with Waste Management's Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, which also is Wheeling's trash collection company. Residents now pay \$1 a month for the program, which includes the collection of newspapers and inserts, colored and clear

glass, and aluminum and tin.

But the new contract includes a collection of plastics. Under the plan, residents would continue to pay \$1 for each of the next two months. After July 2, when plastics would be added, the monthly rate would increase to \$1.95 per household.

Wheeling would join the first of a four-phase Plastic Recycling Alliance plan developed by Waste Management and DuPont to reduce the amount of trash being hauled to landfills.

Phase I includes the collection of plastic one-gallon milk bottles, one-gallon water bottles, two-gallon water dispensers, plastic orange juice and liquid laundry detergent containers, and one-, two-

and three-liter soda pop bottles.

However, items that cannot be included in the first phase of plastic recycling include bleach and dishwashing liquid bottles, and mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, anti-freeze and oil containers.

Those plastic containers cause a reaction to the solution used when containers are cleaned, said Phil Murphy, general manager for Wheeling-Buttalo Grove Disposal.

The rate increase is needed, Murphy said, to offset the cost of additional labor required for collecting and sorting the plastics, which will be picked up on regular recycling collection days. Recycling plastic also is expected to hold down future costs of dumping garbage in landfills, he added.

Daily Herald

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EDITORIALS

Women mayors are on the rise

It's been a year since municipal elections installed a number of women mayors in Cook and Lake County suburbs. They may have helped women to achieve a critical mass in village halls, and may yet prove to be a turning point in local politics.

In northwest Cook County suburbs, three women won mayoral races last year. Two, Billie D. Roth of Streamwood and Rita Mullins of Palatine, had been village clerks before they decided to run for mayor. They followed in the tradition of other Cook County clerks-turned-mayors — Buffalo Grove's Verna Clayton and Hanover Park's Sonya Crawshaw.

The remaining two Cook County women mayors, Sheila Schultz of Wheeling and Inverness' Donna Thomas, gained experience as village trustees before becoming mayor.

Lake County suburbs gained three new women mayors in last year's election — Marilyn Sindles of Mundelein, Jo Ann Eckmann of Libertyville and Barbara Williams of Vernon Hills. All three served as village trustees before taking the mayoral plunge.

In the past, women have often followed a route that led from PTA or community group involvement to serving on school boards and then village boards. And while suburban mayoral offices have been accessible to women, few have used them as a stepping stone. Many women instead used township offices as a route to state and county politics.

But this is likely to change. Rita Athas, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference, points out that as women gain a critical mass in the village halls of suburbs, more and more will run for higher office. Already, Wheeling's Schultz won the Democratic nomination for the Cook County Board and Evanston Mayor Joan Barr won the Republican nomination for a state representative seat.

One factor that may help women rise is that they bring their own particular strengths to the job. Rita Mullins observed that the most important is consensus-building, which includes listening to all points of view before making a decision.

Other strengths include a born-through-necessity ability to plan and juggle several things at once. And still another, mentioned by the Northwest Municipal Conference's Athas, comes from the fact that women are still relatively new to politics. As such, they are more inclined to ask "why not?" and take a risk on innovative solutions.

More will unfold in this fall's and next spring's elections — but look for your woman mayor's star to rise.

Fourth of July ready to shine in Wheeling

Wed. 4/18/90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fourth of July Committee is on its way, members say, to putting on one of the best Independence Day celebrations the village has had in the past decade.

Members of the committee — formed about 11 years ago after the village discontinued contributing money to the annual event — say money donated by the village, park district and other contributors will improve the celebration.

Village Trustee Judy Abruscato, who also is a member of the Fourth of July committee, requested the village board contribute \$2,000 for the celebration "to show the residents in some way

maybe we do care."

Last year, Wheeling Park District officials and other village residents blasted the fireworks display and the confusion on July 4 about which community group was responsible for various aspects of the festivities.

Fourth of July committee members said that the display could have been better with more money because the committee must rely only on fund-raisers and contributions to pay for the Fourth of July fireworks and parade.

The park district already has pledged \$1,500 this year, and village board members recently agreed to fund up to \$1,500 for the event.

"It's taken 10 years to revitalize

it," Abruscato said. "For the past three years it's been hard. I think it's coming up again. I'm sure we'll have a beautiful fireworks display. With this extra funding, I'm sure it will be a better year."

Abruscato also expects to collect about \$400 from a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Wheeling Lion's Club; \$1,000 from a spaghetti dinner planned for next week; \$500 from the Rotary Club; and a donation from St. Joseph the Worker Church, which also holds the days-long Familyfest in conjunction with the Fourth of July celebration. In addition, residents may include a \$1 contribution on their monthly water bills, in which Abruscato plans to collect about \$2,000 this year.

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Daily Herald - 4-18-90

ations when it moves the center on Milwaukee Avenue to a smaller site in town at the First Baptist Church.

Trustees unanimously approved a special use for Barry Shore to operate a pre-school in the church, located at the southwest corner of Elmhurst Road and Edward Street.

Shore said that during his 11 years of operating the pre-school center on Milwaukee Avenue, he has had enrollments as high as 200 children. Now, he wants to limit the operation in a smaller building and keep the enrollment at about 35 children, who range from 2 to 6 years old, Shore said.

Easter Seal sets tag days

The Easter Seal Society of Metropolitan Chicago will conduct two tag days in Wheeling next month.

Trustees unanimously approved a request from the 54-year-old organization to conduct the tag days May 11 and May 12. The tag days will be held in shopping centers and other high-traffic areas in town in an effort to collect money for handicapped children and adults.

New fire chief puts in full day

Wheeling's new fire chief Keith S. MacIsaac put in a full day at his new post before being sworn in late Monday by Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke.

MacIsaac, 31, becomes the village's second full-time police chief as he was hired recently to replace 65-year-old Bernhardt O. "Bernie" Koeppen, who retired the end of last month after 43 years on the department.

"We're very proud of our fire department," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said to MacIsaac. "You'll find very quickly what a good group you have to work with."

MacIsaac, leaves his former post of less than two years as the director of emergency services/fire chief for Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department. He will oversee a staff of 41 full-time employees and 14 paid-on-call volunteers.

Kiddie Kollege to scale down

Kiddie Kollege, a Wheeling preschool, will condense its oper-

Daily Herald - Monday, April 16, 1990
Wheeling's new fire chief begins today

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's second full-time fire chief will take over the helm of the fire department following a ceremonial swearing in by the village board today.

Keith S. MacIsaac, the former fire chief in Lake Zurich, replaces 36-year fire chief Bernhardt O. "Bernie" Koeppen, who retired at the end of last month.

MacIsaac, a Buffalo Grove resident, served his last day Friday as the director of emergency services/fire chief for Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department, where he was instrumental in combining the village's fire and paramedic departments in 1988. He served

there less than two years. "We certainly welcome him and look forward to having him come here," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "He's very well qualified, and he'll make a good fire chief for us. We've been very fortunate to have one chief all these years and we're looking forward to working with the second one."

Chosen from a field of 25 applicants for the position, MacIsaac will oversee a staff of 41 full-time employees and 14 paid-on-call volunteers. His annual salary will increase from the \$44,000 he was making in Lake Zurich to \$55,000, plus benefits and a car.

As Wheeling fire chief, MacIsaac will take part in the fire-

fighters' nearly two-year-long contract negotiation talks, which resumed last month after hitting a stalemate in January. The 31-year-old MacIsaac negotiated a contract with the Lake Zurich firefighters' union.

Koeppen, 65, who served on the fire department for 43 years, was appointed chief of the volunteer department in 1954 before becoming the first full-time fire employee in 1969. Koeppen, a life-time resident of Wheeling, is best known for making Wheeling one of the first departments in the nation to paint the fire trucks lime green. Koeppen agreed with a study that found the unpopular color hits the spectrum of the eye quicker than any other color.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Daily Herald
Plastic pickup to double recycling costs

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will pay nearly twice as much for recycling when plastic containers are included in the weekly curbside collections in July.

Trustees in a 5 to 1 vote Monday approved extending the yearly recycling agreement with the village's trash hauler, Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, an affiliate of Waste Management of North America, Inc.

Residents now pay \$1 a month for pickup of newspapers, colored and clear glass and aluminum and tin. That rate will remain the same until July when the disposal company adds plastics to the col-

lection, and then the rate will increase to \$1.95 a month.

As the first of a four-phase Plastic Recycling Alliance plan developed by Waste Management and DuPont, Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal will collect plastics, which include one-gallon milk bottles, one-gallon water bottles, two-gallon water dispensers, plastic juice and liquid laundry detergent containers, and one-, two- and three-liter soda pop bottles.

However, the company will not accept plastic bleach and dishwashing liquid bottles, and shampoo, conditioner, anti-freeze and oil containers because they cause a reaction to the solution when they are cleaned.

Only Trustee Judy Abruscato

voted against the agreement. She suggested adding only 50 cents to the current \$1 rate from July through December and determine after that whether an additional 50 cents should again be added to the rate.

"I don't have a problem at all with the recycling program because we need it," Abruscato said. "Why do we need to raise the price to \$1.95? Why can't we have it at \$1.50?"

Waste Management's Recycling Coordinator Lee Addleman said that the recycling program is losing money, and the increase is needed to offset the cost of additional labor required to collect and sort the plastics.

# Village forecasts 7% budget hike

*COUNTRYSIDE 4-19-90*  
 Costs for an ongoing sewer program, hiring additional personnel and vehicle purchases will help drive spending up 7 percent to about \$21.5 million in the Village of Wheeling during the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Much of the spending increase will go toward hiring more personnel, including one full-time police officer, a full-time social worker for the police department, two clerks, one firefighter and a full-time position in the building department. In addition, a part-time health inspector position was created.

Before approving the budget, trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion about social service agency funding, which was increased slightly from \$85,250 in the present budget which expires on April 30 to \$86,350.

"It's really tough on both sides of this. I would just urge the board and the community to do everything they can to support these agencies," said Village President Sheila Schultz. "I would hope that there is going to be help for all of (the social service groups that need funding)."

If the trustees were reluctant to make a sizable increase in social service agency funding, they were also inclined to make greater use of existing fund balances this year to help pay for budgeted items.

The village will supplement its overall spending of \$21.49 million by dipping into exist-

ing fund balances for more than \$5 million, said Village Finance Director Bob Fialkowski.

Spending in the general fund will increase 8 percent to \$9 million. General fund revenues in the 1990-91 fiscal year only will total \$7.2 million, however.

Fialkowski said to help make up for the shortfall, \$1.8 million in existing cash balances in the fund will be used to offset expenses. He added that the fund balance is now close to \$4 million.

The village also will dip into its water and sewer fund balance for almost \$2 million to supplement \$5.4 million in budgeted expenses. Fialkowski said the water and sewer fund balance will be depleted because revenues are only pegged at \$3.4 million.

He added that water rates will probably be increased sometime during the 1990-91 fiscal year "to allow the fund to operate properly."

Fialkowski declined to speculate on the size of the potential increase.

He said that sewer and water expenses are being driven up by a sewer rehabilitation program mandated by the metropolitan water reclamation district. The program began in 1985, but the village doesn't know when it will end, Fialkowski said.

"We keep doing things and testing and they keep saying we are not in compliance," Fialkowski said.

# Resident tries to take bite out of crime

*COUNTRYSIDE 4-19-90*  
 By B.H. Merens

Staff Writer

A resident comes home from work and smells smoke outside his home.

After thoroughly checking his home and testing his smoke alarm, he returns outside and hears a smoke alarm sounding at his neighbor's house. He calls the fire department and a catastrophe is avoided.

This is what neighborhood watch programs are all about — protecting a neighborhood from crimes and calamities.

At Tahoe Village in Wheeling, resident Jeff Lisitza has become the driving force behind the 453-unit subdivision's second attempt at a neighborhood watch program.

"I've seen a trend in Wheeling where there are many gang problems. We don't have a problem here, but we don't want to have a problem," Lisitza said. "We want to keep it a nice quiet community."

Lisitza estimated that close to 2,000 people live in his community, which is located off Buffalo Grove road south of Dundee Road. He began trying to organize residents in January and has gotten 120 homeowners involved since his watch program began.

"More people have shown up for the neighborhood watch program than for the neighborhood's social events," said Wheeling crime prevention officer Barbara Kobishop, who helped Lisitza organize the community residents.

Lisitza's work is impressive, especially since a neighborhood watch program at Tahoe Village failed before it ever got off the ground several years ago.

"I guess I proved to some of the residents that with a little hard work, something can happen," Lisitza said, saying that his efforts were initially viewed with skepticism. "The response at first was, 'Well we've tried it before. It never worked so why waste your time.'"

Lisitza works in the security field and has two daughters, ages 7 and 9, which are three of the main reasons he got involved with the community watch effort.

The program isn't designed to make secret police out of neighborhood residents, but rather to get residents to watch out their front, back and side windows for anything unusual in a neighborhood.

"Neighborhood watch is (all about keeping) your ears and eyes open," Lisitza said, "to

make sure that there is nothing suspicious going on."

The idea of the program is to get areas of the subdivision "certified" as a neighborhood watch area.

The Tahoe Village program already has certified a number of individual streets. "We are certifying each street as we get 50 percent of the residents of a street to attend a meeting," Lisitza said.

He pointed out that certifying areas sends a message out to the criminal element. "I want the word put out that we are not going to put up with (crime)," he added.

Neighborhood watch groups also are designed to educate citizens about how to deter crime.

Among the crime prevention tips the village recommends are:

- Keeping doors and windows locked when not at home.
- Installing peepholes in all entry doors to see who is outside the door without having to open it.
- Starting a neighborhood watch program.
- Don't leave keys in the mailbox or under a mat.
- Identify all valuables by engraving your driver's license number in them.



RICHARD BAJJALIEH/Pioneer Press

Tahoe Village resident Jeff Lisitza and his neighbors are standing watch over their neighborhood.

## Wheeling hopes to raise \$1,000

*4-20-90, Friday*

By TRISH LACRISTE/STAFF  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of Wheeling's Fourth of July committee say their second food-related fund-raiser could be one of the big money-makers for this year's Independence Day celebration.

The annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 25 at the Wheeling AMVETS hall, 700 Old McHenry Road.

"A lot of people are calling in reservations," organizer Judy Abruscato said. "I really think it'll be successful. People are getting more responsive."

Based on responses so far, Abruscato estimates the dinner may bring in about \$1,000, up from the approximately \$300 collected last year.

Cost for the dinner — provided by Wa-Pa-Ghettis — is \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, \$3 for children and is free for those under 5 years old.

The dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, salad and cake made by Wheeling Lioness members.

Organizers also will be selling an Avon skin lotion/bug repellent for summer that Abruscato said should bring in a few hundred more dollars.

Earlier this month, the Wheeling Lion's Club held a Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser for the Fourth of July celebration. Although the collections have not yet been tabulated, Abruscato said the fund-raiser last year brought in nearly \$800.

The committee hopes several fund-raisers during the year to collect money that helps pay for a parade and fireworks display for the Fourth of July.

The committee has been campaigning this year for each Wheeling household to contribute \$1 on their monthly water bills that also is used to pay for the events.

"Everybody add a buck and we'll be in business," Abruscato said. "I think they don't realize that a dollar means a lot of money (to the celebration)."

Abruscato expects to have a \$10,000 fireworks show this year. In addition to a parade that will be led by Sgt. Jack Kinsey, who is retiring in June after 32 years with the Wheeling Police Department.

# High court rules in favor of fire union over village

Thurs. 4-19-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN and DAVE URBANEK Daily Herald Staff Writers

Wheeling officials engaged in unfair labor practices when they refused to negotiate with the firefighters union because lieutenants were to become part of the membership, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The high court's ruling could clear the way for a contract settlement, which has been held up for nearly four years after firefighters moved to include six lieutenants in the Wheeling Firefighters Association.

In rejecting the village's argument, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that lieutenants are not counted as supervisors and, therefore, could be included in bargaining units under state law. The judgment reaffirms the earlier rulings of an appellate court and the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

"It will hopefully get these negotiations resolved and completed," said Bart Burns, president of the firefighters union. "Now that we have a defined bargaining unit, we can once and for all end this dispute."

But village officials put little, if any, weight on the ruling's ability to stimulate an agreement. Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said he will review the decision, which he says "appears to be contradictory," to determine the village's next step — possibly a request for a rehearing.

"The issue of who we were negotiating with was never an issue," Rhodes said. "It (the ruling) does not bring it closer to there being a contract. It doesn't mean we're any closer on the issues."

Negotiations between the two sides began in June 1986 after the union moved to include lieutenants in its bargaining unit. The village objected, claiming the lieutenants were supervisors, and the union petitioned the Illinois Labor Relations Board. The labor board ruled in the union's favor, and the village appealed to

# Setting a precedent

## Firefighters win Supreme Court case

COUNTRYSIDE 4-19-90

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In what is being viewed as a landmark decision by other firefighters across the state, the Village of Wheeling Wednesday lost its bid to block lieutenants in the Wheeling Fire Department from being included in the firefighters' collective bargaining unit.

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Attempts to reach Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes for comment were unsuccessful.

The ruling marks the apparent end of years of legal wrangling between the village and the firefighters over whether the lieutenants qualified as supervisory personnel.

"I guess we've exhausted our (legal) options at this point, but I don't want to rule anything out," Anderson said.

Village officials had steadfastly argued that the lieutenants oversaw the work of others and thus should be viewed as managers. The firefighters' unit contended that the lieutenants worked side by side with their colleagues and should be allowed the same bargaining rights.

The dispute was just one of a number of labor issues the two parties are trying to resolve.

Wheeling Firefighters' Association President Bart Burns said he was happy about the decision, but not surprised.

"Of course we're happy, but we expected it. We're most relieved that we've got our bargaining unit defined now and hope we can reach

an agreement with the village on a contract," Burns said during a short break in contract talks with the village Wednesday.

Burns said the firefighters' association first took action back in 1986 to try to get lieutenants in the bargaining unit.

The firefighters and the village have been unable to reach an agreement on new contract since April of 1985.

With the firefighters working without a pay raise since the 1987-88 fiscal year, Burns is hoping the ruling on the lieutenants issue will help "spur some action in negotiations" with the village.

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## Firefighters

Continued from page 5

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Dave Foreman, state president of the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, said the Illinois Supreme Court ruling was a landmark decision that would set a precedent for other firefighter bargaining units across the state.

Foreman said the "vast majority" of firefighter bargaining units in Illinois now recognize company officers as part of the bargaining unit.

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## Trustee 'concerned' about police vacancies

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Wheeling's police department will not be up to full staff for at least another five months, and that has at least one village trustee concerned.

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Since last month, three officers and one sergeant have resigned. Abruscato is questioning why the officers have left and why there are seven police openings waiting to be filled.

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Daily Herald Staff Writer

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"It lets the citizens of the community know you don't have to wait until something happens to get help," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "Perhaps the social worker can assist the person ahead of time. There is some help available and you don't have to wait until a problem manifests itself in to a violent act or some other socially unacceptable behavior."

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However, trustees rejected funding for any new social service agencies this year, saying they did not want to become a main provider for the agencies, which also receive funding from the township, the state and private contributions.

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1990-1991

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\$21.5 million Up 7.4%

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**Property taxes**  
\$3.9 million Down 38%

**How much it would cost the owner of a \$126,940 house:** \$317

left over from previous years.

A Wheeling resident with a house with a market value of \$126,940, pays about \$317 in property taxes with a current tax of \$1.50 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Because the village board decreased its levy last year by 22 percent, officials expect the tax rate to drop to about \$1. With that rate, that same homeowner would pay about \$212 in property taxes to the village.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling makes Palwaukee rules official

Tuesday, April 24, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village board members Monday approved the first formal set of rules and regulations at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, despite one trustee's attempt to reduce the size of aircraft allowed at the airport.

The airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has operated without any written rules, making it difficult to control possible hazardous activity there, airport officials say.

In their 11th draft, the rules and regulations, which were approved by Prospect Heights aldermen in February, outline several safety requirements, including how pilots

should operate aircraft safely and what size planes are allowed at Palwaukee.

Although the airport does not have a weight restriction on planes, the runways would dictate the limits.

Trustee William A. Rogers requested that the limit be set at 66,000 pounds rather than the 77,000-pound limit included in the rules and regulations. Rogers said allowing larger planes would bring additional aircraft to Palwaukee that would increase noise and traffic over surrounding schools and homes.

Avi Poster, principal of Holmes Junior High School, which is north of Palwaukee, also was concerned about increased noise.

"I'm concerned what's going to happen to a school with 700 kids in the future," Poster said. "Right now the noise is cumbersome. Will the noise increase?"

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said noise would not be increased and that the limit is included in the rules to avoid larger aircraft, particularly commercial aircraft, at Palwaukee.

In fact, Stewart said, the airport is in the process of adopting a noise abatement plan that would reduce by one-half the level of noise over the school.

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman sided with Rogers in rejecting the rules and regulations. But three other trustees approved the guidelines.



### Arbor Day addition

With Wheeling President Sheila Schultz and Holmes Junior High School faculty and students looking on, village workers wrestle a 15-foot-tall Norway Maple into position for planting as an Arbor Day offering.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tongue

## Recycling, Goodwill join forces in program

4-28-90  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

plan to use that information when they request Wheeling officials to extend the program and encourage other nearby communities to adopt it, said Lee E. Adleman, recycling coordinator at Waste Management.

"From what we get from the citizens coming in to request more bags (for Goodwill items), it's convenient," Assistant Village Manager David Kowal said. "For the most part, it's favorable."

He said the program likely will be continued in Wheeling.

"It's met everyone's expectations," said Robert P. McMahon, vice president of operations of Goodwill. "We're happy. I'm looking forward to it getting much bigger.... I think it was good for the

environment."

About 92 percent of the items collected in Wheeling have been ready to sell in Goodwill's retail stores.

The money generated from the sales is used for vocational training programs for the disadvantaged and disabled.

Under Wheeling's program, Goodwill trucks follow recycling trucks from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal on the first week of each month.

Goodwill drivers collect bagged reusable goods, such as old clothes, toys and small working appliances, while the trash haulers collect recyclables, including newspapers, glass, aluminum and tin.

Goodwill trucks follow recycling trucks from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal on the first week of each month.

## Wheeling grants liquor licenses for all requests

4-28-90(Sat.)

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Three Wheeling restaurants were removed from the village's black list when village liquor control commissioners approved liquor licenses for everyone who requested renewals.

About 40 restaurants and liquor establishments recently received one-year renewals to serve alcohol and sell packaged liquor. Commissioners and village officials said there have been no problems with any of the applicants this past year.

Wheeling liquor licenses must be renewed each year by May 1. Besides background checks of license holders, the applications also list license suspensions and the reasons why they were issued.

"We do not have any ongoing problems with any establishments," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "Last year, we had some problems with some applicants. This year we don't have that problem with any of licensed establishments."

Last year, three restaurants were warned by commissioners against

alleged gambling activity. The restaurants — Vivian Lee's at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave., the Old Munich Inn at 582 N. Milwaukee Ave. and the 94th Aero Squadron at 1070 S. Milwaukee Ave. — were connected to incidents last year which allegedly involved gambling.

The three restaurants were named during disciplinary hearings for former Wheeling Police Officer Richard Imber, who eventually was fired by the village fire and police commission for alleged gambling and battery.

Under village liquor codes, license holders are responsible for any illegal action at their businesses. The owners were warned about losing their licenses for repeat violations and were instructed to hang signs forbidding gambling at their establishments.

"I guess maybe the message is going out," Anderson said. "One establishment, in all honesty, had a couple of fights, but not liquor violations, per se. There were no establishments that had an unusual number of calls to the police."

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INQUIRY 4-19-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN and DAVE URBANEK Daily Herald Staff Writers

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The high court's ruling could clear the way for a contract settlement, which has been held up for nearly four years after firefighters moved to include six lieutenants in the Wheeling Firefighters Association.

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**Property taxes**  
\$3.9 million Down 38%

**How much it would cost the owner of a \$126,940 house:** \$317

left over from previous years.

A Wheeling resident with a house with a market value of \$126,940, pays about \$317 in property taxes with a current tax of \$1.50 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Because the village board decreased its levy last year by 22 percent, officials expect the tax rate to drop to about \$1. With that rate, that same homeowner would pay about \$212 in property taxes to the village.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling makes Palwaukee rules official

Monday, April 24, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village board members Monday approved the first formal set of rules and regulations at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, despite one trustee's attempt to reduce the size of aircraft allowed at the airport.

The airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has operated without any written rules, making it difficult to control possible hazardous activity there, airport officials say.

In their 11th draft, the rules and regulations, which were approved by Prospect Heights aldermen in February, outline several safety requirements, including how pilots

should operate aircraft safely and what size planes are allowed at Palwaukee.

Although the airport does not have a weight restriction on planes, the runways would dictate the limits.

Trustee William A. Rogers requested that the limit be set at 66,000 pounds rather than the 77,000-pound limit included in the rules and regulations. Rogers said allowing larger planes would bring additional aircraft to Palwaukee that would increase noise and traffic over surrounding schools and homes.

Avi Poster, principal of Holmes Junior High School, which is north of Palwaukee, also was concerned about increased noise.

"I'm concerned what's going to happen to a school with 700 kids in the future," Poster said. "Right now the noise is cumbersome. Will the noise increase?"

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said noise would not be increased and that the limit is included in the rules to avoid larger aircraft, particularly commercial aircraft, at Palwaukee.

In fact, Stewart said, the airport is in the process of adopting a noise abatement plan that would reduce by one-half the level of noise over the school.

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman sided with Rogers in rejecting the rules and regulations. But three other trustees approved the guidelines.



### Arbor Day addition

With Wheeling President Sheila Schultz and Holmes Junior High School faculty and students looking on, village workers wrestle a 15-foot-tall Norway Maple into position for planting as an Arbor Day offering.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tongue

## Recycling, Goodwill join forces in program

4-28-90  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

plan to use that information when they request Wheeling officials to extend the program and encourage other nearby communities to adopt it, said Lee E. Adleman, recycling coordinator at Waste Management.

"From what we get from the citizens coming in to request more bags (for Goodwill items), it's convenient," Assistant Village Manager David Kowal said. "For the most part, it's favorable."

He said the program likely will be continued in Wheeling. "It's met everyone's expectations," said Robert P. McMahon, vice president of operations of Goodwill. "We're happy. I'm looking forward to it getting much bigger... I think it was good for the

environment." About 92 percent of the items collected in Wheeling have been ready to sell in Goodwill's retail stores. The money generated from the sales is used for vocational training programs for the disadvantaged and disabled.

Under Wheeling's program, Goodwill trucks follow recycling trucks from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal on the first week of each month. Goodwill drivers collect bagged reusable goods, such as old clothes, toys and small working appliances, while the trash haulers collect recyclables, including newspapers, glass, aluminum and tin.

Wheeling and collection officials are optimistic that a pilot program that combines the curbside collection of recyclables and reusable goods will be formally adopted. The program, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, began in December for Wheeling residents. Village trustees approved the program — a merger between Waste Management of North America Inc. and Goodwill Industries — on a six-month trial basis. Representatives from the two organizations will meet Monday to complete results of residents' participation, which for Wheeling has averaged about 16 percent. They

## Wheeling grants liquor licenses for all requests

4-28-90 (Sat.)

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Three Wheeling restaurants were removed from the village's black list when village liquor control commissioners approved liquor licenses for everyone who requested renewals.

About 40 restaurants and liquor establishments recently received one-year renewals to serve alcohol and sell packaged liquor. Commissioners and village officials said there have been no problems with any of the applicants this past year.

Wheeling liquor licenses must be renewed each year by May 1. Besides background checks of license holders, the applications also list license suspensions and the reasons why they were issued.

"We do not have any ongoing problems with any establishments," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "Last year, we had some problems with some applicants. This year we don't have that problem with any of licensed establishments."

Last year, three restaurants were warned by commissioners against

alleged gambling activity. The restaurants — Vivian Lee's at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave., the Old Munich Inn at 582 N. Milwaukee Ave. and the 94th Aero Squadron at 1070 S. Milwaukee Ave. — were connected to incidents last year which allegedly involved gambling.

The three restaurants were named during disciplinary hearings for former Wheeling Police Officer Richard Imber, who eventually was fired by the village fire and police commission for alleged gambling and battery.

Under village liquor codes, license holders are responsible for any illegal action at their businesses. The owners were warned about losing their licenses for repeat violations and were instructed to hang signs forbidding gambling at their establishments.

"I guess maybe the message is going out," Anderson said. "One establishment, in all honesty, had a couple of fights, but not liquor violations, per se. There were no establishments that had an unusual number of calls to the police."

# Man gets life sentence for role in death

4-25-90  
BY PETE NENNI  
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

Convicted killer Larry Strickland, who was held accountable when his brother gunned down a Wheeling police officer during a 1985 altercation on a subdivision street, was sent to prison for the rest of his life Tuesday.

But the sentence handed down by a Cook County judge was not enough to satisfy disappointed prosecutors, who had argued that Strickland should die for his role in the murder of Officer Kenneth Dawson.

"I'm disappointed. Let's just keep it at that," Assistant State's Attorney Nick Trutenko said outside the courtroom.

Dawson's widow and several Wheeling police officers, who attend-

ed the sentencing hearing in the Cook County Criminal Courts Building in Chicago, also declined to comment on the decision.

In making his ruling, Judge Fred G. Suria Jr. said he did not impose the death penalty on the 31-year-old Strickland because, although he was a factor in the murder, he did not pull the trigger.

Suria, however, told Strickland he is anti-social, manipulative and has an "explosive personality."

"You are a person, I believe, who doesn't even like yourself," Suria said.

He pointed at Strickland's lengthy criminal history, which includes guilty pleas for firing shots in a Rolling Meadows apartment complex parking lot in 1981 and for the 1975 shotgun slaying of a teen-ager

Strickland showed no emotion when Suria announced his decision, but stood up at the end of the sentencing hearing and asked to have a public defender appointed to handle his appeal.

As he had done throughout the trial, Strickland questioned why he was on trial for his life when it was his brother, Tyrone, who fired the fatal shot.

Tyrone, who claimed the shooting was an accident, was convicted of the murder in 1988 and was sen-

tenced to death.

"I don't know what it was, but it wasn't planned," Larry Strickland testified Tuesday. "I wouldn't have done anything to assist anybody to kill Officer Dawson and I wouldn't kill Officer Dawson myself."

Dawson, 41, who lived in Kildeer with his wife and three daughters, was responding to a residential burglary call in the Cedar Run subdivision in north Wheeling when he confronted the Strickland brothers on Nov. 5, 1985.

# Agencies to review Palwaukee Airport plan

4-30-90  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite confusion over some provisions in a Palwaukee Municipal Airport layout plan, the proposal will be sent to state and federal airport agencies for review.

Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers, who is a member of the airport commission, and Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart differ over how long the main runway would be extended according to the layout plan.

The plan maps out what the airport ultimately will look like and is included with the airport's \$83.59 million capital improvements program. That ambitious proposal lists the projects needed to attain the

goals of the airport layout plan.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport, recently approved the layout plan and had previously agreed with proposals in the 12-year capital improvements program.

One of the major construction proposals in the program includes relocating the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads. Hintz Road would be moved in 1992 to arc north and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection. Officials say the relocation, which should be completed by 1993, is needed because the airport's longest runway ends too close to the intersection.

When the project is finished, the main runway would be lengthened 64 feet to a total of 5,000 feet, in ad-

dition to the 150 feet on either end for thresholds, Stewart said. The thresholds, or clear areas, at the end of the runways are a place for pebbles and other debris to safety settle when blown around during aircraft takeoffs and landings.

The runway would be lengthened to provide enough room for a localizer, or a tall, directional light for safety. That would be placed at the south end of the main runway.

However, Rogers claims the runway already is 5,137 feet long and the additions would bring the total length to more than 5,200 feet.

"That still brings the runway closer to the village of Wheeling," Rogers said. "I'm not so sure I want to add 200 feet to a runway facing Wheeling."

Although Rogers says the localizer could be placed somewhere else on the airport, officials say the south end of the main runway is ideal and other places could require the acquisition of additional land.

The exact length of the runway and the thresholds is uncertain, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said. But after construction, there will be a 5,000-foot runway with 150-foot thresholds, he added.

Rogers and Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman rejected the airport layout plan, which was approved by other trustees. The plan, along with the capital improvements program, will be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

# Palwaukee hopes to reduce aircraft noise

4-30-90  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials may move to reduce airport noise over Holmes Junior High School and houses northeast of the airport as early as this summer.

The Federal Aviation Regulations Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study identifies areas near Palwaukee that are particularly affected by airport noise. It also sets minimum flight planning standards for airport noise.

Although Palwaukee has no formal noise reduction plan and is not required to have one, the air traffic control tower scatters traffic departing from the airport to the

north to decrease noise on a single area, the study states. Departing aircraft account for much more noise than arriving aircraft.

The study, which was started in May 1986 and completed in 1988, is under review by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA's Washington bureau has approved the plan conceptually and the study now awaits final approval by the FAA's Great Lakes region. Approval may come this summer, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

Although some of the noise reduction plans may start immediately after approval, others may require further review by Palwaukee officials, airport tenants and residents before the

plans may be implemented, Stewart said.

One of the major ways the study proposes to reduce airport noise is by requiring aircraft departing north to avoid residential areas and Holmes Junior High School by turning slightly to the west and flying over industrial properties.

Other proposals include prohibiting the noisiest aircraft from using the airport at night, prohibiting routine running of engines for maintenance tests and encouraging pilots to reduce aircraft noise immediately after takeoffs.

The plan also calls for constructing a noise barrier on top of trees on the east side of Wolf Road to protect houses to the west from the noise of aircraft.

# Wheeling to add yard waste pickup day

Thurs., May 3, 1990  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials plan to eliminate one of two weekly household trash collection days for part of the year in order to add a collection day for landscape waste.

To avoid additional costs in adding another day for yard waste collection, village officials say they will cut one day of the two-day-a-week garbage service for residents from April 1 through Nov. 30.

Landscape waste, which currently is accepted by disposal trucks if it's bagged, would be picked up on the same day residents have curbside recycling service. That day varies depending on

where people live in town.

Beginning July 1, the state will no longer allow landfills to accept yard waste, which includes grass clippings, leaves, twigs and branches.

Northwest suburban leaders have been negotiating with garbage collection agencies in an effort to work out suitable alternatives for residents to dispose of their yard waste.

Under Wheeling's plan, which would begin July 1, residents would bag yard waste and set the trash on their curbs on the same day as their recycling collection day. Household garbage no longer would be accepted on that day during the seven-month period.

Also in July, recycling collection

rates will increase 95 cents to \$1.95 a month per household. The increase is needed to pay for the addition of plastics to the recycling program, which now includes newspapers, aluminum and glass.

Officials opted for eliminating one garbage pick-up day rather than increasing the collections to three times a week because the extra day would cost \$4 more per household per month, Assistant Village Manager David Kowal said. Officials also vetoed a proposal that would require residents to pay by the number of bags they use to dispose of yard waste.

Wheeling trustees are expected to vote on the plan at 8 p.m. Monday in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

# Village backs refinancing for apartments

By JOYCE REILLY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

May 1, 1990

Developers of a apartment complex in Wheeling received a boost from trustees who agreed Monday to issue \$18.5 million in bonds to refinance the 1985 project so developers could pay less interest.

In 1985 the village issued mortgage revenue bonds worth \$19.3 million. The bonds, which provide tax-free interest for investors, were used by Woodland Creek Associates II to build and equip a 250-unit apartment complex at Palatine and Wheeling roads.

Created by the Federal Housing Act, the bond program reduced construction costs by reducing interest. In return, the complex has to discount rents on 20 percent of the units for people making less than a given community's median income. The program also staggered the interest rate, increasing payments as rents increase, with the maximum payment starting after seven years.

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the \$18.5 million will be used to refinance and redeem the 1985 bond, which was issued at 9 1/2 percent interest. Since the interest rate has declined to 8 percent, the new issuance would be well below the 1985 issuance and would allow the project to become more viable, Rhodes said.

The developer's attorney Barry B. Nekritz said in 1987, when the apartments were completed, rents had to be reduced to compete in the Northwest suburban market. The apartments have an occupancy in excess of 90 percent.

The market is beginning to pick up, Nekritz said. He said the developer stands to save about \$50,000 a year with the new interest rate. "That is a rather significant savings on a yearly basis," Nekritz said.

Nekritz, in assuring the board of the developer's credibility, said Woodland Associates put about \$2 million into the program beyond the 1985 cost.

Trustee William A. Rogers inquired as to whether refinancing was a "desperate grasp to make it more viable."

# EPA joins agencies opposing proposed balefill at Bartlett

July 1, 1990  
 BY ANNE SCHMITT  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

In what could be a devastating blow to a proposed high-tech landfill near Bartlett, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the controversial plans should be scrapped because of dangers to wildlife and underground water supplies.

Opponents of the high-tech landfill lauded the EPA recommendation, released Monday, but backers said the opinion, like one by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service earlier this month, was expected.

Approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the last official approval needed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County in its four-year attempt to place the

balefill on 142 acres of a 410-acre site at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in Hanover Township.

The agency, representing 28 suburbs, already has approval from the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

But those two thumbs-up could go for naught because the U.S. EPA has the power to veto any ruling from the Army Corps.

"We can issue them (SWANCC) a permit over the objections of the U.S. EPA," said Army Corps spokeswoman Evelyn R. Schiele. "But there is a process, if they want to take it far enough, (by which) they can overrule us."

In a letter to the Army Corps, EPA officials said the proposed

landfill would threaten wildlife on the 410-acre site, including several endangered species of birds, and create the potential for contaminating the Newark Valley Aquifer, a water source to nearby communities.

"In the event that there is an engineering failure at the balefill the potential for contamination of the Newark Valley Aquifer exists," said Dale S. Bryson, acting director for the EPA's water division.

The EPA letter also called the SWANCC's information about the land itself and the need for the project incomplete and blasted SWANCC's analysis of site alternatives as "incorrectly prepared and misleading."

EPA officials questioned the criteria SWANCC used for choosing the

## The balefill

- Proposed for 142 acres near Bartlett, the \$55 million high-tech landfill would accept garbage, compacted into bales, from 28 North and Northwest suburbs.

- Already approved by the Cook County board and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the balefill needs a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- The Army Corps must study the balefill's potential effects on the surrounding environment and wildlife, including the effect on the underground water supply.

- An Army Corps hearing on the project is set for 6:30 p.m. May 29 at Harper College, Palatine.

Sources: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County



Daily Herald Graphic

have been given greater consideration.

See BALEFILL on Page 4

# BALEFILL: U.S. EPA cites dangers of Bartlett proposal

Continued from Page 1

"There are no conclusive data to indicate that there are no other viable sites where the project purpose, solid waste disposal, can be conducted."

Though not surprised by the EPA's opinion, SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt said he was surprised by the letter's tone, particularly the agency's call for more proof for the need for the project.

"I was surprised by their rather cavalier attitude in attacking the need for the project," Abolt said.

"It's easy to take that position when you're not responsible for picking up the garbage," Abolt said. "I think ultimately we're going to get a permit for the project."

But while the EPA opinion carries significant weight, it is just one of many opinions considered by the Army Corps, Schiele said.

"We will make our evaluation of the overall merits of the proposal," she said.

Still, opponents of the project herded the EPA opinion.

"We believe we're right at the verge of seeing the balefill killed," said John A. Stark, Bartlett village president.

He pointed to the fact that the EPA is the third major federal or state agency to come out against the balefill plan. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois Department of Conservation previously recommended denial of the permit.

Today, the village of Bartlett submitted to the Army Corps its own 230-page response to the balefill application.

The Army Corps also announced that it will hold a public hearing on the plans at 6:30 p.m. May 29 at the Harper College gymnasium, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine.

"We just felt there was strong enough controversy on the project and differences of opinion between proponents and opponents (that) we wanted to give an opportunity that all sides could speak," Schiele said.

# Trouble with the balefill...

Herald - 53-90

The Daily Herald has long supported the proposed balefill near Bartlett as an imperfect but acceptable interim solution for disposing solid waste generated in the Northwest suburbs.

But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's scathing assessment of the balefill, released this week, is troubling, especially because it closely follows a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report calling the site unacceptable for waste disposal.

Not that the federal EPA opinion should be read as gospel. William Abolt, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, calls the document strident and says it appears to ignore key elements of the waste agency's application. Indeed, federal EPA officials miss the boat when they say SWANCC has not established the need for a new landfill. It's true that extensive recycling will divert large amounts of waste. It's also likely that incineration will someday further diminish the need for landfills. But with existing landfills in northeastern Illinois expected to close by the mid-1990s, it's hard to imagine that the suburbs won't need any new landfills. Many people favor shipping solid waste to rural areas downstate, but cost and downstate resistance pose formidable barriers. The idea of the balefill is to buy time for officials to develop better long-term solutions.

But the idea won't work — not at its proposed site — if the federal EPA is correct in judging that the balefill might contaminate the Newark Valley Aquifer, which provides water to nearby communities. That's the most worrisome prospect of the balefill and the question that must be resolved. The Illinois EPA and the Illinois Geological Survey have indicated confidence that groundwater would be safe from contamination. U.S. EPA officials think otherwise. Now it's up to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If the corps concludes that the balefill would not threaten the aquifer, the balefill may yet be built. But if the corps agrees with the federal EPA, then the project will have to be killed, and SWANCC and its member communities will find themselves back at the drawing board.

# Petition drive opposes airport plans

Thurs., May 3, 1990

BY JOYCE KELLY  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling couple has collected more than 79 signatures from neighbors who oppose a runway re-location and the possibility of larger aircraft landing at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Michael S. Berman and Sandra G. Berman of 461 Hickory Drive moved to the Harmony Village neighborhood near Hintz and Wolf roads less than a month ago with their children. They said their decision to move to the village was marred by the presence of Palwaukee Airport.

"We were borderline buyers because we were so close to the airport," Michael Berman said. "Now

we see they want to bring in a bigger one (plane). One took off the other day and literally rattled the windows. I don't understand who's doing these studies, but they should come to our neighborhood."

Sandra Berman said she was especially displeased when she learned last week of the village board's decision to approve a runway re-location and an increase in the size of aircraft allowed at Palwaukee.

The couple collected 79 signatures in two days. Sandra Berman expressed confidence that they would generate support among their neighbors to halt some of the changes being proposed.

"Our plan is to fight for as long as it takes," Sandra said.

The village board recently agreed to send the proposed changes to state and federal airport agencies for review. The airport commission has proposed shifting the more than 5,000-foot main runway 200 feet north.

The commission also agreed that the maximum weight of aircraft allowed at the airport be 77,000 pounds. The first formal set of rules and regulations for the airport was recently adopted. Before that time, there was no stipulation on the weight of aircraft, but no aircraft weighing more than 77,000 pounds typically used the airport.

"I'm sure there are some good points about the airport," Sandra Berman said. "But when you live so close to the airport, you have to be

concerned." Michael Berman said he is mainly concerned about how noise levels affect children who live near Palwaukee and the airport's effects on property values and the quality of life in the community.

Village board members invited the couple to review the research that the airport commission has already done regarding traffic and the airport's other effects on the community.

Trustee William A. Rogers said that it was unfortunate the Bermans' remarks were not made before the decisions about the airport had been finalized, but invited them to return to village meetings and voice their concern.

Daily Herald - 5-2-90

# Wheeling employees to get 5% pay boost

By JOYCE KELLY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to keep Wheeling employees' wages competitive with those in surrounding communities, trustees have approved 5 percent pay increases for about 110 employees for the 1990-91 fiscal year.

The village will pay about \$214,000 in salary increases during the next year to police officers, operation and maintenance workers, clerical workers, department managers and other supervisory and professional staff members.

With the increase, Village Attorney James A. Rhodes will make nearly \$60,000 a year, Assistant Village Manager David R. Kowal will receive about \$44,000 a year and Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski will receive about \$59,000 a year. The annual salaries of police officers will range from \$28,500 to \$38,000. Secretaries will make between \$19,000 and \$29,000 a year.

The employees last received "market adjustments" of 5 percent in May 1989, Kowal said.

The village board decided to increase salaries 5 percent, effective

May 1. The action came after the village negotiated with representatives for some employees. The trustees accepted the recommendation of administrators in adjusting the salaries of other employees.

Kowal said the village negotiated with the Wheeling Operations and Maintenance Department Non-Supervisory Employees' Association and the Combined Counties Police Association. After a few negotiating sessions, the village and the associations arrived at the 5 percent salary increases for those employees represented, Kowal said.

Kowal said the village's 1987 contracts with police officers and operation and maintenance workers allowed for the renegotiating of salaries this fiscal year.

"What they (negotiators) determined was an increase that would place them (workers) in a competitive market with surrounding cities and villages," Kowal said. "We're (now) at a position we feel is adequate."

Edward Theriault, vice president of the police association, said the 5 percent increase was unanimously approved by the group's 34 members.

Daily Herald

# Balefill hearing may be moved

Wed., May 2, 1990

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bartlett officials have asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move the location of a public hearing on the proposed balefill closer to residents most affected by the project.

Bartlett Village President John A. Stark said the village requested that the Army Corps move a May 29 public hearing on the landfill project Palatine to a site closer to Bartlett to make it easier for residents to attend.

"It is being considered," said Army Corps environmental engineer Peg McBrien. "We want to make sure that the location is centrally located for all people who would be attending the meeting."

"That's good news," Bartlett Village Administrator Valerie L. Salmons said.

The Army Corps is the final agency that must issue a permit to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County for its proposed balefill on 142 acres of a 410-acre site at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in Hanover Township. The agency announced Monday that it would conduct a public hearing on the project.

The hearing, now scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 29 at Harper College, Roselle and Algonquin roads, Palatine, will provide an opportunity for all sides to comment on the controversial project, Army Corps officials said.

The Harper College site initially was chosen as a location central to residents near the site and residents of the 28 North and Northwest suburbs that belong to the solid waste agency, McBrien said.

# Residents sound off on Palwaukee

Countyside 5-3-90

Rules that were approved last week for changes at Palwaukee Airport led several Wheeling residents to voice concerns to the village board about future plans for the facility.

By ROBERT LOERZEL  
STAFF WRITER

Several Wheeling residents told the village board Monday they're upset about a plan to change the length of a

runway at Palwaukee Airport and about rules that were approved last week governing maximum weight limits for planes taking off and landing at the airstrip.

Sandra and Michael Berman presented the village board with an informal petition, containing the signatures of 79 local residents who are concerned about plans for Palwaukee Airport.

"Some of us are really upset about it," said Sandra Berman, who recently moved into a home near the airport.

"As it is right now, the noise there is at a level that's tolerable," said Michael Ber-

man, her husband. "But with larger planes, we wonder what effect that will have on the neighborhood."

Last week, the village board approved official rules and regulations for the airport, which would set the maximum weight limit for aircraft using the airport at 77,000 pounds. The rules also called for renovations on runway 1634, bringing the runway's touchdown point 64 feet closer to the village of Wheeling.

"Personally, I am saddened at this first step to increase the tonnage of the planes operating out of our

residential community," said resident Bruce Portnoy.

Portnoy said his main concern was not the noise of heavier aircraft, but the safety risks those planes would pose to Holmes Junior High School, apartment complexes and condominiums — all of which are located near the airport.

"You can't have larger aircraft landing without a risk to high-density population," Portnoy said. Portnoy pointed out that when Palwaukee was originally built, the area surrounding it was much less heavily populated.

Trustee William Rogers

(Continued on page 16)

lives by ignoring the warnings. Some people from risking their enough, though, to prevent Those safeguards are still not gates and warning lights. ing in the village protected by tuate to have all rail cross- Lorenz said Wheeling is for- Gates not enough his routine traffic patrols. crossing law violators during focusing more attention on rail Thomas Lorenz, who has been do," said Wheeling Patrolman you won't believe what people when the gates are down, but you have to stop at a crossing. "Most people are aware that of them are preventable. disturbs them most is that all es may seem small, but what number of fatalities and crash- Police insist the overall recollections. you're likely to get numerous any recent collisions and authorities if they remember crossings. But ask localo the number of accidents at railo ments don't keep statistics onu Most area police depart- tracks. Chicago & North Western tal" a pedestrian's death at theg week described as "acciden- er Rolling Meadows police lastl confined to motorists, howev- The carnage has not been her car. wounds when a train struck ing hung up on the tracks. ered crossing gates before get- an drove her car around low-

Record

The photo by Kelly Troy



# Residents sound off on Palwaukee plans

Countrywide 5-3-90

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By ROBERT LOERZEL  
STAFF WRITER

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Trustee William Rogers

voted against the rule changes last week, saying that the runway extension would bring air traffic too close to the residential areas around the airport.

But Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the residents' fears about larger planes and a longer runway are unfounded.

"There is nothing in the airport rules and regulations that would increase the size of the aircraft, the number of aircraft or the frequency of aircraft landing and taking off," Stewart said.

Until the village board

(Continued on page 13)

approved the rules last week, the airport had never had an official weight limit on aircraft, Stewart said, so the new rule can't really be considered an increase.

The largest aircraft that use Palwaukee are Gulf Stream G-4 planes, which can weigh up to 73,200 pounds when they land, Stewart said. However, Palwaukee's runways are too short for a plane weighing that much to take off, so the Gulf Stream G-4s must have a smaller total weight when they leave the airport, he said.

Stewart said it's also incorrect to say that runway 1634 is being extended. The airport plans to square off a turnaround area at the runway's north end, which will bring the point where planes touch down 64 feet closer to the village than it is now, Stewart said.

But the airport also plans to shorten the other end of the runway, so the runway's total length will be reduced from 5,137 feet to 5,000 feet, he said.

The village board has already approved the scope of a plan to renovate the airport, but the board won't see the final engineering plans for the new layout until August, Stewart said.

Michael and Sandra Berman said they were not at the village board meeting last week, when the board voted on the airport plan, because they did not know the issue was up for discussion.

"I feel like they rushed it through so nobody would know about it," Sandra Berman said.

Rogers said the village should make more of an effort to inform residents near the airport about any board actions that will affect them.

"I feel the citizens were not informed that the issue would be discussed at this particular meeting," Rogers said.

Portnoy said he agreed with village officials who say the airport is a very complicated issue, which requires a high level of understanding.

But he added, "It's not fair to expect citizens to have this level of understanding, or to put them down for not having that level of understanding."

Portnoy said the village should be more forthcoming with information about plans for the airport, rather than telling citizens that they can come to the village if they have questions.

"I don't want to wait for an accident to happen before the citizens stand united," Portnoy said.

The airport is jointly owned by the Village of Wheeling and the City of Prospect Heights.

# Vote expected on yard waste collection

*Herald - 5-6-90*

Wheeling trustees Monday will vote on a proposal to collect yard waste separate from the collection of household garbage.

The plan calls for eliminating one of two weekly household trash collection days for part of the year and adding a collection day for landscaping waste.

Wheeling, like other municipalities, is faced with developing an alternative plan for disposing of landscape waste by July 1, when a state mandate takes effect. Under the law, landfills no longer may accept yard

## THE WEEK AHEAD

waste, which includes grass clippings, leaves, twigs and branches.

Landscape waste, which currently is accepted by disposal trucks if it's bagged, would be picked up on the same day residents have curbside recycling service.

Under Wheeling's seven-month plan, which would begin July 1, residents would bag yard waste and set the trash on their curbs on the same day as their recycling collection day.

Household garbage would not be accepted on the yard waste/recycling collection days from April 1 through Nov. 30.

Also in July, recycling collection rates will increase 95 cents to \$1.95 a month per household. The increase is needed to pay for the addition of plastics to the recycling program, which now includes newspapers, aluminum and glass.

Rather than increase the collections to three times a week, village officials opted to switch one of the household trash pick-ups to a yard

waste pick up. An additional day would cost \$4 a month per household.

### The top meeting

**Who:** Wheeling village board

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

# Deals can be found at police auction

*5-6-90*

By VICKI SPEER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Boating enthusiasts may find a bargain in the myriad items that will be sold at the Des Plaines Police Department's annual auction next Saturday.

A car telephone, four Cadillac wheel covers, a baby stroller and about 70 bicycles are among the items that will be featured at the auction, which will open for viewing at 9 a.m. behind the city's public works garage, 111 Joe Schwab Road,

Bidding will start 10 a.m.

One of the more unusual items up for sale is a Mariner 25 outboard motor, used on boats, Officer Leo A. Beyer said.

"We found it laying in the weeds," Beyer said. "Somebody stole it, and left it in the weeds to pick it up later ... Who knows where it was stolen from?"

From such accidents is the annual auction made. The police department sells things owned but no longer needed by the city — such as mo-

torcycle covers and a typewriter — unclaimed items and stolen material whose owners cannot be found.

Also slated to be auctioned are two CB radios/walkie talkies, fishing equipment, a television monitor, three picnic coolers, a radar detector, a camera and camera lenses and a fire extinguisher.

David Pace, a local auctioneer, will run the event, as he has for the last four years. The event typically draws people from neighboring towns, including Mount Prospect and

Elk Grove Village.

Last year, the auction raised \$4,307, topping the amount generated in several preceding years. In 1988, the event raised \$3,069, and in 1987, \$1,661.

"Every year it's different," Beyer says, "because you don't know exactly what's going to come in."

Money raised by the auction goes into the city's general operating fund. The police department will accept cash and checks for the items. Purchases may not be made by credit card.

# Village OKs yard waste pickup

*Wed., May 8, 1990*

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents no longer may include landscape waste with their household trash collection, starting in July.

Village trustees Monday unanimously approved a plan to eliminate one of two weekly household garbage pick-up days for part of the year and, instead, add a collection day for landscape waste.

Wheeling joins other communities in adhering to a new state law, which takes effect July 1, that bans yard waste from landfills. Landscape waste, which now is accepted in bags by disposal trucks, includes grass clippings, leaves, twigs and branch-

es.

Large pieces of wood that exceed three inches in diameter also will not be accepted, said Lee E. Addleman, recycling coordinator for Waste Management of North America, Inc. Waste Management is the parent company for Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, which is Wheeling's trash and recycling collector.

Addleman said residents may make special arrangements with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal for pickup of larger materials, or they may chop and bundle the pieces for pickup with yard waste.

Under Wheeling's plan, which would begin this year on July 1, residents would bag yard wastes and set the trash on their curbs on the same

day as their recycling collection day. Household garbage no longer would be accepted on that day from April 1 through Nov. 30 after this year.

Village officials opted to reduce the number of household garbage collection days in order to avoid the additional \$4 per month per household it would cost to add another day for yard waste collection, Assistant Village Manager David Kowal said. Officials rejected a plan that would have required residents to pay by the number of bags they use to dispose of yard waste.

Also in July, recycling collection rates will increase 95 cents to \$1.95 a month per household. The increase is needed to pay for the addition of plastics to the recycling program.

# Wheeling gets commuter station on track

*Wed., May 9, 1990*

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials support the concept of a commuter rail line from Libertyville to Chicago, a plan regional transportation officials say is moving closer to reality.

Village trustees recently jumped on track to endorse the commuter service along the Wisconsin Central Line as requested by Metra, the commuter rail division of the Regional Transportation Authority. Other municipalities along the line — including Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Mundelein and Libertyville — also are being asked to support the plan in writ-

ing by June 1.

The rail line, which has been on the drawing board for more than a decade, would carry suburban commuters to Chicago on the freight tracks owned by the Wisconsin Central Railroad, formerly the Soo Line. As many as 10 stations may be built along the way, Metra officials say.

Metra officials say they are moving closer to establishing the line, which has the support of communities along the route. In addition, a study shows the line would have about 3,000 riders a day and would pay its own operating costs from fares collected.

However, the start-up costs — estimated at \$42 million — remain a roadblock for Metra, which

would oversee the line.

Although Wheeling officials have agreed with the concept in the past, the latest endorsement is a formal commitment to the plan and to contribute money to establish the line.

A commitment from communities is needed to encourage Metra and the Illinois Department of Transportation to consider funding for the project. The amount of local funding would be determined later.

Wheeling may contribute up to \$3 million, which is "a very high figure, but it's based on some guesses," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. The amount Wheeling will pay would depend on contributions from the other agencies.

penter AMVESTS Post 66 will conduct two tag days in Wheeling this month. Volunteers will be collecting donations on May 18 and 19 at the intersections of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road and Dundee and Elmhurst roads. The contributions are used to help veterans and their families in need of assistance. Another tag day will be held June 16 at the intersections of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, Wolf and Dundee roads, and the property near K mart and a local bank. The money, collected from the Charlotte Chaplick Brody Memorial Foundation, is used for Shady Oaks Camp for cerebral palsy children, which is based out of Glenview.

**Village to buy two dump trucks**  
Trustees agreed to buy two dump trucks and accessory equipment for \$92,298 to replace two trucks used by the operations and maintenance department. The board accepted the quote from the lowest bidder, Freeway Ford Truck Sales Inc., of Lyons, which met the specifications for the 2 1/2-ton dump trucks.

**Board members OK tag day fund-raisers**

Several tag days are coming up in Wheeling as trustees unanimously approved requests for the fund-raisers. The Phillip Car-

National Teacher Appreciation Week from May 6-12 "to call attention to the important contribution that teachers make to our society." Also proclaimed for this week is Municipal Clerk's Week to recognize the clerk's "outstanding contribution and dedication to public service for the community." The entire month of May is proclaimed Older Americans Month as a tradition to honor the aged. Finally, May 26, 27 is proclaimed Wheeling Park District Soccer Weekend. The park district will host a Youth Soccer Classic Tournament at Heritage Park during the Memorial Day weekend. Teams from nearby communities and out of state will participate in the tournament, and Shultz urges residents to attend.

**WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES**  
**Village to recognize area leaders, groups**  
*Herald - 5-6-90*  
H. Schultz has set aside several days this month to recognize community leaders and groups. May 8 is Dr. Thomas Shirley Day, and it's also his birthday. Shirley is retiring this year after serving for 25 years as principal of Wheeling High School. Under Shirley's leadership, the proclamation states, Wheeling High School "has become one of the finest educational institutions in the state of Illinois." In accepting the honor, Shirley said, "I couldn't have asked for a better birthday present. ... I have enjoyed very much serving this community." Schultz also proclaimed

# Wheeling officer of 32 years retiring from force in style

5-7-90  
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 and AMY CARR  
 Daily Herald Staff Writers



Sgt. Jack Kimsey

more sad about it... I'm retiring in June and moving right after that, so hopefully I won't have time to miss it much."

But, if he's going to leave, Kimsey says he's going to do it with a bang. Immediately following his last day of work, June 15, he and his wife will host a going-away party for their closest friends. And, just in case he can't say goodbye to everyone there, Kimsey will say his farewell at the village's Fourth of July parade.

Before he leaves, Kimsey will serve as grand marshal of at least 50 units in Wheeling's Fourth of July parade. One of the units following Kimsey will be "The Neo Passee," the five-piece band that meanders through the Wrigley Field stands entertaining fans during Chicago Cubs

future," he said. "If I were going to be in the area I would be a little

games. "It's a great honor that we have him to lead the parade, but it's great with sadness that we lose him after 32 years of service to the village."

said Judy Abruscato, a member of the Fourth of July committee. "He's just thrilled about it. We're really happy. It's nice to honor someone in the community."

Last year, the grand marshal for the annual village parade was former Fire Chief Bernhard O. Koepfen, who retired last month from the fire department after 43 years of service.

The Fourth of July committee has been holding fund-raisers all year long in hopes of putting on one of the best parades and fireworks shows ever for the village, Abruscato said.

Committee members are planning a much bigger fireworks display than last year's show, which was blasted by officials and residents as a "dud." This year, the committee has received contributions of \$1,500 each from the park district and the village, in addition to money collected from a spaghetti dinner, a pancake breakfast, the Rotary Club and St. Joseph the Worker Church.

Abruscato also encourages residents to include a \$1 contribution in their monthly water bills to the Fourth of July fund.

# Familyfest plans get board's OK

COUNTRYSIDE 5-10-90

After approving a liquor license that will allow St. Joseph the Worker parish to once again sell beer and wine at its Familyfest celebration, Wheeling officials and festival organizers are focusing on ways to more closely monitor alcohol consumption among patrons.

By allowing festival goers to buy only two drinks at a time and cutting back on late-night hours on several nights, parish officials, who sponsor the festival, hope to keep the event as family-oriented as possible.

Dave Vogel, chairman of this year's Familyfest, said parish officials share the concerns of village officials who want closer vigilance over alcohol consumption.

Among the steps Vogel said festival organizers have taken to address the issue is to send the festival's five bar directors to a village-sponsored workshop on how to handle people who have had too many drinks and recognize when to cut off sales to someone who has reached his limit.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said alcohol consumption is one of several issues the village and St. Joseph's officials have discussed over the past year in

an attempt to better control the large crowds that turn out for the festival.

Other issues the village and festival organizers have discussed include limiting late-night noise and ensuring there is adequate security to deal with any problems that might arise.

Both parties say they are satisfied with security provided by the village's police department and outside security personnel retained by St. Joseph's officials, but that they want to stop people from bringing alcohol into the festival.

With Familyfest set to run from July 3 through July 7, Anderson said he is convinced there will be a stronger emphasis on monitoring alcohol consumption.

But if steps taken by the festival's organizers don't improve the situation, Anderson said the village may have to explore other alternatives for handling alcohol sales.

Anderson said in future years festival organizers may have to consider setting up a designated area to limit where people can consume alcohol. The beer garden, he said, may be needed if steps being taken this year don't curb alcohol-related problems.

# New yard waste pick-up plan set to start on July 1

COUNTRYSIDE 5-10-90

Wheeling residents will have to begin handling their yard waste in a new manner starting July 1 under a program approved Monday by the village board.

As part of a state directive mandating that villages no longer put grass clippings and other similar waste into Illinois landfills, Wheeling's disposal company will begin a separate weekly pick-up of yard waste July 1.

The yard waste removal system, which also includes other special handling rules, will be in effect through November.

Starting next year the program would run from April

through November.

As part of the program, residents will be required to dispose of yard waste in one of two ways: by placing the materials in a rubber or metal container that can be dumped into a truck or by using kraft paper bags available at local hardware stores.

Yard waste dumped into plastic bags, which are not biodegradable, will not be picked up, village officials said.

Along with the yard waste pick-up, Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal will also remove recyclables that are put out on the curb on the same day.

# Towns split over jet fuel tax-hike plan

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees unanimously sought to increase revenues at Palwaukee Municipal Airport by raising the tax on fuel, but Prospect Heights aldermen rejected the plan.

The proposal, which would have raised the fuel tax by 2 cents per gallon and increased revenues by about \$80,000 annually, was stopped by the split vote and will be reviewed by the airport commission. The airport is jointly owned by Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

The plan is one of several that airport officials have considered to increase income at Palwaukee.

More money is needed, airport officials say, to pay for maintenance and safety improvements.

One major project in the airport's \$83.5 million capital improvement program includes relocating the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads to provide a clear zone for aircraft using the main runway.

The airport commission, comprising representatives of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, had recommended the municipalities approve the plan to raise from 6 cents to 8 cents per gallon the fees the fuel provider pays the airport.

George J. Priester Aviation Services now pays the airport about \$240,000 a year for the 4 million

gallons of fuel sold there. A 2-cent increase would raise an additional \$80,000 annually because every penny increases the airport's fee collection by \$40,000, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

The 2-cent increase would be passed on to the fuel buyers, said Charles Priester, president of the aviation service. Jet fuel now is sold for \$1.92 a gallon, while 100-octane fuel is \$2.08 a gallon at Palwaukee.

"I consider that a pass-through tax," Priester said. "It's a charge passed on by the owner. ... You can't maintain a facility and do the things we need to here and still have the cheapest fuel in town."

# Fair to focus on first aid, health

Sun, May 13, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Young Wheeling residents can learn how to administer first aid and hear about other health and safety tips at a first aid and health safety fair on Saturday.

The fair, the first of its kind in Wheeling, was developed by the village's board of health and modeled after a similar health fair for adults that the board has sponsored for the past three years.

"We're hoping this will be the first

of many similar programs in which parents and children can participate and learn about health and safety issues and how to properly react if an accident or incident should occur," said health board Chairman Bruce M. Portnoy.

The lineup of programs includes a cardiopulmonary resuscitation demonstration, a smoke-detector display, first aid for children, how to place an emergency call and an ambulance display that children may tour.

"The health fair will provide valuable information to young people

and parents alike on proper safety practices for small children," village Sanitarian Dan Adams said.

The fair, which is geared to children in kindergarten through sixth grade, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday in two tents outside the Indian Trails Public Library, 355 S. Schoenbeck Road in Wheeling.

Firefighter/paramedics from the Wheeling Fire Department will demonstrate CPR and other safety techniques. Participants may also learn

how to bandage broken bones.

The youth health fair is a spin-off of the adult health fair that includes exhibits and screenings for cataracts, glaucoma, blood pressure, cholesterol and backs. Exhibitors from the health care field also will provide information on substance abuse, AIDS, Alzheimer's Disease, cancer, pediatrics, senior citizen drug misuse and abuse, high blood pressure, back injury and CPR.

The next adult fair is planned for this fall at Lynn Plaza shopping center in Wheeling.

## Property sale set for Saturday

*Country side 5-10-90*  
Bikes of all kinds and a variety of equipment ranging from radios to microwaves will go up for public auction Saturday behind the Wheeling Police Department, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Items will be available for inspection from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, at which time the items will be auctioned to the highest bidder.

In what has become an annual bonanza for bargain hunters, the village and the police department will be selling surplus municipal equipment and unclaimed property that the police department has recovered

over the past year.

Among the items that will be auctioned are: upright vacuum cleaners, a battery charger, a typewriter, a microwave, a camera, a variety of bicycles, perfume, watches, tools, jewelry and more.

"Historically we've had a good turnout depending on the weather. Most people are definitely interested in the bikes. Those are the items that go the fastest," said Barbara Kobishop, crime prevention officer for the Wheeling Police Department.

Funds raised from the property sale will go into the village's general fund.

## Suburbs back coordinated flood control for the region

*Thurs, May 10, 1990*  
By JOHN CARPENTER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Suburban officials are pushing for better coordination of flood control strategy by backing a proposal that would set up planning committees according to flood-prone areas and establish a Cook County stormwater management committee.

Members of the Northwest Municipal Conference noted the appropriateness of the flood-control action Wednesday night as a steady rain fell outside their meeting room at Oakton Community College, just blocks away from the overflowing Des Plaines River.

Saying raging storm waters do not conveniently recognize established political boundaries, members of the conference approved a resolution that will be the foundation for soon-to-be-submitted legislation.

The group represents 40 villages

and townships in suburban Cook and Lake counties.

Under the plan, village government leaders within each watershed area would form a steering committee, establishing flood control guidelines according to each area's needs. Issues such as development, drainage and retention areas would be addressed.

Each of six watershed areas in the county would, in turn, be represented on a countywide committee, also containing one representative each from the Cook County Board, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Council.

"A lot of planning already has been done," said Wheeling village President Sheila Schultz. "But it hasn't always been coordinated."

The steering committees would be strictly advisory; their main function would be to coordinate planning.

## Village slates annual auction of unclaimed, surplus gear

*Thurs, May 10, 1990*  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

If you've been searching all over for that hard-to-find Mother's Day gift, you could find it this weekend at Wheeling's annual auction.

It may not be a Homelite two-cycle self-priming water pump that you had in mind. But, the village will auction a variety of surplus equipment and unclaimed property this weekend.

Each year, the village holds an auction "to get rid of village-owned surplus property that's either worn or old or stuff we don't use anymore and unclaimed things from the police department," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

The auction begins at 10 a.m. Saturday behind the police department at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Buyers may come as early as 9 a.m. to view the items for sale.

Robert W. Fialkowski, assistant village manager/director of finance, will act as the auctioneer, selling all items to the highest bidders.

Although many of the items are bicycles that have gone unclaimed in the police department, other items include a personal computer keyboard, film lens, typewriter, microphone, camera strap, pagers, flashlights, cameras and radar guns.

Some other more practical items include jewelry, a penny collection, and Old Style beer keg tapper, screwdrivers, tape measures, knife set, cologne and several men's and women's watches.

There's also a microwave oven that had been replaced with a new one in the lunchroom of the village hall.

"Some of the stuff is in good shape," Anderson said. "Some of it's not so good. We hope the people are savvy enough to adjust their bids."

Although there is no guarantee on any of the items sold, Anderson said, some people just buy things for parts or to fix up.

"We hope it's good for all concerned," Anderson said. "Sometimes we get people bidding against each other and the price might get higher than you think."

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Wheeling examines crowded village hall

*5-15-90*  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials are considering leasing office space and developing the police department garage into an office area as two ways to relieve overcrowding at the village hall.

Following a tour Monday of the police and community development departments, which are in the village hall complex at 255 W. Dundee Road, trustees said they will look into several ways to relieve the cramped quarters, including leasing office space and moving police vehicles out of the garage.

The village hall has run out of space because of increased growth

in the village over the years, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

As a result, officials have had to increase services and hire more employees, he added.

"I think we're at the point where we're going to grow a little bit, but not a lot more," Anderson said. "We'll gain some more people in population that will place some more demands on us. It's not going to grow enough to warrant major building plans."

Anderson estimates that after the 1990 census is tallied, Wheeling's population of 26,276 will increase to no more than 30,000.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the police department is so cramped that employees share

several offices and sometimes must search around the building to find an area to work.

In fact, the police department will be moving several offices and storage areas around this week to provide additional room for employees.

During budget discussions this year, Haeger had included \$50,000 in the police budget for furniture, work stations and room dividers. But the money was removed from the final budget until officials had a chance to review the needs and come up with specific solutions and costs, Anderson said.

Anderson said village officials will be studying the space crunch and provide solutions later to trustees.

# Tues., May 15, 1990 Army Corps: Balefill won't threaten water

BY JOHN CARPENTER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Would-be builders of a landfill near Bartlett are celebrating a key victory in the see-sawing battle over the project that two weeks ago saw the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency urge its rejection.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has declared the proposed balefill — so-called because garbage would be compacted into bales before it is buried — would not threaten the region's water supplies, as its opponents say it will.

The announcement, which does not constitute approval of the project, was made in a letter to Congress requested by U.S. Rep. J. Dennis Hastert of Yorkville.

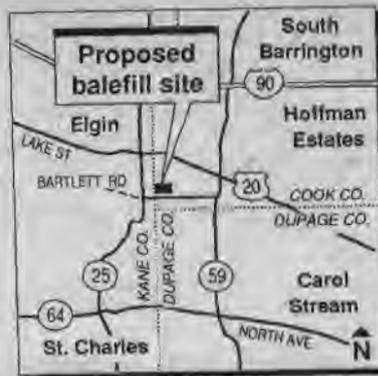
The potential harm to the water supply is one of the major issues in

the fight over location of the facility. And the report by the Army Corps is the latest official hurdle to be cleared by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County in its four-year quest to build the \$55 million balefill on 142 acres of a 410-acre parcel at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in Hanover Township.

Although the EPA had said the project might be dangerous to the water supply, the Army Corps statement said the EPA was consulted before this latest report.

"They agreed with us that there are enough safeguards included that the project could be built with virtually no risk to the water supply," said Army Corps public affairs officer Evelyn R. Schiele.

Schiele said earlier EPA objections were over the original solid waste agency proposal, to which the



Army Corps has added more safeguards against contamination of the Newark Valley Aquifer, a main water supply to the area. Officials at the EPA could not be reached for comment.

The announcement is good news for the solid waste agency, officials there said. But other factors are still being weighed, including the need for the facility, the availability of less damaging alternatives, impacts on wildlife and a nearby nature preserve and opinions from state and federal agencies, said Lt. Col. Jess J. Franco, chief district engineer for the Army Corps.

A public hearing on the balefill will be held at 6:30 p.m., May 29 at Harper College in Palatine. After that, there is no deadline for issuance of the permit from the Army Corps, Schiele said.

"It could be a matter of months or it could be more than a year," she said.

The EPA is the only agency that has veto power over the Army Corps in the issuance of a permit.

# Wheeling gets a head start on centennial

Wed., May 16, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have begun early preparations for the village's 100th birthday in 1994 in order to stage a major celebration.

"I think they'll be creative and open-minded," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said of the trio of residents charged with developing initial plans for the centennial celebration. "That's why we started so early. It'll be here before you know it."

The centennial committee, made

up of Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman, former Village Clerk Janet D'Argo and resident Ginger Goldman, met recently to discuss preliminary ideas for the festival.

Committee members will wait until they meet a few more times before they settle on any specific ideas for the celebration, D'Argo said.

"We just had a very basic meeting," D'Argo said. "We're just kind of feeling our way along."

The group plans to meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the village manager's conference room at village hall, 255 W. Dundee

Road. Later, the committee likely will seek volunteers to help prepare for the celebration in 1994, Hartman said.

"This is going to be an important event," Hartman said. "There's a lot of things to do and think about what we're going to do."

So far, committee members are determining goals and the general direction to take in planning the celebration, as well as researching how other communities have celebrated their 100th year of incorporation, Hartman said.

Committee members may even look back to Wheeling's Diamond Ju-

bilee celebration in 1969 for ideas for the centennial festival. During the 75th anniversary of the village's incorporation, organizers held several celebrations throughout the summer, including a fashion show and parades.

Organizers also held a pageant at Wheeling High School, taking residents through the history of Wheeling as they paraded costumes that were popular throughout the decades.

"A lot of us remember the 75th with very fond memories," Schultz said.

# Police say warm weather could ignite gang trouble

5-17-90

BY JOHN CARPENTER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With warm weather resurrecting the time-honored teen-age tradition of "hanging around" outdoors in the evenings, suburban police say they are gearing up for an expected increase in gang-related violence and vandalism.

Don't look for Chicago-style gangland shootings or for thugs roaming even the quietest of cul-de-sacs.

But do look for the usual graffiti of crude gang symbols and vulgarity. Look for the gang "colors," often worn in the form of athletic apparel. And look for, as happened Sunday night in Arlington Heights when a teen-ager was stabbed at a carnival, allegedly by a rival gang member, more fights to break out.

"We usually get more of our problems with the gang members when it gets warm out," said Rolling Meadows Police Officer Joseph Pistorius. "They're pretty active. They're out and about."

"How often do you see your neighbors over the winter?" asked Des Plaines Police Capt. Robert Sturlini, coordinator of a six-town suburban anti-gang task force. "You don't see them until now. The weather is nice. Everyone is outside more."

"Even gang members don't feel like spray-painting when it's 10 below," Sturlini said.

In the latest suburban gang incident, police said about 20 gang members gathered early Tuesday morning in a dimly lit parking lot in Rolling Meadows, armed with lumber and smaller wooden poles, preparing to find the man charged with stabbing a member of their gang. Revenge, police said, was on their minds.

Although Rolling Meadows be-

longs to the anti-gang task force, which spends much of its time patrolling known gang spots, police were alerted to this case by a woman who spotted the group of men and called looking for a police escort.

The gang fled when police arrived. But 12 of them — nine adults and three juveniles — were arrested. Scheduled to appear in court next month are Francisco Cabrera, 18, and Genaro Cabrera, 17, of the 400 block of St. Mary's Parkway, Buffalo Grove; John Bent, 18, Paul Bent, 18, and Alejandro C. Gomez, 18, of the 1900 block of Edgebrook, Palatine; Jesus Lira, 18, of the 700 block of Rand Road, Palatine; Jose Eduardo Balderas, 19, of the 1700 block of N. Rose St., Palatine; Jaimie Vargas, 17, and Arturo Ortiz, 19, of the 2300 block of Algonquin Parkway, Rolling Meadows. All were charged with mob action, with the juveniles charged with violation of curfew.

The question of revenge has police concerned about further action. But they said they are not bracing for an all-out war.

"It was probably their way of making a point," Pistorius said of the Rolling Meadows group.

"I think we are concerned," Sturlini said. "We're certainly not going to take it lightly. There's always the possibility that it could escalate into retaliation and get out of hand."

Sturlini said the task force, which includes one officer each from Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect and Wheeling, will continue to spend its time trying to track down leads and avoid violence. He said they also work hard to keep a high profile in certain areas.

"We are where they are active," he said. "We try to make our presence known. That's the whole idea."

# Palwaukee pilots oppose fee increase

commissioners plan to raise revenues at Palwaukee to pay for major maintenance and safety improvements included in the airport's ambitious \$83.5 million capital improvement program planned for the next 12 years.

"I think to single out the few commercial operators that are here and increase their fees by 30, 40 or 50 percent, whatever it works out to be, is a bit arbitrary," said Mark Graubart, an aircraft broker at Palwaukee.

Pilots said raising the fees may result in a loss of commercial business for Palwaukee because pilots may move to other airports. Such a move also could reduce fuel and aircraft service sales at the airport, pilots said.

which is expected to generate about \$5,400 a year in additional revenue for Palwaukee. The owners also approved charging commercial operators a \$100 annual permit fee to operate out of the airport. Both moves are effective June 1.

Commission Chairman Robert E. Strauss said the finance committee will discuss PAPA's request at a meeting set for 6:30 p.m. June 20 in the commission room at Hangar No. 1, 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling.

Pilots currently pay \$95 or \$110 a month, depending on where they park their aircraft at the airport, for a tie-down, or parking space.

The increase for commercial operators is one of several ways

Palwaukee Municipal Airport asked airport commissioners Wednesday to rescind a fee increase recently imposed on commercial aircraft parked at the airport.

The monthly \$50 per airplane increase that commissioners approved last month "is very unfair and counter-productive," said Barry L. Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association. "Dramatic increases in fees only serve the competitive airports."

The owners of the airport — Wheeling and Prospect Heights — also have approved the increase,

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

FRI. 5-18-90  
Unappealing sign

I noticed Ed Dzierzynski's letter to the editor in the April 25 edition of the Daily Herald. My reaction to the sign at the Wheeling Animal Hospital was very similar to his.

Unfortunately, the Village of Wheeling has no control over that business signage because the business is located within unincorporated Cook County, and not within the corporate limits of the Village of Wheeling. To the best of my knowledge, Cook County does not have any appearance code and only requires that a permit be obtained to erect a sign.

Craig G. Anderson  
Village Manager  
Wheeling

## Wheeling eyes future space need

With space at a premium in the Wheeling Police Department and other isolated offices in Wheeling Village Hall, village officials are exploring options for addressing the situation.

The possibility of converting garage space behind the police department into offices or finding off-site office space to lease are the two main options being considered by the village board.

"There is still a question on what our future needs will be. We'll grow a little bit (as a village), but not be leaps and bounds," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The village's ultimate staffing needs will have a lot to do with how much additional space may be needed, but Anderson said it is highly unlikely the village would consider building a new facility to house the police department or any other village department.

"We're going to try to continue to better utilize the space we have, which can be done for little or no cost," Anderson said.

At a meeting Monday with village trustees, Anderson was directed to explore what it would cost to convert the garage space that is now used to store police vehicles when they are not on the street and what office costs are in the village.

Without having looked into either option to this point, Anderson said it is difficult to project what costs might be associated with each.

He added that there is no timetable for making a decision on how to address future space needs.

The village late last year received a recommendation from a consultant on how to better utilize available space in the police department.

While Anderson said those recommendations will help improve the situation, the space pinch will get worse when the village follows through on its plans to hire two more commanders in the police department.

# Wheeling hires 6 officers

By MICHAEL U. REICH  
STAFF WRITER

The Village of Wheeling hired six new police officers Tuesday and promoted two officers to sergeant in the beginning of an effort to bring the village police force to full strength.

The village police and fire commission concluded oral examinations Tuesday night before deciding to hire the six officers and promote officers Anthony Cinquegrani and Richard Poppenga to the rank of sergeant, effective June 15.

"I think we have a real good crop of officers," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger. "We're really pleased with their backgrounds and we think they'll be excellent additions to the department."

Cinquegrani and Poppenga

will replace retiring police Sgt. Jack Kimsey and former Sgt. Thomas Staufenbiel, who moved with his wife Elizabeth, who was also a Wheeling police officer, to Colorado.

Haeger said the new officers will enter 10 to 13 weeks of training at the Chicago Police Academy this July and then will undergo another 13 weeks of field training before they will be allowed to go on patrol by themselves.

Despite the approximately seven-month period before the officers are fully-trained and on the street, Haeger and Village President Sheila Shultz said that the department's ability to patrol village streets will not be seriously affected during the training process.

"We have adequate staff that we are able to move per-

sonnel around to plug the gaps," Haeger said. "We don't like to operate without the total number of officers that we can have, but this is not a situation we created."

"No one needs to be concerned," Shultz said. "These things happen. You just have to cover for manpower shortages when you are not at full strength. It's an adjustment any business has to make when they have vacancies. I'm not happy about it, but I want to reassure the residents that there will be no lack of the fine service they have always had."

Candidates for the two open commander positions on the police department will be tested June 22 and 23 and Haeger said he hopes to name two new commanders shortly after the testing dates.

## Fest organizers to scrutinize beer drinking

previous years of the festival. "When we talk about how much beer people consume I don't think it's a family event," Trustee James R. Whittington. "I'm not trying to fight the institution, but you have to be prepared."

Whittington and Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman are hoping that the problems will be monitored more closely this year. However, they said the extra steps the organizers plan to take this year may not be enough to rectify the problems.

have had too much to drink, said Father James F. O'Malley of St. Joseph the Worker.

In addition, security guards will be posted at tent entrances to check for underage drinkers and residents carrying coolers, which are not allowed on the grounds. Also, the number of beer adults may purchase at a time will be limited, although the number has not yet been determined, O'Malley said.

Village trustees have complained about noise, underage drinking, and excessive drinking by adults during

event will feature local restaurant stands, amusement rides and games, children's shows, entertainment and a beer tent.

At the urging of several village officials, organizers plan to monitor festival participants entering and leaving the beer tent, which will be located next to where the main stage will be set up on the rear grounds of the church, 181 W. Dundee Road.

This year, Familyfest beer servers and security guards will meet with village police officers to learn how to handle crowds and residents who

## Laurels and darts

Laurels to Barrington police and public works employees who got down and dirty to save a family of ducklings who fell through a manhole into a sewer last weekend. Community service officer Barbara Northway, responding to a resident's call, saw that the ducklings had plunked, one by one, into the sewer. She and two public works employees spent three hours, fishing the youngsters out of the sewer so they could be returned to their anxious mother.

A dart to Hoffman Estates Park District commissioners for being so slow to reveal their balloting for the commission's president and vice president. At a May 1 meeting, board members cast secret ballots for those offices. Only after officials of the Illinois Attorney General's office indicated that the written ballots violated the state's Open Meetings Act did the park board reveal each member's vote in choosing its top two officers.

Laurels to the Wheeling Board of Health for planning and sponsoring a first aid and health safety fair today from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in two tents outside the Indian Trails Public Library, 355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling. Designed for children from kindergarten through sixth grade, the fair will include a CPR demonstration, a smoke-detector display, first-aid for children and information about placing emergency calls. The youth fair is an extension of adult health fairs conducted periodically in the village. Those fairs feature exhibits and screenings for cataracts, glaucoma, blood pressure and cholesterol.

## Tuesday - May 22, 1990 Cable Council, TCI nearing a new franchise agreement

By JERRY SCHACTER  
and MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council and TCI of Illinois are moving forward on a new franchise agreement and public hearings on the proposal are expected to start next month.

The cable company wants a new agreement to change from a dual cable, 120-channel system, to a single cable, 60-channel system.

Al Giannotti, divisional vice president of TCI, said single cable systems will cost less, result in fewer service problems and allow for stereo broadcasts.

The company also has asked to make the cable guide optional and available for an additional charge, and reduce access channels, studios and staffing.

The cable council, made up of eight municipalities, is asking for increased customer service standards, new construction standards, and provisions to upgrade the system in case 60 channels are not adequate.

The council and TCI will meet June 4 to iron out final details on the proposed agreement and then public

hearings are expected to start soon after in some communities. Although the basic franchise agreement between the company and a village virtually is the same throughout the council, there can be variations to each community's contract.

Northwest suburbs served by TCI include Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

Concerns already are being voiced by some residents and officials about the proposed new agreement.

Wheeling resident Henry Buschke during a recent council meeting protested the request to cut the number of channels and voiced concern about rapidly increasing costs for cable services.

"The consumer is getting nothing in return as far as I can see," Buschke said. "You're being taken and as a result the consumers in the suburbs are being taken."

Council member and Mount Prospect Village Trustee George Van Geem said he would like residents to have a choice between the single or dual cable. But cable company officials said it is not possible to give each resident a choice.



RICHARD BAJALIEH/Pioneer Press

After being named the Wheeling Senior Center's Super Senior for 1990, Nina DiSpigno will be honored at the North Shore Senior Center on May 25.

## 'Super Senior' deals herself new attitude

Pinochle had long been one of Nina DiSpigno's favorite card games, but when fate dealt her a crushing blow four years ago the former New York resident wondered if she'd ever again enjoy life's simple pleasures.

With the death of her husband of 42 years, she spent many a day lamenting her situation. Eventually she decided to move nearer to her only son and his family in the Wheeling area.

Upon arrival, she found time was passing slowly when she remembered one of the last things her husband had told her.

"Two weeks before my husband passed on he told me 'Don't brood over something you can't do anything about,'" she said.

Armed with that sage bit of advice and the recommendation of her son to check out the Wheeling Senior Center, the 73-year-old DiSpigno took a chance and set out to find a good pinochle game.

Now nearly four years after acting on her desire to make friends and get on with her life, DiSpigno has done more than find some people who enjoy playing cards as much as

she does.

She has won the hands and hearts of her peers by being named the center's "Super Senior for 1990."

The title may not carry a lucrative prize with it, but to DiSpigno the award is priceless.

"This center was an oasis in the desert for me," she said. "They couldn't have given me a greater honor."

For someone who found it difficult to enter a place where she didn't know anyone, DiSpigno has come full circle at the senior center.

Today she can be found working as a receptionist, trying to make people who enter the building on First Avenue feel as welcome as she did when she walked through the doors more than three and a half years ago.

"She's a very warm and loving woman," said Barb Hansen, senior center director. "She's always helping people. Like a lot of other people here she's helping people find meaning in their lives."

Whether she accomplishes that with a warm welcome or a good game of pinochle, DiSpigno has found a way to make her new home a happy one.

## Wheeling officials want 2 dead end roads opened

Mon., MAY 21, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials want to open two dead end roads on the west side of town because they say the roads "serve no useful purpose" closed.

Vera Lane and Edward Street run east/west from Elmhurst Road to Briarwood Drive in unincorporated Wheeling Township. Although each street has access from Elmhurst Road, north of Hintz Road, both are barricaded with eight-foot high posts after Russell Road and before Briarwood Drive.

Village officials want to remove the barricades and open the streets west to the Kingsport subdivision, which is located in Wheeling. Because village codes for subdivisions require new roads to connect to existing roads, the roads were linked when the subdivision was built about four years ago.

The barricades were installed during the construction because the township road could not handle the weight of the heavy trucks, Township Highway Commissioner John T. Ayres said. And the barricades were just left there after construction was completed several years ago, he added.

Now, village officials say, the barricades should be removed to open the streets from Elmhurst to Schoenbeck roads.

"They (the barricades) really



Daily Herald Map

serve no useful purpose at this point," Anderson said. "People try to get through them; they throw garbage behind them. But we have to spend money to maintain them."

Village trustees plan to discuss opening the streets at a meeting set for 8 p.m. today in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Residents on the two roads have filed objections with the township against opening the roads because they do not want increased traffic there. Ayres said he is reviewing the objections and will speak with Wheeling officials before making a decision about opening the roads.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense to maintain a road you don't use," Anderson said. "We don't have any other streets around the village that just dead end like that. We have dead ends, but they don't end like that."

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Wheeling trustees may close dead end roads

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two dead end roads on Wheeling's west side likely will be closed permanently, trustees agreed, after more than 100 residents filled the village hall Monday demanding the streets not be opened to through traffic.

The roads, Vera Lane and Edward Street, run east/west from Elmhurst Road to Briarwood Drive through an unincorporated section of Wheeling township and a small strip of Wheeling. Vera Lane runs through to Schoenbeck Road, but both Vera Lane and Edward Street are barricaded with eight-foot high posts to form dead ends before Briarwood Drive.

Township and village officials had considered opening the streets west to Schoenbeck Road through the Kingsport subdivision, which is in Wheeling. Wheeling officials said the dead ends pose dangers to emergency vehicles and the land around the barricades sometimes is used as a garbage dump by residents.

However, about 155 residents from that area signed petitions opposing opening the roads.

"If that road ever gets opened up, it'll be nothing but a race track," said Eugene De Barulio, a Vera Lane resident. "No one in the Wheeling area or the unincorporated side want to see this opened up."

The barricades were installed to prevent heavy trucks from driving on the streets during construction when the Kingsport subdivision was being built about four years ago. Township Highway Commissioner John T. Ayres said. The barricades were not removed after construction was completed because the residents wanted them left up. Ayres added.

Trustees agreed to look into permanently closing the roads and determining what to do with the small sections of land where the barricades stand so that the village no longer would be responsible for maintaining them. Some options include selling the land, leaving it as open space or developing it as a park.

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Wheeling to stay with same auditing firm

For the third consecutive year, Peat, Marwick, Main & Co. will conduct the village's annual review of its books, trustee agreed. The Chicago company will conduct the audit for \$18,500, which is based upon the time spent on the audit, which includes a review of the village's financial statements and

the annual budget.

Pavement cracks to be filled

Some pavement cracks in Wheeling will be filled this summer as trustees unanimously agreed to hire an Elgin company for the project. Behm Pavement Maintenance, which was the lowest bidder, will fill the cracks for \$1.03 per pound of

sealant used. The company also worked on the village's annual crack sealing program last year.

Police alarm monitoring system to be upgraded

The Wheeling Police Department will upgrade its alarm monitoring system in the communications center.

Trustees approved an agreement with Wells Fargo Alarm Services of Elmhurst to expand the security alarm panel and install a computer to list the number of alarms the department receives over a given period and the reason for the alarms.

Because the department still is under a maintenance agreement with Wells Fargo, there will be no cost for the upgrade, Deputy Chief Michael Hermes stated in a proposal.

Commuter plan would put commercial developers on track

Wed., May 23, 1990

By JOHN CARPENTER Daily Herald Staff Writer

Creating what some might call McMetra stations — railroad depots stocked with convenience stores, dry cleaners, doughnut shops and fast-food restaurants — could be the ticket for suburban officials looking to lure a commuter rail line through their towns, one mayor says. Under the plan, commercial developers would be asked to help pay for the stations, which could cost anywhere from \$1.8 million to \$7.2 million each, said Buffalo Grove Vil-

lage President Verna L. Clayton, whose town would be one of the stops on the Des Plaines-to-Libertyville line.

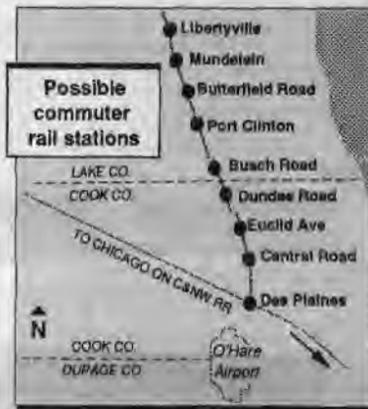
In return, the developers could set up shop inside, offering convenient shopping and other services to commuters, Clayton said.

"I see this as being a little mini-shopping mall for commuters," said Clayton. "We could have a coffee shop, a newsstand, dry cleaners, a photo developing store."

A commuter line is being considered along freight tracks owned by the Wisconsin Central Railroad, for-

merly the Soo Line. The tracks run from Des Plaines through Mount Prospect, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Mundelein and Libertyville.

Metra officials estimate the line would attract more than 3,000 daily riders, allowing them at least to break even from fares collected. But \$42 million in start-up costs — including buying coach cars and six new \$2 million locomotives, as well as building new stations — would



See METRA on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

make the line too expensive, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said.

Meanwhile, Nortran, the North and Northwest suburban bus line, now is working to put together a package in which municipalities would help pay for the stations. Each town now is coming up with its own depot plans in preparation for beginning talks with Metra, said Nortran's Mark Fowler.

Clayton, who said she thinks Buffalo Grove would be willing to come up with some money in return for a commuter line that would make life easier for residents and ease traffic congestion on suburban streets, said involvement by commercial developers could put the project over the fiscal hump.

"I don't think it would be a hard sell," she said of getting her village board to help finance the station. "But it will be costly. Obviously, we would like some help from commercial developers."

The idea is not unprecedented, said Lyle Gomm, Metra's community development director. An aging Metra station in Geneva was torn down and rebuilt by a developer, who then put five stores in the depot. The developer footed the entire bill, Gomm said.

"It's the kind of thing we're suggesting for any starting project," Gomm said, "anything that will reduce the costs for Metra."

Talks with Metra over funding the stations are expected to begin this summer, Fowler said.

Wheeling trustees OKs Goodwill program

Wed. May 23, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN Daily Herald Staff Writer

"We're very happy that it has been so successful," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "For a new program, you're never quite sure. I've never heard of any problems with the collection."

Under the program, Goodwill trucks follow trucks from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, the village's trash and recyclable hauler, on the first week of each month.

The trash haulers pick up recyclables, including newspapers, glass, aluminum, tin and, in July, plastics. Goodwill drivers follow the trash haulers, collecting reusable items such as old clothes, accessories, toys, kick-knacks and small working appliances. Goodwill sells the tax deductible

items in the non-profit agency's chain of retail stores in Chicago. Money generated from the sales is used for vocational training programs for the disadvantaged.

Over the past six months, Goodwill collected 52,000 pounds of reusable items, or about 3 percent of the charity's average half-year collection, which is about 1.75 million pounds. Of the 52,000 pounds, 44,700 pounds of reusable items were in good enough condition to sell. The sale of those items has generated about \$22,360 for Goodwill over the past six months.

"To me, that's great," McMahon said of the collection. "To have the quality come in that Goodwill can use, good grief, I'm tickled to death."

Wheeling trustees have agreed to continue an innovative curbside collection program for recyclable and reusable goods for at least another year.

The program, representing a merger between Waste Management of North America, Inc. and Goodwill Industries of Chicago, was believed to be the first of its kind in the nation when the six-month pilot started in Wheeling last December. Based on its success in Wheeling, the program is extending to other communities and other charities, said Robert P. McMahon, Goodwill's vice president of operations.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling cop misses promotion, files suit

5-26-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 17-year Wheeling police officer claims he was passed over for a promotion to sergeant because he is a "close friend" of Richard Imber, a 10-year department veteran who was fired last year on gambling charges.

Officer Robert L. MacDonald has filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court against the village's fire and police commission, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and two Wheeling police officers — Anthony Cinquegrani and Richard Poppenga.

MacDonald claims he was first on the department's eligibility list for sergeant when former Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel resigned last month. Staufenbiel, who successfully fought charges last year that he showed disrespect for the village by unending the Wheeling

flag, said he quit out of frustration with the department.

Commissioners agreed last week to promote Cinquegrani, who was second on the eligibility list, to fill the sergeant's post effective June 15. Commissioners voted to promote Poppenga, who was seventh on the eligibility list, to replace retiring Sgt. Jack Kimsey.

MacDonald received a letter from commissioners May 16 stating he had been removed from the eligibility list. The letter gave no explanation for the move, the lawsuit charges.

Haeger, the village's fire and police commissioners and Stanley Jakala, MacDonald's attorney, refused to comment on the lawsuit. In his lawsuit, MacDonald charges there was no cause for commissioners to abandon a "long-standing custom and practice" of promoting officers in the order in

which their names appear on the eligibility list. During his tenure on the department, MacDonald has never been suspended, has only one written reprimand and received an "excellent" performance evaluation last year, according to the lawsuit.

Last spring, MacDonald testified in a disciplinary hearing for Richard R. Imber, who was later fired by fire and police commissioners on gambling and battery charges. MacDonald claims commissioners removed him from the eligibility list for sergeant because of his testimony for and his friendship with Imber.

The lawsuit charges MacDonald's First Amendment right to free speech has been violated. He is seeking a judicial review of the commission's proceedings, a reversal of commissioners' decision and a promotion to sergeant before the June 15 effective date.

Saturday, May 26, 1990  
**Memorial Day dedicated to 2 in Wheeling**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Memorial Day festivities in Wheeling will hit close to home this year as AMVETS members dedicate the day to the memory of two former veterans who recently died.

Members of the Phillip Carpenter Post No. 66 AMVETS will conduct services at area cemeteries for David Mohr, 47, who was killed March 16 in a car accident in Wheeling, and for Ronald Scharringhausen of Des Plaines, who suffered a fatal heart attack just before Christmas last year.

Both veterans were members of the Wheeling AMVETS and had served as leaders, Mohr as commander and Scharringhausen as junior vice commander.

AMVETS members will begin the



festivities at 6 a.m. Monday with a memorial service for fallen soldiers at the Wheeling Cemetery on Dundee Road, just east of Milwaukee Avenue. The next stop, which is new this year for the Wheeling AMVETS, will

be the North Northfield Cemetery in Northbrook for a service for Mohr.

Following that service, veterans will hold a second service for Scharringhausen at Ridgewood Cemetery in Des Plaines. And the last stop will be the annual visit to Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights.

Members will meet for breakfast at Doris' Tree Top Inn, 962 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling before lining up for the Memorial Day Parade in the parking lot at K mart, on the northeast corner of Dundee and Elmhurst roads.

The parade, which will feature about 15 units, will include the AMVETS Color Guard, Wheeling High School band and R.O.T.C., local senior citizens and the 8th Army Cavalry, will march along Elmhurst Road and end at the AMVETS hall, 700 Old McHenry Road. Marchers will

hand out 500 flags remembering those missing in action.

"The theme that we're going to push this year is our flag," AMVETS member Gus Migliore said. "We strongly believe that what's going on (the flag burning controversy) is wrong and we're miffed at it."

After the parade, members will surround the 50-ton tank, which sits in front of the AMVETS hall and was used in the Korean War in 1952. The AMVETS received the tank, which was the fifth vehicle in the 24th Infantry, 6th Battalion, Company C in Korea, last year from Anniston, Ala., after waiting three years for it. Members will decorate it with a wreath and flags representing the United States, Illinois, MIA, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and deceased veterans.

Daily Herald - 5-24-90  
**Approve balefill plans**

During the past decade, 28 communities in northern Illinois, including 13 in my district, have been working diligently to craft a responsible solution to their solid waste disposal needs.

These communities have undertaken an extensive program of recycling and composting to limit their

volume of solid waste. But even the most aggressive source reduction program cannot forestall the inevitable need for more landfill capacity, and these communities have joined together to propose a new balefill in Cook County.

The design standards for the proposed balefill exceed those of any current site, and the Illinois Geological Survey has concluded that the project does not threaten important nearby groundwater resources. Further, the proposed mitigation plan will offset any adverse environmental impact from initial re-development of the site, protecting wildlife habitats and the natural landscape.

The communities' proposal has already been reviewed by several agencies, including the Cook County Zoning Board and the Illinois EPA, each of which granted its approval. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon hold a final public hearing, capping a long and extensive series of community meetings. A recent assertion by the USEPA that the need for additional landfill capacity has not been demonstrated is clearly in error. The large landfill site in Glenview, which has been used by many of these communities for the past 20 years, is almost at capacity and must close next year.

States and communities across the nation are having to come to grips with a solid waste crisis. We must do everything we can to reduce and recycle. But until we achieve an ultimate solution, we must deal responsibly with the waste we produce. The U.S. Army Corps should approve the proposed balefill, a sound and environmentally sensitive project which meets that responsibility.

John Porter  
 Member of Congress  
 Washington, D.C.

**Wheeling residents fear chemical recycler**

Tues May 29, 1990  
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Wheeling residents fear that soil and ground water may be contaminated if a chemical recycling company builds a storage center on the east side of town.

Residents' misgivings about Safety-Kleen Corp. were fueled by recent reports that the chemical recycler was fined \$405,000 for numerous violations of California's hazardous-waste control laws.

Wheeling residents are concerned about potential explosions, fires, leaks, odors, traffic and other violations like those that occurred in California.

"If it has happened before and it's fairly consistent, it can happen

again, and it can happen here," said Robert Brower, owner of the Circle M Day Camp, which is adjacent to the proposed storage site. The site is located on 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road near Glenn Avenue.

As part of a settlement with the California Attorney General's Office, Safety-Kleen of Elgin, the world's largest recycler of degreasing solvents, agreed to pay \$405,000 in penalties.

The company also agreed to pay at least \$320,000 for educational programs offered to small businesses in California.

The violations, which included the release of industrial solvents into the air, ground water and soil

at Safety-Kleen's Oakland center, occurred between 1984 and 1989 at eight of the company's California centers, California Health Director Kenneth W. Kizer said.

But Safety-Kleen representatives say most of the violations in California occurred in 1984, before the company instituted "intensive" safety precautions.

"Since that time the company has engaged in a fairly intensive environmental management program, not only in California but throughout the nation," said Scott Fore, vice president of environmental health and safety.

"We won't be seeing any of those (violations) repeated at the Wheeling facility," Fore said.



GEOFF SCHEERER/Pioneer Press

Countrywide 5-24-90  
**Taking root**

Mark Stachura, Scott Mulligan and Chris Noie dig in Tuesday while working on a flower bed in front of Wheeling Village Hall.

The warmer weather provided a sunny backdrop for the afternoon of digging.

# Balefill gets a final public hearing

Wed., MAY, 30, 1990

BY ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hundreds of public officials and residents for and against a proposed landfill near Bartlett came out Tuesday in what may be the last public forum on the project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' public hearing at Harper College in Palatine was the culmination of 4½ years of work on both sides, 21 hearings and three stages of county, state and federal approval.

The Army Corps hearing on the proposal of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, known as SWANCC, precedes the federal agency's permit review for the landfill.

SWANCC, which represents 28 North and Northwest suburban communities, has proposed that the balefill, so called because trash would be compacted into balefills before burial, be built on 142 acres of a 410-acre site at Gifford and West Bartlett roads. The Army Corps permit would be the last approval the project needs.

Area residents spoke against the project late Tuesday night. Some in the audience were wearing "Bale-Busters" T-shirts and buttons.

Proponents of the project defended the need for the landfill as well as the precautions included in the proposal to protect water supply and reduce the impact on wildlife on the site. Opponents, however, charged that the site was ill-chosen and represents threats to wildlife and water supply to nearby communities.

Mayors that fall on both sides of the issue presented testimony. Bartlett Village President John Stark, who has been a vocal opponent of the plan, repeated charges that the Bartlett site was chosen first and other possible sites were eliminated subsequently without an overall site selection plan.

Bartlett Trustee Marge Postiak added: "Bartlett is the furthest distance they (SWANCC) can ship their garbage without creating a civil war with Kane County." The audience applauded in support.

A decision could be made in as little as 30 days or it could take months, Lt. Col. Jess J. Franco Jr.,



Palatine Village President Rita Mullins reaffirms her support for the balefill project and reads a letter from U.S. Rep. Phillip Crane at the public hearing Tuesday night at Harper College in Palatine.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

the Chicago district engineer, said. The Army Corps may deny the proposal or issue a permit as requested or issue a permit with special conditions, Franco said.

Franco will make the final decision for the Army Corps based upon the purpose and need for the project, available alternatives and its effect on water quality and fish and wildlife.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who also is chairman of SWANCC, said time is running out for the balefill project.

The balefill is needed to provide a very basic municipal service to a very large number of people, she said.

The communities of SWANCC, representing about 800,000 people in the suburbs, have instituted recycling programs that are reducing the amount of material disposed of in landfills.

"The need for long-term disposal capacity for one-half of the waste still remains," Schulz said. State Representative James Kirkland.

## The balefill's principal players

■ **At issue:** Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's proposal to build a 142-acre landfill. The \$55 million landfill would accept garbage compacted into bales from 28 North and Northwest suburbs.

■ **Who supports it:** Cook County Board and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency have endorsed SWANCC's plan.

■ **Who's against it:** The U.S. EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service see a threat to wildlife. The Village of Bartlett and area residents also are concerned about traffic and ground water protection.

■ **What's next:** The balefill needs the approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will close public comment June 19.

Source: Daily Herald news reports



Daily Herald Graphic

## Each side claims victory in balefill debate

5-31-90 (THURS)

BY ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Still groggy from a nine-hour public hearing, the two sides fighting over a proposed landfill near Bartlett each claimed Wednesday to have gained an edge in the emotional debate.

The hearing, conducted by the

Army Corps of Engineers at a Harper College gymnasium, began with about 500 people at 6:30 p.m. and concluded at about 3:45 a.m., testing the endurance of supporters and opponents.

The balefill support was significant, said William Abolt, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook

County, which is proposing the high-tech landfill. While he was heartened by the support from municipal officials representing many of the 26 communities that would use the balefill, the lack of new arguments by balefill opponents bodes well for the project, he said.

"The real surprise of last night's hearing was that there were no new surprises," he said.

But balefill opponents say that evidence they introduced at Tuesday's hearing raised serious questions about the project's safety in the minds of those who can give the final approval needed for the project. SWANCC's plans call for building a 142-acre landfill at Gifford and West Bartlett roads, but the project has been stalled for more than four years.

"We accomplished all the goals we established for last night," said Bartlett Village President John A. Stark, who has fought the plan from the begin-

## BALEFILL: Army engineers listen to 9 hours of testimony

Continued from Page 1

ning. Stark and several trustees as well as five paid consultants were among the scores who testified against the balefill plan, citing threats to the water supply and wildlife and failure of SWANCC to do an adequate site selection procedure.

But the hearing tested the staying power of ordinary citizens who had to stick it out until after 11 p.m. when they finally were given the floor. Some grumbled Tuesday night about how they were not given the chance to speak until after spokesmen for U.S. and state representatives, then mayors and other municipal representatives and their paid consultants testified.

"It did not help us that we had to wait so long, but the heart of the group stayed," said Mary Byrne, president of the Citizens Against the

Balefill, a group that has worked actively against the project. "It didn't help us because one of the things in a public hearing is that it is not just to address the public officials running the hearing but (also) to address the public," Byrne said.

"The Citizens Against the Balefill are on the bottom of the pecking order," she said.

Some people lost patience during the comment period by municipal officials and left, she said. By early morning, only about 100 people remained. Fewer than 50 people were on hand at 3:45 a.m. when a question-and-answer period came to a close.

A decision could be made in as few as 30 days or it could take months, Lt. Col. Jess J. Franco Jr., the Chicago district engineer, said. The Army Corps may deny the proposal or issue a permit as requested or issue a permit with special conditions, Franco said.



Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz speaks on the balefill proposal Tuesday before a packed house at Harper College.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

See BALEFILL on Page 4

Daily Herald - 5-31-90 (THURSDAY)  
**New officers fill Wheeling police ranks**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department may have a full staff of patrol officers and sergeants by July, provided six new officers pass their final set of pre-employment tests.

The six officers, who were chosen recently by village fire and police commissioners to take a battery of medical and stress tests, would fill one newly-created position and five department vacancies. The officers would bring to 52 the number of sworn police officers on Wheeling's force.

The new officer candidates are Jeffrey Wieder, 26 and Ernest Ray, 36, both of Wheeling; Kath-

leen Shaughnessy, 23, of Park Forest; Richard Benbow, 24, of Palatine; Joseph Licari, 21, of River Grove; and Joseph Schaff, 22, of Streamwood. The officers would make \$28,473 a year.

Wieder and Ray are community service officers in Wheeling. Their pronouncements to police officers would create two CSO vacancies. CSOs, who are non-sworn members of the police department, assist officers in incidents such as those involving litter, animal and traffic violations.

If they successfully complete the medical and stress tests, the officers may be sworn in in July and begin a 10-week training session at the Chicago Police Academy.

One of the officers would fill a new position included in this year's police budget. Another would replace an officer who will be promoted to replace Sgt. Jack Kinsey, who will retire next month after 32 years with the department.

Four other new officers would fill vacancies created by resignations. In March, officer Michael Korzenowski quit after only eight months and five-year officer Gregory Swiderek resigned to accept a job with the Chicago Police Department. Last month, Sgt. Michael J. Schaubel, who successfully fended off a demotion attempt by Police Chief Michael F. Haeger last year, resigned along with his wife, Elizabeth, a four-year Wheeling officer.

# Two sides clash on balefill plan

The debate on the proposed Bartlett balefill is in its last stages, and the rhetoric is heating up.

By ARNOLD GRAHL  
 STAFF WRITER

In less peaceful societies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' hearing on the Bartlett balefill might have erupted into a civil war.

Packed into a huge Harper College gymnasium, several hundred advocates and opponents traded verbal shots Tuesday night in a showdown over the controversial landfill that proposes to bring pre-bundled garbage to 150 acres of an abandoned strip mine in far northwest Cook County.

Dozens of national and state politicians, citizens, and local elected officials from the areas around the proposed balefill said emphatically they do not want an environmental sword of Damocles hanging over their heads.

But an almost equal number of politicians and local officials from the 26 northwest and north suburbs seeking the balefill countered they are fac-

ing an acute and imminent garbage crisis. They'll be left floating waste deep in refuse without the project, they said.

## The 'judge'

In the middle of the clash of viewpoints sat Lt. Col. Jess Franco, district engineer of the Army Corps, with his staff. He's the man who will render a decision on the project in the coming weeks.

"I just wonder what you will balance my great great grandson's birth defects with if this landfill fails," said opponent Thomas Rolando, village president of South Elgin.

"All the well-heeled communities of the North Shore have decided that Bartlett is the furthest distance they can ship this garbage without starting a civil war with Kane County," added a Bartlett village trustee. "But they have chosen the wrong place to shovel out of their responsibility."

"Time is running out," argued Sheila Schultz, village president of Wheeling and chairman of the consortium of towns backing the project. "If we don't start soon, we face a

(Continued on page 103)

real possibility of running out of landfill space. It is needed to provide a very basic municipal service to a very large number of people."

The Army Corps is the last agency that must review the balefill project. The balefill backers need a permit from the corps because of the effect on wildlife and the existence of water pockets on the old strip mine.

The \$60 million balefill would handle garbage from 26 towns in north and northwest Cook County, including Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

It has already received approval from the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Both the Army Corps and the state geological survey have ruled the site safe for a landfill.

But opponents fear the balefill will leak into the nearby Newark Valley Aquifer that supplies water to at least 8,000 area residents. The balefill would sit on top of a layer of bedrock saturated with groundwater that flows into the aquifer.

Two plastic liners and a 30 foot layer of clay would separate the bedrock from the balefill, which would actually sit below water level. Bedrock and groundwater monitoring wells would be placed on either side to detect leaks.

The U.S. EPA, which advises the Corps, has offered a different opinion on the project, warning that a failure in engineering could spell disaster.

In their assault on the project Tuesday, the opponents echoed the U.S. EPA's concerns.

"The unbelievable poor geology of this site does not get better with age," said Congressman Dennis Hastert (R-14), whose district includes Bartlett and Elgin, in a letter read by an aide. "Quite frankly, it is time for common sense to prevail and not the nitpicking of million dollar lawyers."

The critics also contended the balefill will destroy the habitat of several blue heron, veery and Cooper's hawk breeding pairs. They also lashed out at the solid waste agency for setting site criteria that ruled out other areas they believe more suitable.

Bartlett village trustees suggested that the project's six 24-acre cells could have been divided into separate 40 acre projects. The balefill backers ruled out sites smaller than 200 acres in their search.

"Everyone in this room knows this site was chosen for political reasons," said Hastert, whose comments were embellished by four state lawmakers from the region — Sens. Doris Karpel (R-25) and John Friedland (R-33), and

Reps. Don Hensel (R-50) and James Kirkland (R-66).

But Congressman John Porter (R-10), whose district includes many of the towns seeking the balefill, joined advocates in contending that the facility is needed to avert an impending garbage disaster.

"Despite continuing population growth, no new landfill has been built in many years," Porter said in a letter read by an aide.

Advocates argued that the balefill has been flawlessly engineered, and has undergone more review, study, and hearings than any other landfill ever designed. Some went as far as to claim the site will be left in better shape after the balefill closes because of an extensive plan to recreate native wetlands and prairie.

"The site is currently in a state of disarray, the vegetation highly disturbed," said Donald Hey, an hydrologist employed by the solid waste agency. "It would take substantial alteration of the existing topography to become worth anything."

Franco said the public record will remain open until June 19, so residents may still write the corps with additional testimony. He did not indicate when the corps will make its decision.

Daily Herald  
**Job hunt for 2 commanders narrows**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A field of 65 applicants for two new commander positions on the Wheeling Police Department has been narrowed to about 40 candidates, including three officers from Wheeling's force.

The commanders, exempt from a rank, would provide additional supervision for department sergeants and supervise the department when the police chief and deputy chiefs are off duty, typically on nights and weekends.

Under the exempt rank, village trustees oversee the commanders, who will be hired by Village Manager Craig Anderson with recommendations from Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke and Assistant Village Manager David Kowal. Starting annual pay for the commanders will be \$45,079.

This set of candidates is the second the village has received for the positions. Village officials rejected the first set of 150 applicants in March because officials were dissatisfied with test results for the commanders. Eight of those applicants, including two from the Wheeling Police Department, went through a testing process for commanders, called an assessment center, which is conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Arlington, Va.

The village spent \$15,212 to advertise the positions and to pay the candidates' expenses. Trustees later agreed to spend \$8,000 more to test new candidates in another assessment center, which is set for June 22 and 23.

The list of 40 candidates will be narrowed down to a smaller list. That group will then participate in the testing, Haeger said. Within three weeks after the testing process, village officials likely will hire the two commanders, he added.

"This is a good group of candidates," Haeger said. "We're pleased with the candidates we've been dealing with so far. Hopefully we'll get two commanders from the selection."

# Wheeling Twp. assessments up 27%

COUNTRYSIDE

By DENISE G. CALLAHAN  
STAFF WRITER

5-31-90

The Cook County Assessor's office has cautioned Wheeling Township residents to assess their own situations and not make any assumptions on the township average increase of 27 percent in assessed property value.

The township-wide property assessment average was released Friday along with other township averages throughout the county.

David Druker, spokesman for Assessor Thomas C. Hynes' office, said that people should not look at the averages to assess their own property value increases.

"Someone shouldn't feel bad if their increase is above the average because it is done on an individual basis," he said. "Likewise, if some-

one had an increase of 30 percent he should not assume it is correct just because the average was 45.5 percent."

The large increase in Wheeling Township's assessed valuation is due largely to new residential development that occurred primarily in the northern and central portions of the township since the 1985 reassessment, said Dolores Stephan, township assessor.

And while to the casual observer much of the property in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove that lies within the township appears to be already developed, Stephan said isolated pockets of development in areas like Dundee Road have helped the local tax base swell in value.

Stephan said a building report detailing the value of commercial, residential and

## Selected Cook County assessments

Township	Total Assessment	% Increase
Barrington	\$187,702,147	+45.5%
Elk Grove	\$1,161,164,934	+18.3%
Palatine	\$786,384,994	+27.7%
Schaumburg	\$1,162,988,919	+22.9%
Wheeling	\$1,151,542,716	+27.0%

Source: Cook County Assessor

other development in the township between March of 1988 and March of 1989 showed there was more than \$152 million in construction.

"I see we've experienced a lot of growth in the last five years, greater than just the appreciation (in value) of individual homes," Stephan said.

Druker also said that although the increase appears large, the interven-

ing years cannot be overlooked.

"We're talking about having no reassessment in four years, five years in some cases because we redid the boundaries," he said. "When you think about it that way, it's 10 percent per year."

The highest assessment increase occurred in New Trier Township, with a 45.7 percent average increase. Druker said the heftier increases

are due largely to the expensive properties and smaller communities.

"Because we're dealing with expensive properties and smaller communities, you're going to see a jump like that."

The end result of the property value increases, however, will depend on how the individual taxing districts have set their tax levies.

The appeal process has been completed in the majority of the townships, and Druker said the last hope of the taxpayers for lower tax bills would be if the local taxing districts were to decide to bring back their budgets for review and decide to abate taxes. That deadline is June 1.

That scenario is out of the question in Community Consolidated District 21, which

(Continued on page 16)

## WEEK IN REVIEW

# Wheeling police may

Sunday, June 3, 1990

## add more officers

The Wheeling police department may have a full staff of patrol officers and sergeants by July, provided six new officers pass their final set of pre-employment tests. The six officers, who were chosen recently by village fire and police commissioners, would fill one newly created position and five department vacancies. The candidates are Jeffrey Wieder, 26, and Earnest Ray, 36, both of Wheeling; Kathleen Shaughnessy, 23, of Park Forest; Richard Benbow, 24, of Palatine; Joseph Licari, 21, of River Grove; and Joseph Schaff, 22, of Streamwood.

earlier this year adopted a 7.76 percent tax levy increase over the previous year. Much of that increase the district sought will go to stabilize education fund balances following the successful passage of a tax hike referendum.

Dan Cash, director of finance for District 21, said the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 who saw a 27 percent gain in his equalized assessed valuation this year could expect about a \$100 increase in the District 21 portion of his tax bill.

Cash said his estimate was based on the assumption the state multiplier would remain the same.

Cash also estimated the district's tax rate would drop about 40 cent per \$100 assessed valuation due to the sizable gains in the district's overall property values.

The Illinois Department of Revenue announced Tuesday that the new multiplier for Cook County is, in fact, a hair lower than last year's due to hefty property value reassessments in the northern two tiers of townships in the county.

Ronald Hagaman, Manager of the Assessment Administration Division, said the tentative 1989 multiplier is 1.9133, down from the 1988

multiplier of 1.9266.

The final number will be determined after the board of appeals has made its determination on all taxpayer assessment disputes.

According to Hagaman, the multiplier has risen a little in each of the past three years.

"It's probably more significant that it didn't go up," he said.

The multiplier is determined by looking at what percentage the assessments make up of the sales prices.

"We look at the sales of properties and the assessments and compare the two," he said. "That number for Cook County was supposed to be 33.33 percent (assessments of the sales prices); instead it was 17.42 percent of the market value assessment."

The multiplier is used to equalize assessments to one-third of a property's market value.

The increases in property values in High School District 214 were "just slightly higher than what I projected," said Jack Swanson, the district's assistant superintendent for finance, who added that the district's property tax level will reflect no increase over the previous year.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Sidewalk construction contract to be awarded

Sun, 6-3-90

Wheeling trustees Monday are expected to award a \$110,000 bid for construction on the village's deteriorating streets.

During the second year of Wheeling's sidewalk replacement program, village officials plan to reconstruct 50,000 square feet of public sidewalks this summer. For liability purposes, village officials plan to replace all sidewalks in the village within the next three years that may pose a hazard to pedestrians.

This year, deteriorating sidewalks east of Elmhurst Road will be re-

placed from the end of June until about the end of September. Construction on sidewalks in the Dunhurst subdivision will begin on the north end and continue to the south sidewalks.

Robert D. Gray, Jr., director of operations and maintenance, recommends trustees award a contract to Illinois Construction Co., Inc., in Addison. The Addison company, which quoted \$2.20 per square foot, or \$110,000 for the total project, submitted the lowest estimate of six other companies that bid on the

project.

The highest bid of \$2.98 per square foot or \$149,000 total, was submitted by Kings-Point Gen-Cement in Addison.

Trustees approved spending \$150,000 in this year's budget for the sidewalk replacement program. Residents living near sidewalks to be replaced will not be asked to contribute to the cost, Gray said.

Because the bids came in lower than expected, more sidewalks may be included in the program, Gray said. Next year, village officials plan

to replace deteriorating sidewalks west of Elmhurst Road.

## The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board

Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

When: 8 p.m. Monday

# Hepatitis just one concern for inspectors

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
Trying to prevent an outbreak of hepatitis like the one that occurred earlier this month in Northfield is just one of the jobs of local health inspectors.

5-31-90  
By MICHAEL ULREICH  
STAFF WRITER

When 34 people came down with Hepatitis A infections after reportedly eating at a Dominick's salad bar earlier this month, many people may have wondered what local health departments do to prevent a similar occurrence of "food-borne" infections in their areas.

The truth, local officials say, is that there is little any agency can do to stop the spread of a disease like hepatitis once an infected person comes in contact with a public food source like a salad bar.

Health inspectors in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling regularly inspect facilities where food is handled, from grocery stores to restaurants and outside food vendors.

Besides conducting inspections to make sure a facility that handles food does so in a clean and safe manner, the village health inspectors also instruct facility operators in the correct manner of handling and keeping perishable foods.

## Not police

"We're not there to police the place," said Buffalo Grove Health Inspector Brian Sheehan. "We're there to help and educate management so they can police their own operations. We just tell them where there are situations which could be problematical so that they can work out a procedure to correct the situation."

The inspectors check that all food is stored properly, that the machines that spray water on sitting vegetables aren't dirty, and that the food has no insect or rodent damage and is refrigerated properly.

But there is nothing inspectors can do to prevent a store employee with hepatitis from handling food products nor is there anything they can do to prevent a similarly infectious person from sneezing on a salad bar, Sheehan said.

The situation came up earlier this month when some 34 cases of hepatitis A were reported by people who allegedly used the salad bar at a Dominick's Food Store in Northfield.

Sheehan said although Dominick's destroyed the suspect salad bar, and replaced its employees at the Northfield store until they could undergo a physical examination, it could have been a customer who sneezed on the salad bar that started the store's involvement with infectious hepatitis.

## Salad bars

"The problem is that a salad bar is open to the public," Sheehan said. "It could have been transmitted by anyone. Salad bars have always been problematical because you have open food."

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said store employees should let their employers know when they're sick and then stay home, but he said even that wouldn't work if the employee doesn't know he or she is infected.

"It's next to impossible to guarantee that something like that won't happen," Anderson said. "You can't pass an ordinance to stop it. You try your best to remind the stores to take precautions but anyone can come in and bring something with them."

Sheehan inspects village grocery stores four times a year for such major violations as spoiled food, proper sanitation, clean water sources and safe sewage and waste water disposal.

Anderson said Wheeling's sanitarian and health officer, Donald Adams, inspects restaurants and food stores in Wheeling at least once a year.

Stores inspected in Buffalo Grove are given scores with violations weighed as to their seriousness. For example, improperly storing toxic items would give a

store minus five points while not properly storing food utensils would only penalize the store with one point.

Sheehan said stores can be closed for major violations or are given a maximum of 24 hours to correct serious problems. Stores with minor violations are given approximately two weeks to make corrections, Sheehan said.

The most likely items to carry food-borne poisons like toxic bacteria are meats and poultry and dairy products, Sheehan said.

"These items by and of themselves can cause someone to become ill," he said, especially if they are kept between a temperature of 40 degrees and 140 degrees, temperatures in which toxic bacteria thrives, he said.

## Sanitation rules

State law requires that at least one person in every food-serving facility pass a food sanitation course which includes instruction on the proper way to store perishable foods. Sheehan also recommends that one person on every shift complete the course.

"It does take millions of these organisms to make someone sick," Sheehan said. "The problem is it doesn't take long to produce millions of bacteria organisms."

Vegetables aren't usually considered foods on which bacteria prefers to grow, Sheehan said. But because a salad bar is open to the public, he said infections brought in by customers can be easily transmitted to the food.

Sheehan said the village gets few complaints of food-poisoning. The main reason for that, he said, is because a lot of people that become ill don't realize where they picked up the suspect bacteria.

Some forms of bacteria, Sheehan said, don't reveal themselves for seven to 10 days after they are ingested and by that time the source could have been anything, he said.

# Daily Herald CAC to meet on police force goals

Sun., June 3, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A citizen's committee might meet one more time before its members list goals for the Wheeling Police Department.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger established the Citizen's Advisory Committee several months ago to help determine the department's goals and objectives for the next decade.

Patterned after similar committees in Florida and Massachusetts,

the group was formed to fill a requirement in order for the department to become nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

The commission, which is the only association in the country that accredits police agencies, is composed of representatives from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs Association and the Police Executive Research

Forum.

"The overall purpose was for the citizen's committee to look at the community's needs where police are involved," Haeger said. "I think sometimes citizens are overlooked when it comes to the goals of the police department."

Although 64 residents expressed interest in joining the group, 34 residents have met in two separate meetings. Haeger would not disclose the topics discussed because he wants future discussions by other groups to remain objective.

Haeger said he will either request that the citizen's committee meet one more time or ask the members to fill out a survey listing the suggestions discussed during the meetings.

After that, Haeger will form an advisory committee of village police officers, who will participate in a similar process as the citizen's group. Suggestions from both groups will be combined and assessed to develop a list of priorities for the department, Haeger said.

# Wheeling set for summer sidewalk work

Wed. June 5, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Construction on deteriorated Wheeling sidewalks is expected to begin later this month, after village trustees awarded a \$110,000 contract Monday to an Addison construction company.

As part of the village's sidewalk replacement program, 50,000 square feet of public sidewalks will be replaced.

In its second year, the program this summer calls for replacing sidewalks east of Elmhurst Road, including those in the Dunhurst subdivision. Construction in the housing development will begin on the north end and continue to the south sidewalks.

Trustees unanimously approved hiring Illinois Construction Co. Inc. of Addison to replace the sidewalks, which have deteriorated over the years faster than the village could repair them, said Robert D. Gray Jr., the village's director of operations and maintenance. Gray said some of the sidewalks pose a liability problem for the village.

"There's a need to replace them because they're a trip hazard," Gray said. "Hopefully, we can reduce the amount of defective sidewalks so our own people could take care of them."

Illinois Construction, which submitted the lowest estimate of six other companies that bid on the project, quoted the cost at \$2.20

per square foot, or \$110,000 for the total job. The highest bid of \$2.98 per square foot was submitted by Kings-Point Gen-Cement of Addison.

Because the bid was lower than the \$150,000 that trustees had approved spending earlier this year on the program, village officials say an additional 18,000 square feet of sidewalks may be replaced this year.

Next year's program includes sidewalks west of Elmhurst Road. Gray said the program may be completed in the next three years.

Village officials also plan to study whether a temporary asphalt sidewalk may be constructed along Strong Avenue between Wolf Road and Northgate Parkway.

# Daily Herald-Wed. June 6, 1990 WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

## Trustees approve plans for preschool

The owners of a Buffalo Grove preschool want to open a similar center in Wheeling.

Wheeling trustees unanimously approved plans for L & L Bright Beginnings Pre-School, Inc. to build a center on the southwest corner of Wolf Road and Mayer Avenue.

The owners, Lea Kaluzna and Lorna Sonen, plan to operate the preschool in two sessions, with about 96 children ranging in age from 2½ to 5 years old in each session.

The building plans call for a single-story center with an entrance off Mayer Avenue and a fence along the west side and half of the south side of the property.

## Subway shop to open in Lexington Plaza

Subway Sandwich and Salads will open another restaurant in Wheeling.

Trustees agreed to allow Subway Sandwich to use its standard logo type-style with a yellow and white color combination for a new restau-

rant in the Lexington Commons Plaza, located at 1041 Lake-Cook Road.

"As a franchise, I bought it because it was an identifying name, like the golden arches," said owner Richard M. Otte.

Otte expects that traffic along Lake-Cook Road, the residents in the Lexington Commons subdivision and employees from the nearby industrial park to generate a good deal of business for his restaurant.

The restaurant sign will be similar to the one for the Subway Sandwich shop at the northwest corner of Dun-dee and Wolf roads.

## Discount card store gets sign of approval

Village trustees unanimously approved the identifying sign for a new discount greeting card and party shop in the Creekside Plaza Shopping center, located at the southeast corner of Elmhurst and Old McHenry roads.

The Card and Party Outlet store will feature greeting cards at half price, party favors, T-shirts and balloons, owner Jim Mika said. Mika plans to open the store in about two weeks.

# O'Grady solicits support for anti-gang unit

Wed. June 6, 1990

By MADELEINE DOUBEK  
Daily Herald Political Writer

Cook County Sheriff James E. O'Grady took his own turf war over a suburban gang task force to the streets of Prospect Heights Tuesday, launching a petition drive to convince Democrats to support funding for the unit.

Standing before an apartment building wall covered with graffiti in Prospect Heights, O'Grady said he

would call on suburban residents "from Evanston to Elgin, from Chicago Heights to Arlington Heights... to send a message to (Cook County Board President) George Dunne to start a gang crime and narcotics unit."

By assigning current sheriff's police additional duties, O'Grady said his task force already has identified 30 gangs and 300 gang members in the suburbs.

"Chicago street gangs operate in

the suburbs because that's where the money is," the Republican sheriff said. "The best way to curtail the gang and drug problem is to nip it in the bud."

For 3½ years, O'Grady, who is up for re-election this November, has been trying unsuccessfully to win approval for \$1.7 million for a 30-member gang unit from Dunne and the Democratic-controlled county board.

Dunne said Tuesday he would be

unimpressed by any signatures.

And he and all parties involved charged their opponents with using the gang crimes unit as ammunition in an ongoing political rumble.

"I don't want to get into any pre-election squabbles with any of these candidates," said Dunne, who is not seeking re-election. "This is all triggered and motivated by an election campaign."

But O'Grady and county Commissioner Carl Hansen, a Mount Prospect Republican, accused Dunne of holding the gang task force hostage to prevent O'Grady from receiving any re-election accolades.

"A political quotient was injected into it," Hansen said, charging the county-coordinated gang crime task force was rejected by Democrats because of "the fear that the sheriff may get some credit for a job well done."

O'Grady or his opponent, Democratic Chicago Alderman Michael Sheahan, may have better luck getting funding from the county board next year after a new board president takes control. Both the Democratic and Republican candidates, Richard Phelan and Aldo DeAngelis, are suburban residents who have expressed sympathy with growing suburban concerns over gangs.

Following Tuesday's press conference, an unidentified woman who resides in the run-down complex on Prospect Heights' west side said, "It's scary. I wish I could move."

But residents like her who fear gangs in their neighborhoods now may become the new victims in this continuing political turf war.



With graffiti on a Prospect Heights apartment as a backdrop, Des Plaines Mayor Michael Albrecht, flanked by Sheriff James E. O'Grady and county Commissioner Carl Hansen and other suburban leaders, announces plans to collect petitions in support of a gang task force. Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

See GANGS on Page 1

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Wheeling hits low in work injuries

HERALD 6-8-90  
The village of Wheeling has been awarded the "Best Work Injury Accident Record - Administration Department," by members of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA). Members were asked by IRMA, their Risk Management pool, to submit data on the number of worker injuries and vehicle accidents incurred during 1989 as well as total hours worked and miles driven.

Continued from Page 1

"You don't want politics to get in the way of the problem of gangs," O'Grady said. Gang activity "sends out a message of incivility."

O'Grady said he has assigned officers from his existing vice, intelligence and strategic response teams to work on "gang suppression."

But Dunne and Sheila Schultz, the Wheeling village president and a Democratic candidate for county board, suggested O'Grady should reassign more officers to patrol the streets to work on the suburban gang problem.

"To say now, after 3½ years, that you're trying to show public support is ludicrous," Schultz said after attending the conference for O'Grady. "It's just not enough to sit back and say, 'Gee, I had a wonderful plan, but the Democrats voted against it.'"

But Des Plaines Mayor Michael Albrecht, a former police detective, said reassigning sheriff's police officers was not the answer.

"If it takes them out of one area, it

just creates more of a problem somewhere else," he said, noting residents of unincorporated Maine Township have been demanding more police patrols in their neighborhoods. "Reassignment would just be a Band-aid approach."

Still, Schultz said O'Grady should come up with a more agreeable plan.

"Certainly this is a non-partisan enough issue that if it were presented in the proper way, it would be approved," Schultz said. "The suburbs don't look at the gang question in a partisan way."

# Airport fuel tax hike support sought

Thurs. June 7, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners may request Prospect Heights aldermen to support raising the tax on fuel sold at the airport.

Last month, Prospect Heights aldermen rejected the Wheeling commissioners' recommendation to increase the fuel tax by 2 cents per gallon. Although Wheeling trustees had approved the increase, which would generate an additional \$80,000 a year, the issue was nullified with-

out the support of Prospect Heights. The city and Wheeling jointly own the airport.

The increase is needed, airport officials say, to help pay for maintenance and an \$83.5 million capital improvements program planned for the airport over the next 12 years. Commissioners have been studying ways to increase sources of income at the airport in order to pay for the projects included in the program.

The airport commission's finance and administration committee recently agreed to recommend that

aldermen reconsider their rejection of the fuel tax increase.

"I think now that the commission has fully explored all of the alternatives and that this is a decent way to earn a little more money," said committee Chairman Carey L. Chickerno, who also is a Prospect Heights alderman. "From all aspects, it's the one that's going to raise the most revenue, short-term."

Chickerno said aldermen probably rejected the original recommendation to raise the tax because they wanted to make sure that that was a

viable way to increase revenues.

George J. Priester Aviation Services now pays the airport 6 cents per gallon, or \$240,000 a year, for about 4 million gallons of fuel pumped each year at Palwaukee. Airport officials expect to collect an additional \$80,000 a year with the two-cent increase.

The increase would be passed on to fuel buyers, Priester President Charles Priester has said. Jet fuel now is sold at Palwaukee for \$1.92 a gallon while 100-octane fuel costs \$2.08 a gallon.

# County board candidates spar over taxes

Thurs. June 7, 1990

BY LAURA JANOTA  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The finger-pointing began Wednesday between Democrats and Republicans over who really is to blame for Cook County's escalating property taxes.

Democratic Cook County Board President candidate Richard Phelan and suburban Democrats running for county board say Republicans in Springfield, Washington and Cook County are the culprits.

While they "whine" about property tax increases, the seven-member Republican suburban minority on the Cook County Board have let Republican Gov. James Thompson in Springfield and former President Ronald Reagan and President Bush in Washington cut back on state and federal funding the county needs, the Democrats said.

"State and federal cuts have come

from the Republicans," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, a suburban Democratic county board candidate.

She said the state should give the county larger reimbursements for Medicaid patients at county hospital, should live up to its mandate to operate the county court system and should restore levels of federal community block grants and revenue sharing for local governments.

"By living with those cuts and not protesting," Schultz said of Republican county commissioners, "it has pushed the rise in property taxes."

Republican County Commissioner Richard A. Siebel of Northbrook called that line of argument "ludicrous."

"It's true we're not receiving equal treatment, but for that you have to blame the Democratic majority in Springfield and the (Democratic) president of the county

board," Siebel said.

Siebel also blamed the Democratic majority on the county board, all from the city of Chicago, for approving hefty real estate tax increases.

"Obviously Dick Phelan can't count," added Republican Cook County Board President Candidate Aldo Deangelis. "Someone needs to remind him that the Cook County Board is controlled by 10 Democrats."

Phelan, who refused to criticize city Democratic commissioners, said if he and six other suburban Democrats are elected to the county board in November it will be the first time suburban residents have a true voice in government.

"This is going to be a lean mean machine. We're going to be responsive and we're going to be sensitive. We're not going to preside over raising real estate taxes," he said.

Phelan and suburban Democratic county commissioner candidates are

proposing:

■ The county lobby in both Washington and Springfield for state and federal funds.

■ The county work closely with other urban counties in the state to increase local funding.

■ A battle be waged in Springfield to increase Medicaid reimbursements for the medically indigent.

■ A county grants office coordinate efforts to get state and federal funds.

■ A study be done to learn how much responsibility the state should bear in paying for operation of the county's court system.

Siebel said many of those things, including a county grant office and lobbying in Springfield, already are being done by the county.

"It demonstrates that Phelan and his people don't understand what's going on at the county board," Siebel said.

Thursday June 7, 1990

## Palwaukee hikes airplane parking fee

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Commercial operators at Palwaukee Municipal Airport will pay an additional monthly charge to park their airplanes at the field, despite pilots' request that airport officials rescind the fee.

Last month, representatives from Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association requested that airport commissioners reconsider their decision in April to charge commercial operators an additional \$50 per month as a tie-down fee. The airport's finance and administration committee recently reviewed the request and agreed with commissioners to initiate the charge, now called a commercial

license fee.

The airport owners, Wheeling and Prospect Heights, also have approved the new fee, which will be implemented July 1, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

Commercial operators, which include aircraft sales people or flight instructors, also pay a \$100 annual commercial operators' permit fee to operate out of Palwaukee.

Now the operators will be charged the additional \$50 for each tie-down, or parking space, they use at the airport.

With about 10 commercial operators at Palwaukee, airport officials expect to collect an addi-

tional \$6,000 a year from the fee, Zonsius said.

"We're not happy with it," PAPA President Barry L. Axelrod said, "because we just think it'll chase business away and not raise much money."

Airport commissioners have been studying ways to increase revenues at the airport in order to pay for maintenance and major safety improvements planned for Palwaukee over the next 12 years.

Airport officials expect the airport's fund balance of \$900,000 to be reduced to \$453,600 by April 30, 1991, and be deleted by 1992 without additional revenue.

One of the first projects is the relocation of the Wolf/Hintz intersection.

## Arbor Court melee sparks concern

By MICHAEL ULREICH  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE  
Tension between residents of the Arbor Court Apartments blossomed into a near riot Memorial Day weekend when two groups engaged in a dispute which village officials say could get worse.

The sight of 30 to 40 residents and their guests throwing bottles and fighting on May 27 was just the latest indication that trouble is brewing at the apartment complex, 100 Arbor Court.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said his police officers have been instructed to pay close attention to the situation at Arbor Court since the Memorial Day fracas and other incidents which have been reported there in the past, but he said the department can't make the response it would like without a social worker and more police officers who spoke Spanish.

Residents of the apartment complex interviewed

last week, who declined to give their names, said the Memorial Day incident began when a car squealed its tires in the parking lot near where a group of children were playing.

Someone said something to the driver, they said, about slowing down and he returned with a group of associates who began to throw bottles and fight with the group of residents who had berated the driver.

No injuries were reported after Wheeling police arrived to disperse the group around 7:30 p.m. No arrests were made, police said, after the combatants dispersed into nearby apartment buildings.

Some of the residents interviewed last week said they felt the complex was a safe place for their families to live in. Others had a different viewpoint.

"I feel like the way they talk about the city, or about how unsafe it is to live in the city," said one woman. "Well I'd feel safer living in the city than bunched up in

here."

Jill Pomo, who manages the apartment complex with

6  
It was an isolated problem that we think we have solved because the individuals who were involved don't live on the property anymore. It won't happen again.

Jill Pomo  
Apartment manager  
her husband Robert for Arbor Associates of Chicago,

said the firm has already taken action to curb further incidents by evicting two residents she believes started the problem, or who have caused problems in the past. She said friends of the two residents who were evicted have also caused problems in the past.

Arbor Court residents have been informed, she said, that they will be held responsible for the actions of their guests.

Pomo said she believed the Memorial Day incident was an isolated incident that should never happen again.

"The problem we had here was mostly the friends of this one person," Pomo said. "It was an isolated problem that we think we have solved because the individuals who were involved don't live on the property anymore. It won't happen again."

"We hope it's an isolated incident," Haeger said.

Pomo said that she and her husband, who live on the grounds, regularly

patrol the property with their German shepherd.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said the village would work with local community groups and the schools in an attempt to bring more understanding between the two populations at Arbor Courts.

"My only comment is that it's always unfortunate

6  
The village will work with local groups to bring understanding to the 2 populations at Arbor Courts.

to have neighbor disputes, and those are not uncommon," Schultz said. "We just hope everything is resolved in an amicable fashion. If there is a danger to the residents, especially to the children, then that has to be addressed."

## Do the right thing

<sup>6-7-90</sup>  
<sup>COUNTRYSTAR</sup>  
**T**he incidents unfolding in the Arbor Court Apartments in Wheeling should be of concern to every village resident.

The dispute stems from Memorial Day, when two groups of people engaged in bottle-throwing and fighting at the Arbor Court Apartments on Dundee Road. While there were no arrests, and apparently no injuries as a result of the violence, this seems more a matter of luck than anything.

In apartment complexes, condominiums and townhomes, even single-family home subdivisions, tensions and disagreements between neighbors are virtually unavoidable — privacy is always at a premium.

But we are left with few choices. In a culturally and racially diversified world, and in our crowded suburban lifestyles, we cannot allow differences between a few individuals to interfere with peaceable coexistence.

Of particular concern, as well, are the children in this incident. Not only is their very welfare threatened by violent confrontation, but perhaps even more important is the fact that they will learn by the actions of their parents.

While the managers of the apartment complex are justified in evicting the trouble-makers, this solution will probably not be enough. The village and its police department should continue their vigilance in the matter, and should not hesitate to take a more active role should problems there escalate.

Sensitivity to minority population needs is a charge for public officials in Wheeling and, for that matter, in any suburban town, as the character of the suburbs changes from a homogeneous texture to an ethnic tapestry. In a village which has a significant Hispanic population, and, in fact, a wide and rich mixture of differing cultures, the presence of a social worker who speaks Spanish is of the essence. Village officials should give immediate consideration to hiring such an individual, who might then act as arbitrator in future situations, should they develop.

It is clear that, if left unchecked, such confrontations as these may lead to tragic conclusions. Active response can enhance the quality of life for all the town's residents.

In a culturally and racially diversified world, we cannot allow differences between a few individuals to interfere with peaceable coexistence

## Senior center names Commission awardee

<sup>6-10-90</sup>  
<sup>HERALD</sup>  
Congratulations to Gladys (Rocky) Rusek, winner of this year's Commission Award for outstanding service to the Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling. "I don't think she's ever said 'no' to anything," says Maureen Dabeck of the Pavilion. "Nine times out of 10, you don't even have to ask her."

Gladys heads a stretch class for seniors, a craft group, works in the Sew For Others group and organized last year's Annual Bazaar. She also does other volunteer activities as needed.

Another senior in the news is Al Sneed, who recently started a "pride group" at the Pavilion. Al leads a group of seniors who stroll the grounds of the senior complex, getting exercise and picking up litter. The group meets at 8:45 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Pavilion, 199 N. First St. in Wheeling. Armed with plastic bags for litter collection, walkers clean up and then come back to the center for coffee and sweet rolls later.

Any persons age 55 and older who are interested in joining the group, call 459-2670.

### Omni award

Wheeling police officer Bill Stutzman was honored recently by receiving the 1990 Omni Youth Services' Dr. Richard E. Wynn Memorial Service to Youth Award. This award recognizes community members who display similar goals and values as those of Omni's founding president, Wynn, who died last April. Wynn was a pioneer in the development of community support for drug awareness, intervention and mental health programming for youth and families in Wheeling Township.

Stutzman has been a member of the Wheeling Police Department for 11 years and has served as a juvenile officer for three years. He is involved in the First Offenders Project designed to keep youth out of the Juvenile Court system, the Snowball/



Lisa Schab  
Wheeling

Snowflake drug awareness program, and was instrumental in the initiation of the area Gang Task Force involving seven Cook County police agencies.

Bill is described as "trusted, fair, respectful and respected" and was honored for his outstanding ability to make a positive impact on the lives of youth.

Congratulations to Bill for a dedication which will benefit us all.

### Food drive

Canned vegetables, canned tuna, canned soups, fruits and noodles are examples of non-perishable food items which are being accepted by the Youth Chavurot of Congregation Beth Am of Wheeling in their ongoing food drive. Collected items will be donated to The Ark and The Wheeling Food Pantry. Diapers, toiletries and paper goods are also sorely needed and accepted.

Non-perishable food donations may be brought to Congregation Beth Am, 850 Jenkins Court in Wheeling. For further information, call 459-1677.

### Camp-out

Dads and sons are invited to join the Wheeling Park District Father-Son Camp-out to begin at 6 p.m. Saturday and run until 9:30 a.m. June 17 at Childrely Park, 506 McHenry Road in Wheeling.

Pudgy pies, s'mores and roasted hot dogs will fill the stomachs and fun will fill the night of old-fashioned camping. This event is open to boys entering kindergarten through sixth grade next fall and their fathers.

For more information, call Heritage Park at 537-2222.

## Cable accord won't head off rate boost

<sup>Chicago TRIBUNE</sup>  
<sup>6-12-90</sup>  
By David Ibatá

Negotiators for eight northwest suburbs reached a tentative agreement Monday on revisions to their cable television franchise, but not soon enough to head off a July 1 rate increase of nearly 18 percent.

TCI of Illinois Inc. had threatened to boost monthly rates for basic cable service to \$19.95 a month from \$16.95 if the Northwest Municipal Cable Council refused to let TCI cut its offerings to 60 channels from 120.

An agreement that spells out customer service standards in exchange for the reduced programming was reached Monday, but there's little time left for the eight council communities to hold public hearings and formally vote on the franchise amendments before TCI's deadline.

Even if some towns manage to act by July 1, TCI representatives told the council Monday that their July billing cycle would be well under way by then, and rates could not be rolled back until August at the earliest.

TCI serves 58,000 subscribers, roughly 45 percent of the households in Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mt. Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

Mark C. Masciola, chairman of the cable council and its Hanover Park representative, described the

TCI amendments as "a fair agreement to both sides," but said, "I still think they [TCI] should have at least considered a 30-day extension on their rate increase."

Once a municipality approves the amendments, TCI would roll back its rate for basic cable service to \$17.45, or 3 percent more than the current rate, to reflect the lesser cost of operating a single-cable system compared with the present two-cable arrangement.

However, customers would have to pay 50 cents extra to continue receiving the monthly viewers guides they now get for free. (TCI also announced last week, to the cable council's surprise, that it would start charging \$20 for every unnecessary service call as of July 1.)

Additionally, 13 channels would be dropped from TCI's present 73 channels of programming, according to Carole Stannard, executive director of the cable council.

If the council communities end up with the same lineup as Schaumburg and Streamwood—TCI towns that previously converted to 60-channel systems—the system would lose the Black Entertainment Network, the Galavision Spanish-language network, radar weather, two channels carrying O'Hare International Airport arrival and departure listings, and eight public access channels, Stannard said.

# Wheeling plans repair of sewer manholes

6-13-90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents are being asked to be patient while workers repair more than 1,800 manholes this month in an effort to prevent sanitary sewers from overloading.

The rehabilitation — which ranges from reconstructing the manholes to simply replacing frames and covers — begins this month. Some of the work will be done on easements adjacent to houses and village officials are asking residents to remain patient during the construction.

"We just want people to realize that this'll be happening," said Scott Shirley, the village's assistant director of operations and maintenance. "I don't think the noise will be significant. There may be some noise or work being done in someone's backyard."

Wheeling is exceeding the sewage flow standards set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, where the village's sewage is discharged.

When water other than domestic waste overloads sanitary sewers, it results in sewer backups and added

costs for upgrading the sanitary treatment plant.

A seven-month study conducted by RJN Environmental Associates Inc. of Wheaton found that 76 percent of houses and businesses in Wheeling are causing the village's sanitary sewers to overload. However, the rest of the overload is caused by deficiencies in village manholes and sewers.

The village expects the manhole repairs to be completed by July 1. Private sewage line rehabilitation must be completed by July 1991.

Village officials estimate the cost

of repairing the manholes at about \$1.4 million. Wheeling is eligible for a 70 percent reimbursement for the design and construction from Build Illinois grants to comply with the federal Clean Water Act.

Residents will be required to repair their systems if the village deems it cost efficient.

Village trustees have hired Kim Construction Company of Steger, Ill., to construct the manholes. Supervising the construction will be RJN, which trustees have hired for \$138,728 to also inspect additional manholes and prepare plans and specifications for the rehabilitation.

# Towns' crews clean up mess left by storm

Fri. 6/15/90  
By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The aftermath of Wednesday's torrential thunderstorms will be visible in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove for at least two more days, as crews continue to work overtime cleaning up the debris scattered by the storm.

In Wheeling, where the storm wreaked havoc along a one-mile strip on Dundee Road, extra crews were brought in to assist in the clean-up efforts. Aside from the extra public works crews, the village has hired two professional tree services to help with the job, and one worker from Elk Grove Village also is chipping in, said Robert D. Gray, Jr., director of operations and maintenance.

"Wheeling is a mess north of Dundee (Road) and south of Dundee, in each direction," Gray said. "A lot of trees were uprooted, trees fell on houses and power is still out in some places."

The damage resulted from a series of thunderstorms that swept through a narrow corridor in northern Cook and southern Lake counties Wednesday afternoon. As many as 14,000 houses and businesses were left without electricity for much of Wednesday afternoon.

As part of the clean-up effort, Wheeling crews are taking three wood chippers through the storm-stricken neighborhoods and chopping up the fallen trees and larger branches, Gray said. That process alone could take two to three days, but the work won't end there.

Once trees have been removed from the streets, street sweepers must go through town clearing the roads of any leaves which may get



Fred McGowan mulls the power of the Wednesday storms which uprooted a tree in front of his home at 749 Linda Terrace in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

caught in storm sewers, Gray said.

The scene in Buffalo Grove is pretty similar.

Although most of the debris has been cleared from streets, numerous trees and branches still line the parkways in portions of the village. The Cambridge subdivision, located on the southeastern part of town off of Dundee Road, was the hardest hit, said Raymond Rigsby, superintendent

of public works.

Village crews likely will spend two to three days chipping trees and limbs in that subdivision alone, Rigsby said. Meanwhile, the sweepers will cover other areas of the village as well.

"Anytime you have a heavy windstorm, you have to run the sweepers to pick up the debris," he said. "It is just a routine thing that we do."

For some village employees, the mess meant postponing vacations, Gray said. In order to handle the workload, the department needed every worker who wasn't sick or out of town. As a result, some vacations were canceled, he said.

Whereas a normal work crew would consist of about 10 people, Gray said about 28 people will be out cleaning the area all day Friday and most of the day Saturday.

# Cleanup begins after storm ravages suburbs

Fri. 6/15/90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Northwest suburban residents spent most of Thursday restoring their yards and houses that were trashed by the violent windstorm that swept through the area Wednesday afternoon, uprooting trees and littering the streets with debris.

Tree branches snapped like toothpicks during the 20-minute storm Wednesday that left several houses and cars damaged by fallen branch-

es. As many as 14,000 houses and businesses were without power for most of the afternoon following the windstorm, leaving many residents questioning whether it was a tornado that blew through town.

"It came in like a tornado," said Helen Zarras, of St. Armand Lane, Wheeling, where leaves, branches and other debris covered the streets and lawns. "There was no wind. It was terrible. I never saw anything like it. My kids started crying."

The storms, which began near

Rockford and moved quickly toward Lake Michigan, caused the most damage in Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Lake Zurich, Palatine and Wheeling.

Weather forecasters said several tornadoes were reported in the Peoria area, and lightning sparked a fire in Elmhurst. But one of the hardest hit towns was Wheeling, where one person was injured when glass blew out the windows of an apartment in the Arbor Court complex.

# Vicious thunderstorms bolt through several suburbs

By DAVE MCKINNEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Jesus Henao didn't know what hit him inside his Wheeling auto repair shop when he was lifted into the air Wednesday by a burst of wind and moments later saw part of his business "explode" before his eyes.

"The wind picked up and threw me into the air, so I grabbed onto some electrical pipes and just held on," said the owner of Jessie's Auto Repair at 516 N. Milwaukee Ave. "My building just blew up. High pressure, I guess, just blew the roof up and the walls out."

Henao wasn't injured, nor was anyone else. But 60-mph winds from a freak series of thunderstorms Wednesday left his business in ruins and several customers' cars and vans buried beneath bricks and rubble.

"I don't even know how I'm standing up," he said. "I'm still shaking."

He is one of hundreds with stories to tell after a vigorous round of lightning-thick storms swept through the area Wednesday, causing torrential rains, marble-size hail and fierce winds.

The storms, which didn't result in any serious injuries, traveled along a narrow corridor in northern Cook and southern Lake counties. As many as 14,000 houses and businesses were left without electricity for much of Wednesday afternoon.

The storms began near Rockford and rushed toward Lake Michigan on

his car.

"You always hear the safest place to be is in your car because it's grounded, which isn't necessarily

an almost due-east track. Communities hardest hit included Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Lake Zurich, Palatine and Wheeling.

"Some described this like a hurricane because of the combination of wind and rain," National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Purpura said. "And some areas had almost constant cloud-to-ground lightning strikes."

Rainfall amounts ranged from nearly 2 inches at far Northwest suburban Marengo to nothing at O'Hare International Airport. At Barrington, about 1½ inches fell.

The storms occurred as cool air generated by overnight storms in Wisconsin and Iowa created a "small cool front" that collided with the hot, humid air over Chicago's suburbs, he said.

The potential for more serious storms lasted through Wednesday night. Thunderstorms are again predicted for today.

Where Wednesday's storms hit, the results were frightening, if not life-threatening. About 20 cars outside the K mart store at 780 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling had windows broken out by the hail, and wind toppled a recycling truck in the store's parking lot. Inside, nearly 100 shoppers huddled at the back of the store, waiting for the storm to pass.

The wind also played havoc with Commonwealth Edison power lines. Eleven suburbs, ComEd spokesman Jose Andrade said, were without power for more than two hours, cre-

ating headaches, especially for police departments.

ating headaches, especially for police departments.

"There are a lot of alarms going off and we're going crazy around here," said Buffalo Grove police Sgt. Steve Balinski from his darkened police department office.

But perhaps the most compelling story in the aftermath of Wednesday's storm belongs to Dave Parsons, an advertising representative for the Daily Herald. As he drove along Rand Road near Kildeer in Lake County, his car was hit by lightning.

He was on his way to visit a client in Lake Zurich when the bolt hit his '87 Ford Taurus. It then bounced from his car to a nearby electrical transformer, knocking out the stoplight at the Rand Road/Quentin Road intersection.

"I saw a really sick, green-blue light, but I didn't feel anything," said the 27-year-old McHenry resident.

While he didn't feel the electricity, it moved his car four feet and off Rand Road, killed the vehicle's electrical system and rearranged dirt on the car's surface, following the route traveled by the lightning bolt.

"I wasn't scared when it happened," he said, "but about a half minute later when I realized what had happened, it scared the hell out of me."

The instant the lightning hit, his car died — later to be revived with a new battery. Remarkably, the lightning didn't even leave a scratch on

Also contributing to this report were Daily Herald staff writers Jim Allen, Amy Carr, Trish Lichtenstein and Keri Wyatt.



Leroy Brown, of Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Co., looks at the overturned trailer he was working in Wednesday in Wheeling when gusty winds hit.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierrri

## Surprise storm stuns suburbs

Blown-off rooftops, uprooted trees and frazzled nerves all were the components of a series of surprise storms that hit the suburbs Wednesday afternoon. Marble-sized hail fell along

with torrential rains in a narrow corridor in northern Cook County and southern Lake County.

Winds clocked at 60 mph blew down power lines.

And in one freak instance, a

man's car was struck by lightning as he was driving at Route 12 and Quentin Road near Kildeer.

For details of the effects of the storm, see Page 4.

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6-13-90  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
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Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

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Northwest suburban residents spent most of Thursday restoring their yards and houses that were trashed by the violent windstorm that swept through the area Wednesday afternoon, uprooting trees and littering the streets with debris.

Tree branches snapped like toothpicks during the 20-minute storm Wednesday that left several houses and cars damaged by fallen branch-

es. As many as 14,000 houses and businesses were without power for most of the afternoon following the windstorm, leaving many residents questioning whether it was a tornado that blew through town.

"It came in like a tornado," said Helen Zarras, of St. Armand Lane, Wheeling, where leaves, branches and other debris covered the streets and lawns. "There was high winds. It was terrible. I never saw anything like it. My kids started crying."

The storms, which began near

Rockford and moved quickly toward Lake Michigan, caused the most damage in Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Lake Zurich, Palatine and Wheeling.

Weather forecasters said several tornadoes were reported in the Peoria area, and lightning sparked a fire in Elmhurst. But one of the hardest hit towns was Wheeling, where one person was injured when glass blew out the windows of an apartment in the Arbor Court complex.

# Vicious thunderstorms bolt through several suburbs

By DAVE MCKINNEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Jesus Henao didn't know what hit him inside his Wheeling auto repair shop when he was lifted into the air Wednesday by a burst of wind and moments later saw part of his business "explode" before his eyes.

"The wind picked up and threw me into the air, so I grabbed onto some electrical pipes and just held on," said the owner of Jessie's Auto Repair at 516 N. Milwaukee Ave. "My building just blew up. High pressure, I guess, just blew the roof up and the walls out."

Henao wasn't injured, nor was anyone else. But 60-mph winds from a freak series of thunderstorms Wednesday left his business in ruins and several customers' cars and vans buried beneath bricks and rubble.

"I don't even know how I'm standing up," he said. "I'm still shaking."

He is one of hundreds with stories to tell after a vigorous round of lightning-thick storms swept through the area Wednesday, causing torrential rains, marble-size hail and fierce winds.

The storms, which didn't result in any serious injuries, traveled along a narrow corridor in northern Cook and southern Lake counties. As many as 14,000 houses and businesses were left without electricity for much of Wednesday afternoon.

The storms began near Rockford and rushed toward Lake Michigan on his car.

"You always hear the safest place to be is in your car because it's grounded, which isn't necessarily

an almost due-east track. Communities hardest hit included Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Lake Zurich, Palatine and Wheeling.

"Some described this like a hurricane because of the combination of wind and rain," National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Purpura said. "And some areas had almost constant cloud-to-ground lightning strikes."

Rainfall amounts ranged from nearly 2 inches at far Northwest suburban Marengo to nothing at O'Hare International Airport. At Barrington, about 1 1/2 inches fell.

The storms occurred as cool air generated by overnight storms in Wisconsin and Iowa created a "small cool front" that collided with the hot, humid air over Chicago's suburbs, he said.

The potential for more serious storms lasted through Wednesday night. Thunderstorms are again predicted for today.

Where Wednesday's storms hit, the results were frightening, if not life-threatening. About 20 cars outside the K mart store at 780 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling had windows broken out by the hail, and wind toppled a recycling truck in the store's parking lot. Inside, nearly 100 shoppers huddled at the back of the store, waiting for the storm to pass.

The wind also played havoc with Commonwealth Edison power lines. Eleven suburbs, ComEd spokesman Jose Andrade said, were without power for more than two hours, cre-

ture," he said. "I have a feeling I'll be thinking about this when I go to bed (Wednesday night). I know I'm going to hug my child."

ating headaches, especially for police departments.

"There are a lot of alarms going off and we're going crazy around here," said Buffalo Grove police Sgt. Steve Balinski from his darkened police department office.

But perhaps the most compelling story in the aftermath of Wednesday's storm belongs to Dave Parsons, an advertising representative for the Daily Herald. As he drove along Rand Road near Kildeer in Lake County, his car was hit by lightning.

He was on his way to visit a client in Lake Zurich when the bolt hit his '87 Ford Taurus. It then bounced from his car to a nearby electrical transformer, knocking out the stoplight at the Rand Road/Quentin Road intersection.

"I saw a really sick, green-blue light, but I didn't feel anything," said the 27-year-old McHenry resident.

While he didn't feel the electricity, it moved his car four feet and off Rand Road, killed the vehicle's electrical system and rearranged dirt on the car's surface, following the route traveled by the lightning bolt.

"I wasn't scared when it happened," he said, "but about a half minute later when I realized what had happened, it scared the hell out of me."

The instant the lightning hit, his car died — later to be revived with a new battery. Remarkably, the lightning didn't even leave a scratch on

Also contributing to this report were Daily Herald staff writers Jim Allen, Amy Carr, Trish Lichtenstein and Keri Wyatt.



Leroy Brown, of Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Co., looks at the overturned trailer he was working in Wednesday in Wheeling when gusty winds hit.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Piere

## Surprise storm stuns suburbs

Blown-off rooftops, uprooted trees and frazzled nerves all were the components of a series of surprise storms that hit the suburbs Wednesday afternoon. Marble-sized hail fell along

with torrential rains in a narrow corridor in northern Cook County and southern Lake County.

Winds clocked at 60 mph blew down power lines.

And in one freak instance, a

man's car was struck by lightning as he was driving at Route 12 and Quentin Road near Kildeer.

For details of the effects of the storm, see Page 4.

# Badge of honor

## Retiring officer remembers his youth

COUNTRYSIDE

By MICHAEL ULREICH

STAFF WRITER

6-14-90

My parents thought I was crazy, but I guess I was just attracted to the charisma of law enforcement.

Jack Kimsey

Jack Kimsey's title as a real Kentucky colonel is actually the least of his accomplishments.

Although Kimsey doesn't know who nominated him for the honorary title, there's no mystery about the real and substantive contributions the Indianapolis native has made to the community since joining the Wheeling police force in 1958.

Sgt. Kimsey was awarded the first Distinguished Service Award by the Wheeling Jaycees and the Citizen of the Year by the Ben Hur Lodge in Wheeling. An Illinois House resolution in 1985 recognized his 25 years of service to the community through the Omni Youth Services, where he served on the board of directors and as president of the board from 1980 to 1984.

As a village police officer Kimsey has worked in every department on the force, from traffic to support services, and he has held nearly every position in the department, from chief of detectives to acting chief.

### Youth service

Perhaps most of all, Kimsey will never forget the work he has done with area youth, as the original sponsor of the Community Presbyterian Youth Group, as the first school liaison officer in the northwest suburbs 23 years ago, and as a volunteer youth advocate with Omni Youth Services.

"Those three years I spent as the department's youth officer were the neatest experiences I ever had as a policeman," Kimsey said.

Kimsey retires June 15 after 32 years on the Wheeling force, more than any other current employee of the department. He will



RICHARD BAJJALIEH/Pioneer Press

After 32 years in the Wheeling Police Department, Sergeant Jack Kimsey will retire this year.

be more than missed, said Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger.

"He's been an excellent staff member for the department and he has provided us with valuable service," Haeger said. "He will be missed. I just hope we can give him an appropriate send-off."

### Rookie days

Kimsey was a young man of 21 when he left Glenview Naval Air Station in 1958 to take a job for a radio dispatch operation in Northfield that served the emerging Wheeling Police Department. Soon Wheeling Police Chief Cyke Horcher offered him a job.

"My parents thought I was crazy but I guess I was just attracted to the charisma of law enforcement," he says now.

Wheeling at that time was a village of 4,000 people known more for the string of taverns that lined Milwaukee Avenue than for sophisticated village services and a growing suburban community.

"We had a lot of traffic problems," Kimsey said. "There were a lot of bad accidents on Milwaukee Avenue and since Palwaukee Airport didn't

have a tower, we had the occasional plane crash."

He met his future wife at Wheeling's old village hall on Dundee Road and stayed on to raise a family in the town that he migrated to after he left the service.

Kimsey loves to tell the story of how his wife Sue, a Rockford native, came to the village hall for a map and was mistaken for a solicitor. Kimsey said his future bride was told by a village employee that solicitors weren't welcome in Wheeling, although she really needed the map to look for an apartment.

Kimsey said he was more than happy to find her an apartment, in his own building. A year later they were married. She went on to teach physical education at both Wheeling and Hersey high schools and they raised a son Jeff, now 16.

When Kimsey started on the police force, the Wheeling department had only five sworn officers. Thirty-two years later, Sgt. Jack Kimsey is retiring

from a department with 73 employees. In more than three decades, he's seen Wheeling grow along with its police department.

"We've gone from the card file to computers to a multi-communication radio system," Kimsey said.

"We've become more computerized and professional. Criminals today seem to be just as sophisticated as our ability to apprehend them. On the other hand, some are just as stupid as when I started."

Kimsey will be retiring from the force on June 15, the same day as his 32nd wedding anniversary. He will be leaving town for good Aug. 1 to move to Gulf Shores, Alabama, where he says he intends to relax in the warm southern weather, enjoy the fishing and just a little golf.

"We just love it down there," Kimsey said. "It's just like Wheeling used to be before it got so urbanized. We're really excited about our future."

"I will miss the police department, of course. I think it would be more difficult if we weren't moving. Wheeling has been my home now for 32 years and I have some very dear friends here. But it's time to go."



Kimsey

## Wheeling firefighters applaud new roles

6-18-90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although Wheeling Fire Department members say a new form of management style may not spark a firefighters contract, it is generating support among employees in the department.

Part of the new management style includes involving the firefighters in decision-making and policy-setting. New Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac recently formed nine committees of lieutenants and firefighters that will study the department's operations and recommend changes, if needed.

Members of the committees, which include public education/

public relations, department training, protective clothing and uniform and station maintenance, will study department issues and develop long-range plans. Eventually, the committees will assist in forming budgets for those areas, MacIsaac said.

"We're working on participatory-type management," said MacIsaac, who took over the top post in April following the retirement of 36-year Fire Chief Bernhardt O. Koeppen. "The whole concept is to get everyone involved. So it's everybody's department. It's not just my department."

Although not a new concept to several area fire departments, the idea of including firefighters in decision-making is new to Wheeling,

where the department's policies traditionally were set by the administration, MacIsaac said.

Firefighters are pleased with their new participatory role. However, firefighters have been unable to reach a contract agreement with the village since 1986.

"I think that type of management approach is very positive," Wheeling Firefighters Association President Bart Burns said. "I think it's generating a lot of support and commitment."

"I don't know if this will have an impact on the current contract talks, but it can't hurt," MacIsaac said. "Down the road it may help with future contract negotiations because we won't have these questions."

# Old Soo Line seen as cure for commuter congestion

6-18-90  
 BY JANET HALLMAN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Every once in a while, mention is made of an old railroad line that once shuttled Lake County commuters into Chicago and back again.

Trains on that old line — the Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Ry. — toted thousands of passengers between Milwaukee and Chicago until the trains stopped running in 1963. Then the tracks were pulled up, the dust settled and many commuters returned to their automobiles and talk of the way it was.

Now there's something new to talk about — plans for a new "little engine that could" to spring up and aid gridlock-weary passengers throughout southern Lake County and northern Cook County. Only this time, the line is the Wisconsin Central Ry., often called the old Soo Line. And unlike other half-hearted commuter line proposals in the last 30 years, this one actually seems to be moving forward.

How far it will go is anyone's

guess — and heavily dependent on the decisions and financial backing of seven villages.

"I think that there's a need for additional commuter rail service into the Loop," said Mundelein Village Administrator Kenneth W. Marabella, whose village is one of seven targeted for new stops along the railroad. "As usual, with a proposal of this magnitude, the idea, the concept, is the first step."

Officials from the North Suburban Mass Transit District are hoping all the communities will help fund stations for the trains, which ideally would run from Libertyville to Chicago by hooking up with the Chicago & North Western Ry. tracks in Des Plaines.

So far, four villages — Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling — have expressed support for the concept through resolutions, which are considered the first step toward getting the estimated \$42 million project off the ground.

Libertyville, Lincolnshire and Prospect Heights have yet to pass

such resolutions, said Timothy J. Doron, executive director and general manager of the mass transit district, known as NORTRAN. But Metra, the commuter rail division of the Regional Transportation Authority, sees firm financial commitments from the towns as the real catalyst for the project.

"Metra has said that if the local communities would pay a significant amount of money to put the rail line in service, then they would look at the project very seriously," Doron said.

Funding the stations is the first hurdle for the villages, and choosing sites for the stations is another. The one sure thing, village officials agree, is the need for transportation alternatives.

"I think it's beneficial to the community to have the opportunity to use a commuter line and have it right there," Mundelein Trustee James A. Keeney said. "For traffic reasons, it will divert some traffic that might go through town, and it would ease some of the congestion that we normally have."

Even though many commuters from Mundelein take the Milwaukee Road line into Chicago from Libertyville, the parking capacity at that station cannot possibly accommodate all the cars, Marabella said.

"I think there's a couple hundred people a day, easily, that commute from Mundelein into the city," he said, including those who drive into Chicago.

"Part of the reason they don't take the train is the facilities — particularly the facilities at the train station — are so overcrowded," Marabella continued. "As the northern suburbs get more and more tightened with gridlock, I think you'll see the priority with all forms of mass transit elevated in importance."

Libertyville Village Administrator Allen H. Schertz agreed that parking at the village's train station is not adequate, and trustees are considering the idea of another station in the northwest corner of the community.



Lake County commuters taking the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Ry. may soon ride the Wisconsin Central Ry., also known as the old Soo Line.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Piarri

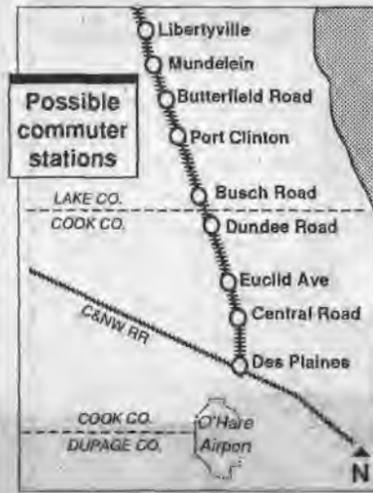
## Getting the Wisconsin Central Ry. on track

■ **Communities targeted:** Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Lincolnshire, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Prospect Heights.

■ **What it will cost:** About \$42 million

■ **Who will pay for it:** Metra, the commuter rail division, hopes to secure a significant portion of the funding from the communities for stations, parking and platforms. State funding also will be sought.

Source: North Suburban Mass Transit District



## Proposed suburban rail lines

### The Wisconsin Central Line

**Destinations:** Libertyville to Des Plaines, continuing on to Chicago.

**How much:** About \$42 million to start up.

**Ridership:** 3,000 daily riders projected.

**Possible stops:** Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Prospect Heights, Mount Prospect and Des Plaines.

### The Elgin Joliet and Eastern Line

**Destinations:** Barrington to Aurora, connecting to four Metra lines into Chicago.

**How much:** About \$53.4 million to start up.

**Ridership:** Unknown, projections now being developed.

**Possible stops:** Barrington, Hoffman Estates (Sears site), Bartlett, West Chicago, Winfield, Aurora.

"Parking is a problem and the creation of more parking is a bigger problem," he said. "The village is interested in the Wisconsin Central, because if a station were out there, it would allow people to commute from the south."

Part of Libertyville's draw to commuting employees, Schertz said, is the mostly industrial area in the northwest corner of the village. But officials say traffic will become even more congested in that area if Motorola Inc. follows through on its plans to construct a \$50 million manufacturing facility near Winchester Road.

Choosing the right site isn't quite so big a headache in Vernon Hills, where trustees proposed a station on a 3.5-acre plot off Route 45, between the Vernon Hills Public Golf Course and the Wisconsin Central. Mundelein trustees have narrowed their choices to three sites.

But unanswered questions about the line still abound, particularly regarding costs.

Tentative Metra estimates show it will cost \$3,700 per acre to acquire land for the stations, with a minimum of 300 spaces required for each community. Costs for the stations themselves run from \$515,000 for Libertyville to \$770,000 for Vernon Hills and Mundelein. Platform expenses shoot the costs up even more.

NORTRAN plans to hammer out cost specifications to Metra by the end of the year. The agency also plans to go after partial funding through the Illinois Department of Transportation's Operation Green Light program.

However, now that Metra has come forward with plans for another line between Barrington and Aurora, Doron said, the competition from those funds could be stiff.

"The simple, basic facts are there

are only so many dollars to compete for in the region," he said. "The communities along the Wisconsin Central ought to look long and hard at the (new) proposal and realize this is in direct competition with their project."

But officials from Libertyville, Mundelein and Vernon Hills say the support for the rail service appears to be there so they intend to keep pursuing the idea.

"There seems to be a certain amount of support from residents," Vernon Hills Assistant Village Manager James W. Doyle said. "I have received a number of inquiries requesting when the service will be available."

Keeney agreed: "You just need transportation alternatives. And the way we're growing here in Mundelein, anything we can do, I think, would be a benefit."

# Mayors hail Wheeling's recycling program

Wed. June 20, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When it comes to trash, Wheeling is making a name for itself. Recyclable trash, that is.

The nation's mayors liked Wheeling's innovative recycling program so much that they singled out the village as one of five small communities honored this week at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Chicago. The program, which combines the curbside collection of recyclable materials with reusable goods, was the first of its kind in the nation.

"This is the first thing we've received like this," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said of the 11th annual City Livability Award. "It really is nice to have something recognized by a group like the mayors."

Northwest suburban mayors from Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Hoffman Estates and Palatine joined about 250 mayors throughout the nation at the conference, which closes today at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. Wheeling's recycling program will be included in the archives of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C. There, other communities across the country may use it as a model.

The award is co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Waste Management of North America Inc. An independent panel of judges — composed of attorneys, former mayors, architects, planners and journalists — determines the winners.

Wheeling's novel program, started last December with the merger of Waste Management and Goodwill Industries of Chicago, is garnering national attention as other Northwest suburbs copy the effort. The village of Schaumburg recently established a similar venture with the Salvation Army and Laidlaw Industries.

Under Wheeling's program, Goodwill truck drivers follow trucks from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal — the village's trash and recycling hauler — during the first week of each month. After the disposal company collects recyclables, such as newspapers, glass, aluminum and tin, Goodwill drivers pick up reusables, including old clothes, accessories, toys, books, knick-knacks and small working appliances.

Schultz is pleased that Wheeling took the initiative with the program and hopes the idea continues to catch on in other communities.

"I think when you get recognition like that, it's a good idea for sharing it with other mayors," Schultz said. "It's really significant."

In addition to Wheeling, Binghamton, N.Y., Warwick, R.I., and Wilmington, Del., received outstanding achievement awards for towns with populations under 100,000. Meridian, Miss., was awarded first place in the category.



Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz says she hopes the community's recycling program is copied by more towns. Daily Herald photo/Dan White

## Wheeling picks up recycling award

The village of Wheeling picked up an award for its innovative recycling efforts. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, meeting in Chicago this week, gave Wheeling an outstanding achievement award in the 11th Annual City Livability Awards Program. See story on Page 4

Wed. June 20, 1990 - "Daily Herald"

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

#### July 4 is declared Jack Lee Kimsey Day

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz has declared July 4 as Sgt. Jack Lee Kimsey Day in the village.

Kimsey, who began his career with the Wheeling Police Department as a radio operator in 1958, was appointed officer in 1966. He was promoted to sergeant three years later.

Schultz presented Kimsey a plaque for his dedication to the community after he recently retired from the department. Kimsey will lead the village's Fourth of July parade as the grand marshal.

"You never said 'no' to the community," Schultz said to Kimsey, "as a police officer or as a resident of Wheeling."

#### Property rezoned to allow expansion

Village trustees unanimously approved plans for the remodeling and expansion of a fireplace store on Dundee Road.

The owners of Collins Fireplace and Patio Shop, 561 W. Dundee, plan to expand the building, signs and parking. Trustees agreed to rezone the property, now zoned for industrial and commercial use, to a general

commercial district.

#### Little City slates tags days

The Little City Foundation will conduct tags days in Wheeling next week.

Village trustees unanimously agreed to allow representatives from Little City to collect money for the 30-year-old organization, which provides services for mentally retarded people.

Tag days will be conducted June 22 and 23 at all major intersection in the village.

## Wheeling again rejects zone change for eatery

Wed. June 20, 1990

By AMY SMITHE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the fourth time, Wheeling trustees have rejected a request by a village pizza parlor owner to open a restaurant in a proposed office center along Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees recently stood by their January decision to deny a request from Joseph Mastrototaro, owner of Wa-Pa-Ghettis, to relocate his pizza business at 46 W. Dundee Road to the north end of his proposed shopping center at 342 S. Milwaukee Ave. Mastrototaro, who has gathered 500 signatures

from residents in support of the move, requested that trustees reconsider their decision.

"If someone wants to put up a brand new building instead of an eyesore, they should be able to," Wa-Pa-Ghettis employee Linda Wilson said in an emotional plea to trustees.

The property now houses an abandoned gas station.

Other residents living adjacent to the Milwaukee Avenue site also spoke in favor of the restaurant moving there.

Last October, trustees agreed to the restaurant a special-use permit to use the property if Mastro-



Daily Herald Map

trotaro pared down his building plans, originally drawn for the south side of the center.

Then, in January, trustees rescinded their backing, saying the pizza parlor would not be "compatible with upgrading Milwaukee Avenue."

## Council threatens to fine TCI over report

Wed. June 21, 1990

By MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Northwest Municipal Cable Council members decided Wednesday to put TCI of Illinois on notice that it needs to file a complete audit statement or risk the possibility of being fined.

Members of the cable council — which includes Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling — said the cable company has continued to submit its annual audit statement late to the council and not in an acceptable format.

Carole Stannard, cable council executive director, said the 1987

report was 417 days late, the 1988 report was 52 days late and the 1989 report, 43 days late. She also said the audit report has been a one-sentence statement, which the council does not consider appropriate because it fails to outline details of revenues.

"A statement that just gives you one number is not an annual audited statement," Stannard said.

Mount Prospect Trustee George R. Van Geem, who is a certified public accountant, said he has worked with TCI on an acceptable format for the report and will provide that format to the company's new management.

Council members said they need the report so they can determine whether they are receiving the

proper amount in franchise fees. Under its franchise agreement, TCI gives municipalities a portion of its profits.

Cheryl Pasalic, also with Mount Prospect, said the council had sent a notification of violation to TCI and the company had until Friday to respond.

She said Mount Prospect would send another letter on behalf of the council to TCI giving it 30 days to provide the audit statement as asked, or the council will hire an auditor to do the report.

Calvin Fee, new general manager for TCI, said the company's position is that the letter that was sent is in compliance with the requirements for an audit statement.

# Officials consider water park costs

By MICHAEL ULRICH

STAFF WRITER

6-21-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

Although the Wheeling Park District has enough funds to build its own water park on property it intends to purchase on Dundee Road, a tax increase may be needed to operate the facility, according to park district officials.

The idea of constructing a recreation center and outdoor water facility on an 18-acre plot off Dundee Road between village hall and the Wickes Furniture store is still just a "dream," according to Wheeling Park District Director Karop Bavougian.

The future of the property, which will cost approximately \$1 million, will be determined through discussions among park district officials over the coming months.

The new park property will connect at its south end to the 66 acres at Heritage Park. The new site currently holds the Koeppen family farm and fruit stand.

"It's something we'd like to do," Bavougian said. "There's nothing concrete, there's nothing definite. There's no plans on the board. This is just a wish, a dream."

But that dream may come true if the park board finds the project to be feasible. Bavougian said the park district would like to build a recreation center with room to hold its administrative offices on the property. An outdoor pool facility could be part of that center or could be built separately, Bavougian said.

"We would like to be able to do both but whether it's feasible at this stage, we just don't know," Bavougian said.

Although Bavougian said the park district could sell bonds to finance the construction of the pool without a referendum, he said an increase in taxes may be needed to help finance the pool's operation and maintain the pool com-

plex.

In neighboring Buffalo Grove, voters last November defeated by a 6-1 margin a park district referendum request for a tax increase to build and operate a \$5.2 million water park/swimming pool complex.

After the defeat, Buffalo Grove Park District officials said they lost the referendum because of organized opposition to their water park plans and the voters' rejection of any new tax increases.

Bavougian said a new pool complex in Wheeling would not be a straight water park "like something out of the Wisconsin Dells," he said. But it would hold more than a swimming pool with diving boards.

Wheeling residents surveyed by the park district earlier this year indicated that their first two recreational needs were to develop a community center and an "outdoor community pool" with extra outdoor amenities.

Those extra outdoor amenities could include a zero-depth pool, which imitates a beach, waterfalls, and even some water slides, but nothing too large or elaborate, Bavougian said.

Bavougian said modern swimming pools often incorporate features like a zero-depth pool, water fountains, and water slides.

"You would not build a straight outdoor pool today," Bavougian said. The new water park, or outdoor aquatic center, could generate revenues, Bavougian said, but extra funds will be needed to maintain and operate the facility.

The community/recreation center would hold a gymnasium, running track, and multi-purpose rooms which could be used by community groups and/or a preschool program.

The park district would also move its administrative offices from the Chevy Chase Clubhouse on Milwaukee Avenue to the proposed community center on Dundee Road.

Wheeling hasn't had an outdoor pool since the park district closed its pool at Chambers Park 10 years ago.



Bill Oake/Pioneer Press

# Cable council members worried about unity

6-26-90

By MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some members of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council are upset the group will not be able to present a united front during upcoming hearings on proposed amendments to cable franchise agreements.

Scott Anslinger, council representative from Arlington Heights, voiced concern this week that Mount Prospect Village Trustee George R. Van Geem attended a recent hearing about the franchise amendments in Arlington Heights and said his comments played a part in the village board postponing the issue.

"I would hope that if someone had questions, they would come to me and raise any questions," Anslinger said. "I felt my legs were chopped out from under me by a colleague... I'm not saying he was the only reason they sent it back to committee, but he was a key part."

Anslinger said the delay was particularly upsetting because it means village residents will have to pay a larger rate increase on July 1 because they still will have a dual cable system. Those on a single cable system will have a 50-cent increase, while those on dual cable will pay about \$3 more monthly.

Van Geem said he probably should have told Anslinger beforehand he planned to address the Arlington Heights board about his concerns. But Van Geem said he plans to attend public hearings on the proposed cable agreement to air his views.

"I have some very strong opinions about this modification agreement. I don't think I should be stifled from attending public hearings," Van Geem said. "I don't particularly relish going in and stirring up the pot in communities, but I think it's important."

Van Geem said officials should know the cable company does not

need to eliminate its second cable in order to hook up to cable-ready televisions or to receive stereo television broadcasts. In addition, he said he believes any rate savings would be short term.

Des Plaines representative Robert Hinde said Van Geem's comments may cause some confusion, but said he is free to speak at public hearings like any other citizen.

"The only problem is that it now lays doubt in the (Des Plaines city) council's minds about what other members of the (cable) council think," Hinde said.

Cable council Chairman Mark Masciola of Hanover Park said the franchise modifications are particularly important to his community and to Bartlett, which both suffer from poor reception. He said two consultants have recommended the council move from the dual cable system to single cable.

"The situation is different in

Mount Prospect than in Hanover Park and Bartlett," Masciola said. "We have much to gain from this conversion."

Masciola said some residents of Streamwood, which already has converted from dual to single cable, said the improvement in reception is significant — a "night and day" difference.

Van Geem said he plans to bring up questions and comments at hearings and then let officials make up their minds.

"It's not my sole goal to torpedo this agreement," he said.

Each of the council's eight member communities — Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling — will be holding hearings on the franchise amendments, which include reducing the channel capability from 120 to 60 channels by eliminating one cable.

# Commissioners deny themselves a raise

6-25-90

By MARTI PULVER  
and TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Despite attempts by some Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners to increase their monthly stipend, the full board has rejected a 67 percent pay increase proposal.

Commissioner Cary L. Chickeneo requested the increase, which would raise commissioners' current \$75 monthly stipend to \$125. The increase would apply only to new members and not the current eight commissioners, who are from Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Commissioner William A. Rogers, from Wheeling, disagreed with

that method. He said pay increases should apply to all commissioners to avoid penalizing long-time members.

"That appeared to be unfair in that the three of us from Wheeling have served anywhere from three to five years on the commission," said Rogers, who has been a commissioner for five years. "It would be unfair that the new ones coming would get a higher stipend. We've seen everything and everybody get raises. There's no reason why commissioners shouldn't get an increase."

The commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Commissioners also hold several committee meetings during the month.

Commissioner Nicholas J. Helmer, of Prospect Heights, said commissioners should not consider either proposal now.

"I think I would have a hard time voting a raise in any form when we are seeking new revenues on a monthly basis," Helmer said. "How can we vote ourselves a raise when we are looking for cost cutting measures?"

Helmer was referring to the commissioners' recent attempts to increase revenues at the airport to pay for maintenance and major improvements planned for Palwaukee over the next 12 years. The airport's fund balance of \$900,000 is expected to be reduced to \$453,600 by the spring of 1991 and be deleted by 1992.

After the defeat, Buffalo Grove Park District officials said they lost the referendum because of organized opposition to their water park plans and the voters' rejection of any new tax increases.

Bavougian said a new pool complex in Wheeling would not be a straight water park "like something out of the Wisconsin Dells," he said. But it would hold more than a swimming pool with diving boards.

Wheeling residents surveyed by the park district earlier this year indicated that their first two recreational needs were to develop a community center and an "outdoor community pool" with extra outdoor amenities.

Those extra outdoor amenities could include a zero-depth pool, which imitates a beach, waterfalls, and even some water slides, but nothing too large or elaborate, Bavougian said.

Bavougian said modern swimming pools often incorporate features like a zero-depth pool, water fountains, and water slides.

"You would not build a straight outdoor pool today," Bavougian said.

The new water park, or outdoor aquatic center, could generate revenues, Bavougian said, but extra funds will be needed to maintain and operate the facility.

The community/recreation center would hold a gymnasium, running track, and multi-purpose rooms which could be used by community groups and/or a preschool program.

The park district would also move its administrative offices from the Chevy Chase Clubhouse on Milwaukee Avenue to the proposed community center on Dundee Road.

Wheeling hasn't had an outdoor pool since the park district closed its pool at Chambers Park 10 years ago.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

6-22-90

### Wheeling hits low in work injuries

The village of Wheeling has been awarded the "Best Work Injury Accident Record — Administration Department," by members of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA). Members were asked by IRMA, their Risk Management pool, to submit data on the number of worker injuries and vehicle accidents incurred during 1989 as well as total hours worked and miles driven.



H. RICK BAMMAN/Pioneer Press

A Wheeling police officer attempts to control the chaos of power lines and traffic signals. Almost 20 cars parked in the afternoon traffic, after severe winds and rain knocked out K-Mart parking lot had windows blown out by the storm.

## High winds, rain cause damage

By MICHAEL ULREICH

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

It came down Dundee Road last Wednesday, June 13, cutting a mile-wide path along the street, uprooting trees and damaging roofs, touching down briefly in Buffalo Grove before devastating sections of parkway trees in Wheeling with damage that has already cost the village \$14,000 in employee overtime.

Meteorologists called last Wednesday's "mini-disaster" a mere wind storm that preceded a thunderstorm but some local officials saw it as a mini-tornado that damaged a small section of Buffalo Grove while descending on Wheeling and avoiding other nearby suburbs.

Wheeling director of public works Robert Gray said the wind storm seemed to follow Dundee Road, spreading from a half-mile to the south of Dundee to a half-mile north of Dundee.

"It was pretty severe," Gray said. "There were a lot of trees down. We had trees on houses, trees on cars and trees all over the parkway."

Gray said when firefighters opened the garage doors to go on a call last Wednesday, the resultant change in wind pressure blew a 20-foot-by-30-foot

section of the roof off.

The security fence surrounding the public works building was blown over, Gray said, and a semi-trailer was blown over in front of K-Mart. Gray said one huge tree was uprooted and blown from the west side of Northgate Parkway to the north side of the parkway.

"You're talking about a pretty good wind to do something like that," Gray said.

Gray said the village had already spent \$14,000 on overtime to clean up the mess, with 29 employees working Wednesday and through the night just to clear the debris off village streets. They then spent 10-hour days Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday cutting the debris up in wood chippers and hauling it away.

The money the village has already spent to clean up the after-effects of the storm is just the beginning, Gray said. Work remains to be done clearing and trimming trees and the village has already hired two independent contractors to help with the work.

"There's still a lot of debris piled on the parkways," Gray said.

Gray said some residents were complicating the clean-up effort by hauling dead trees off their private property out to the parkway for pickup. Gray

I've been here almost 17 years and I've never seen anything like it. A storm like this is a new experience for us and another type of little mini-disaster for us to deal with.

**Robert Gray**  
Director,  
Wheeling Public Works

said the village is not responsible for hauling off trees from private property and homeowners will have to find another solution.

Buffalo Grove's director of public works, Ray Rigsby, said damage in the village was limited to the Cambridge subdivision located off Buffalo Grove Road and Dundee Road, where the tops of some trees were blown off and some roof shingles were lost.

Rigsby said the effects of the storm were almost like that of a small tornado.

Buffalo Grove crews spent Wednesday night removing what Rigsby called "hangers," parts of trees hanging from their limbs, and then spent Thursday cleaning up the area.

Although power went out in Buffalo Grove in some places for three-to-four hours, Commander Gary Del Re of the Buffalo Grove Police department said police operations were not affected because within a second or two of the power outage, the department's diesel-powered reserve generator kicked in and supplied power for police operations.

"It was business as usual," Del Re said.

Gray said he has never seen the odd-type of storm that victimized Wheeling last week.

"I've been here almost 17 years and I've never seen anything like it," Gray said. "A storm like this is a new experience for us and another type of little mini-disaster for us to deal with."



H. RICK BAMMAN/Pioneer Press

Lino Cordoba, operations manager for Semmerling Fence and Supply, inspects the damage to their building at 700 N. Wolf Road. Even the Wheeling Fire Department garage did not escape damage.

# New taxiway may cut noise at Palwaukee

6-26-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN and MARTI PULVER Daily Herald Staff Writers

Several safety improvement projects planned for this year at Palwaukee Municipal Airport are expected to reduce noise by providing a safer, smoother traffic flow on the airfield.

One of the improvement projects includes two phases: installing a new taxiway on the west side of the airport and moving an identifying light to the middle of the airport. Another project involves demolishing several hangars where airplanes are stored.

Airport commissioners plan to recommend the airport owners — Prospect Heights and Wheeling — approve the projects next month.

The new taxiway would allow airplanes to get from one end of the airport to the other without going on the main runway, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

"One of the biggest problems at any airport is the noise problem," Commissioner Dan Quiery said. "The new taxiway will increase the flow of traffic and lessen delays. It will help to alleviate the noise problem by expediting the aircraft. They won't have to sit on the runway with their engines running" waiting for the runway to clear.

The identifying light, called a beacon and similar in concept to a lighthouse, would be moved from the east side of Hangar No. 1 to the middle of the airport on the northeast side of the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant to avoid obstructions, like trees.

Thirty-two of 70 t-hangars will be demolished because they are located too close to the airport's main runway. Pilots now storing their airplanes in those corporate hangars would be moved to a new tie-down area installed in September on the southeast side of the airport. The demolition is expected to begin late this summer.

The demolition project is expected to cost about \$375,000, while the taxiway and beacon project is estimated at less than \$500,000.

# Firefighters put deadline on contract talks

Wed. June 27, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters, who have been working without a contract for more than four years, say they will enter into arbitration if they don't have a new contract by next week.

Representatives from the Wheeling Firefighters Association and the village plan to meet from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and likely again Tuesday to negotiate issues the two sides have been unable to agree on during their on-again/off-again contract talks since June 1986.

Originally proposed as a marathon negotiation session, the Monday meeting will be the first

time the two sides will sit down together since May 30, said Bart Burns, the union president. Representatives from the union and village will attempt to settle as many as the 27 unresolved issues as possible, Burns added.

Because of the unlikelihood that a contract will be hammered out next week, the firefighters will call for arbitration as "a last ditch effort," to reach an agreement, Burns said. In arbitration, one side files a petition with the Illinois Labor Relations Board to bring in an arbitrator, who studies the remaining issues and then makes a legally-binding decision on each issue.

"We still feel arbitration is not the answer," Burns said. "The best

way to enter into an agreement is to negotiate an agreement. When all else fails, that's what arbitration is for. We haven't gotten any great progress with mediation up to this point."

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes agrees that arbitration is not the best way to settle a contract, but adds that the two sides will "absolutely not" resolve all 27 issues next week.

"We have not indicated that we're interested in arbitration," Rhodes said.

"I think that speaks for itself. Somebody else decides how we're going to operate," he added.

Firefighters have been working under the terms of a contract that expired April 30, 1986.

# Plastics recycling to begin

COUNTRYSIDE

By WAYNE TRYHUK STAFF WRITER

When it comes to disposing of plastic trash, Wheeling isn't wasting any time. Beginning next week, the village will add specified plastics to those materials that will be collected under its recycling program.

And that effort, combined with Wheeling's yard waste disposal effort, also starting next week, may have both immediate and long term benefits for village residents, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"It's important not only to conserve our limited resources, but also conserve the bal-efill space we're rapidly running out of," he said Tuesday. In addition, according to Anderson, all Illinois municipalities will eventually be required to "reduce the waste stream by a certain amount.

"That might be a year or two down the road," he said, "but we might as well get into the habit."

Recycling may also help stabilize disposal rates by retarding the waste flow, Anderson added.

The plastics program will be incorporated in the the village's current recycling

effort, under which Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal crews pick up materials at curbs.

Recyclable plastics include high density polyethylene and polyethylene terephthalate. Containers for liquid laundry detergent and orange juice, as well as one-gallon milk and water bottles, and 1.2 and three-liter soft drink bottles, are made of those types of plastic, according to village officials.

Not included in the program are containers for liquid dish soap, bleach, mouthwash, shampoo and other hair care products, anti-freeze and oil, village officials said.

Acceptable plastics are expected to be converted into such diverse products as playground equipment, fencing, toys, sinks, drainage pipes, paint brushes and sleeping bags.

The yard waste project is being inaugurated because Illinois law prohibits dumping of such material in landfills after Saturday. In Wheeling, yard waste, which includes grass, leaves and brush, will be picked up on the same day as other recyclables each week, until November 30. That pick-up day will be replace one of the current, weekly refuse collec-

tion days.

Between November 30, 1990, and April 1, 1991, refuse will be picked up two days a week, with recyclables also being collected on one of them.

On April 1, 1991, yard waste/recyclables and refuse will once again be picked up on separate days each week, continuing until November 30 of that year. The yard waste must be placed in 30-gallon "kraft" paper bags, available at grocery and hardware stores, or 32-gallon "rigid containers," like ordinary garbage cans, or tied with string or cloth in bundles no larger than 4-feet by two-feet, according to village officials.

Residents are encouraged to have the yard waste at the curbs by 6:30 a.m.

No yard waste will be collected in any kind of plastic bag, and it will be illegal to mix yard waste intended for collection or disposal with any other municipal waste, according to village officials.

# Commissioners' pay raise doesn't fly

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

Two moves to raise the stipends paid Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners never got off the ground last week.

And the board member who made one of the motions said he personally opposed the increase anyway. Commissioner Cary Chickerno said Tuesday he only recommended the raise, from \$75 to \$125 per month, to the full board because it had been passed by the finance committee he chairs. He added that he made it clear to fellow board members that he would only support an increase that did not apply to sitting commissioners.

New commissioners, who are appointed on a staggered basis by the village president and mayor of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, respectively, will not join the board until March of next year, according to Chickerno. The two municipalities jointly own the airport in Wheeling on Milwaukee Avenue.

Chickerno's motion died for a lack of a second, as did a proposal by Commissioner William Rogers to grant the increase to current commis-

sioners, as well as those appointed later. Rogers argued that it would be unfair to have board members earning different stipends while performing the same functions, Chickerno said.

According to Chickerno, the stipend question was an "uninteresting issue that is collateral to the real needs of the airport. It was just a housekeeping matter."

He said he typically devoted from 15 to 25 hours per month to his commissioner's duties, including attending board and committee meetings, and doing paper work in preparation for those sessions. Calling the current and proposed stipends "ludicrous amounts of money," he said, "Whatever the raise, it wouldn't compensate anyone for the amount of time spent providing the services we do. I don't serve on this commission so I can earn \$75 or \$125 a month. I'm there because I want to volunteer my time."

"If any community had to pay what private enterprise is paid for the work of public officials and volunteers, we wouldn't be able to function. Taxes would be prohibitively high."

# Arbitrator likely in firefighter talks

6/28/90 - Burns  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters are blazing into their fourth year of contract talks with an ultimatum: settle the issues or call in an arbitrator.

Next week, representatives from the Wheeling Firefighters Association and the village have set aside two work days to hammer out solutions to some 27 contract issues still on the table.

Firefighters say that if an agreement is not reached by the end of those talks on Tuesday, which both sides say is highly unlikely, they will file a petition with the Illinois Labor Relations Board to bring in an arbitrator to decide the issues.

"This is pretty absurd how long this has gone on," said Bart Burns, the union president. "If it has to be resolved a third person, so be it. We have to get this resolved."

Besides time-consuming, the process has been a costly one for both sides. For the village, it has meant \$54,496 in legal fees for labor lawsuits and negotiation sessions. Firefighters say they have spent \$39,331 — a bill they will pay with monthly union dues, fund-raisers and grants from the International Association of Firefighters.

Although salary increases typically dominate contract disputes and remain a closed topic, for the firefighters, many other issues remain unresolved and some have been made public — mostly because of court settlements.

Those issues include the composition of the union's bargaining unit and whether the firefighters should be required to be trained as paramedics. Both issues have been bandied about in courts and both sides have blamed the lengthy judicial process for their inability to hammer out an agreement.

However, many issues have remained behind closed doors during

## CONTRACT: Arbitrator is likely for talks

Continued from Page 1

any of the issues. We're far enough away that we don't have a contract. We're close enough that we've negotiated over half of the provisions."

Contract clashes started months before the pact expired on April 30, 1986, when firefighters moved to include lieutenants in their union. The Illinois Public Labor Relations Act of 1986 created collective bargaining for police officers and firefighters, but excluded supervisors. The Wheeling Firefighters Association voted to include — and asked the village to recognize — its six lieutenants as part of the union.

"We don't see any conflict in including them in our bargaining unit because they can't change our working conditions," Burns said of the lieutenants. "They're subject to discipline themselves."

When the village refused to negotiate with the lieutenants, the association pleaded its case before the Illinois Labor Relations Board, which agreed with the firefighters. Wheeling appealed the ruling, lost, and took the case to the state Supreme Court.

In April, the high court ruled in the firefighters' favor and said the village engaged in unfair labor practice by refusing to negotiate with the union that included lieutenants. The ruling stated that the lieutenant fulfilled three of four criteria for being supervisors. Although Rhodes said there was some question about the courts' ruling that that the lieutenant do not spend a "preponderance" of their time on the job in supervisory functions, the village will not appeal.

The two sides stayed away from the bargaining table for 15 months while the court studied the lieutenant issue. The village offered the firefighters retroactive raises, which paid the average firefighter \$4,300 in back wages and agreed to resume the talks in June 1988.

However, after hitting a stalemate this past January, union firefighters asked a federal mediator to join the talks. Even that move prompted a

difference of opinion between negotiators.

"We hope the mediator will bring reality to the issues," Burns said.

Said Rhodes: "I wouldn't place any great significance in this. The mere fact that we have a mediator is insignificant."

A month prior to meeting with the mediator, the union withdrew another unfair labor practice charge against the village.

The firefighters union filed the charge with the labor board after the village fire and police commission amended the department rules in 1988 requiring all village firefighters to continue to renew their paramedic certification each year.

In an agreement reached during the contract talks, the firefighters dropped the charge and the village backed off on its request for complete certification.

The agreement provides for a maximum number of firefighters who must remain certified as paramedics and a minimum number of firefighters who are not certified. The numbers are relative to the number of employees at the time, but the minimum number cannot fall below 18.

Up until now, about the only thing the two sides have agreed on is not to call in an arbitrator.

Now, firefighters say they see no alternative than to ask a third party to hammer out a settlement. Burns said the representatives plan to meet from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and likely again on Tuesday.

Both sides said it is very unlikely they will settle about 27 remaining issues. If that's the case, the union will file with the labor relations board for an arbitrator, who would review each issue and determine legally-binding solutions, Burns said.

"We don't want an outside party fashioning our wages or work condition," Burns said. "We know the reality of arbitration and we want to avoid it like the plague. You have to have some kind of remedy to a situation like ours. There has to be an end to it."



Wheeling Fire Department Lieutenant Dick Wydra is one of six lieutenants included in the firefighters union as a result of a recent Illinois Supreme Court ruling based on a village challenge.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pieri

the four years of talks, making it difficult to point to reasons for the delay. As the firefighters grow increasingly frustrated working under provisions of an expired 1986 contract, they want their feelings known.

Village officials, on the other hand, have remained tight-lipped on personnel matters. That difference in strategy may be characteristic of the lengthy negotiation process, in which it seems both sides agree on few things.

When the Illinois Supreme Court recently settled a long-time dispute over whether lieutenants should be included in the union, the firefighters were optimistic the action would help spur a contract settlement.

Village officials, on the other hand, were not as hopeful. They downplayed the significance of the high court ruling.

"Now that we have a defined bargaining unit, we can once and for all end this dispute," Burns said in reac-

tion to the ruling. "It was as if we were only bargaining for part of the bargaining unit. Now we know who the bargaining unit is. We think we can finish our work."

Village officials disagreed with the importance of the decision.

"The issue of who we were negotiating with was never an issue," Village Attorney James Rhodes said. "It doesn't mean we're any closer on

See CONTRACT on Page 3

# Village recycling program gains national recognition

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

6-28-90

## COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling's innovative recycling program has received national recognition in large part because both the quantity and quality of its second-hand goods have been first class.

That's the assessment of officials from the village and Goodwill Industries of Greater Metropolitan Chicago, who helped guide the effort in which clothing, toys, small appliances, kitchen utensils and other household items are picked up at the curbs of donors' homes.

Goodwill trucks, which follow Waste Management crews once a month as they collect recyclable materials at about 5,500 Wheeling homes, gathered 50,000 pounds of donated material during the program's six month trial run, which ended in May, according to Bob McMahon, vice-president of operations for the agency.

Nearly 15 percent of the homes in the village took part in the effort, compared to the 5 percent participation other types of Goodwill donation programs generate, McMahon said.

And while about 35 percent of the items Goodwill normally collects are "trash" which cannot be merchandised in its stores, only about 14 percent of the Wheeling material has been unmarketable, Mahon said.

In addition, since the bulk of the Wheeling donations have been clothing, which can be converted to other uses as unlikely as windshield cleaning cloths, "virtually none of it goes to waste," McMahon said.

"I'd bet some communities would have a very high waste factor," he added. "But

Wheeling has a nice mix of economic groups and people."

Those people "can take all the credit" for the success of the program, for which the National Conference of Mayors recently gave Wheeling a "City Livability Award," according to Village Manager Craig Anderson. "They really got into it."

While "it's not like sending a man to the moon," Anderson added, "it's nice to know we've done something of benefit to our community and other people."

"And it's nice to be on the cutting edge of things and do something innovative that's successful," he said of the program, which earlier had been recognized by the national Goodwill organization.

The venture, which has been renewed for a full year, is probably unique to the village, although a similar effort was undertaken in Schaumburg through the cooperation of the Salvation Army — after the Wheeling program was underway, according to Anderson and McMahon.

Noting that the venture had received national publicity, Anderson said, "Nobody else has come to us and said, 'We've done it, too.'"

Because the "the world is so into the environment and ecology, and recycling is the key word of the day," the cooperation between Goodwill and Wheeling is "a marriage made in heaven," McMahon observed. "We're one of the oldest recyclers that there is. That's what we've done for a long time."

Goodwill already plans to initiate a similar effort in Rolling Meadows, and may later expand the program into additional communities, he said.

# Fireworks planned for Fourth fest

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

Parade marchers strutting through the streets, musicians shaking maracas and strumming guitars, clowns juggling, and technicians hurtling fireworks skyward... those and all the Fourth of July activities planned for Wheeling might be seen as one big exercise in give and take.

"A lot of the participants live and work in the community, and run businesses there," Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato, an organizer of many of the events, explained Monday. "They're giving back some enjoyment."

The selection of retiring Wheeling Police Sergeant Jack Kimsey as parade grand marshal typifies that philosophy, according to Abruscato. "He's given a lot, and we're giving back by selecting him," she said.

Wheeling residents themselves, in fact, are being asked as they have for the past four years to give donations, which they may add to their water bills, to help fund the festivities. "If every resident gave a dollar, we wouldn't have to do anything" in the way of additional fund raising, Abruscato said.

And what the residents will receive in return are a parade and fireworks display significantly improved over last year's offerings, according to Abruscato. "The parade gets bigger every year," she said, noting that 1990 event will include nearly 70 units, including the Cubs Quartet, a brass ensemble that plays during baseball games, the Mariachi Band from Chicago, and the Northern Illinois Motorcyclists. Far from being the Midwest equivalent of Hells Angels, Abruscato is quick to note, the cyclists engage in charitable activities like visiting senior citizen housing, and distributing toys for children.

For those with a thirst for country music, the parade will feature "Risky Whis-

## Plastics join Wheeling's pickup schedule

Mon. 7/2/90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Wheeling residents will be adding a few more items to their orange recycling bins today — plastics.

Today is the first day for some residents to include plastics in their weekly curbside recycling pickup, which for more than a year has included newspaper and inserts, colored and clear glass, aluminum and tin. Plastics will be picked up on the same day as other recyclables.

Village trustees have an agreement with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, affiliated with Waste Management of North America Inc., to add plastics to the village-

wide recycling program that started in Wheeling in May, 1989.

Phase I of a four-phase Plastic Recycling Alliance plan, developed by Waste Management and DuPont, includes the collection of plastic one-gallon milk bottles, one-gallon water bottles, two-gallon water dispensers, plastic orange juice and liquid laundry detergent containers and one-two and three-liter soda pop bottles.

"By recycling plastics we hope to divert more materials from landfills," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "It helps us continue to conserve the limited resources we have."

Residents now pay \$1 a month for recycling pickup. But with the addition of plastics, the rate will

increase to \$1.95 per month to offset the cost of additional labor required to collect and sort the plastics, Waste Management officials said.

"I hope it's successful," Anderson said of the recycling program. "Because at some point we're going to be mandated to divert a certain percentage from the landfills. This is a good start."

Recycling plastic also is expected to hold down future costs of dumping garbage in landfills.

The collection will not accept plastic bleach or dishwashing-liquid bottles, or shampoo, conditioner, anti-freeze or oil containers because they cause a reaction to the solution when they are cleaned.

## ■ Fourth *Continued from page 5*

key," a band which has backed Hank Williams, Jr.

The marchers and floats will leave the K-Mart parking lot at Dundee Road and Ill. Route 83 at 10 a.m. on July 4, and proceed down Dundee to Wolf Road, and along Wolf to Heritage Park.

But residents may get an even bigger bang for their charitable buck when the fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m., also in Heritage Park. "I think after people see these, they'll never forget them," Abruscato said of the display, which, at a cost of about \$10,000, will be nearly twice as expensive as last year's, and feature a grand finale expected to last 20 minutes.

"Last year was not as good," she explained, "but

we only had so many dollars."

Some of this year's dollars have come from the village and the Wheeling Park District, who were approached for donations for the first time in about a decade, Abruscato said.

In addition, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, which is sponsoring Family Fest next week "in conjunction" with the other events, have contributed financially to the latter, and have even arranged to have an elephant appearing at the fest walk in the parade, Abruscato said.

Together, the parade and fireworks are expected to cost \$11,500, almost \$2,000 of which has been raised

through the water bill donations alone, Abruscato said. While noting that she was "happy" with the pace of contributions to date, Abruscato added that residents "need to be reminded" of their importance to the success of the festivities. To that end, she said, the events' organizers have distributed 3,000 fliers stressing the need for donations.

Contributions are especially important this year, Abruscato said, because "a couple of major donors" from the past were unable to help fund the upcoming events.

Persons seeking information on the fireworks and parade are encouraged to call Abruscato at either 541-8788, or 459-4000.

# Some miss what they had on cable

By David Ibatá

The first inkling Eriks Graudins had of trouble with his cable TV service was when channels carrying arrival and departure listings for O'Hare International Airport disappeared about a month ago.

Another channel stopped carrying live broadcasts from the Marseilles radar station, a handy way to spot approaching storms.

Finally, on Monday, duplicate signals for Channels 7, 9 and 32 disappeared from the 120-channel system of TCI of Illinois Inc., as had duplicate channels for superstations WWOR in New York and WTBS in Atlanta.

Graudins has not been alone. In fact, the eight communities of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council have lost as many as 27 channels in recent weeks, most of them in the last two days, according to Carole Stannard, executive director of the council.

Ava Whaley, state manager at TCI's Mt. Prospect office, said channels were removed as a test to see if signal quality improved or "to see if anybody noticed."

Whaley said the missing channels would return Tuesday.

And the cutting of channels comes as TCI is increasing its fee for basic service from \$17.45 to \$19.95 a month. The increase, which took effect Sunday, is to cover what the company said was the extra cost of dual-cable service—the kind needed to provide 120 channels.

"It's definitely a scam," said Graudins, a Prospect Heights carpenter. "It doesn't make much sense to pay \$3 more a month for service you're not getting."

The action followed the council's notice to TCI that its annual audited statement was overdue, that the council wanted the report by July 23, and that TCI was risking \$200-a-day fines from each community going back to the report's original May 1 due date, Stannard said.

The eight communities want the statement to make sure they are getting the 5 percent revenue share called for in the franchise agreements.

All TCI has given, she said, has been a one-sentence statement signed by its auditor, attesting to gross revenues in each of the eight communities.

TCI, meanwhile, is asking the village boards and city councils of eight communities this month to allow it to cut from 120 channels to 60. In return, TCI says it will roll back rates to \$17.45 a month.

As for the annual audited statement, which each community uses to determine if it's really getting its 5 percent share of gross revenues from TCI, Whaley said, "We've asked [the council] repeatedly to show us what they want, but they have not done so. They may not fine us, because we are following the letter of the [franchise] agreement."

"They're playing dirty," Stannard said. "What's really aggravating me is that there's nothing we can do about it."

The cable council represents the municipal governments of Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mt. Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling, where TCI has signed up 58,000 customers.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 7-3-90

# Resident requests air curfew at Palwaukee

Tues., July 3, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling resident wants village trustees to impose a curfew on airplanes flying in and out of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Bruce Portnoy, of the 400 block of Harmony Drive, Monday requested trustees eliminate airport use between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. in an effort to reduce airplane noise near his house and others around the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

"If your windows are not shut, you hear the noise of heavier airplanes," said Portnoy, who lives within blocks of the airport, which is bordered by Palatine, Hintz and Wolf roads and Milwaukee Avenue.

"It's an obvious thing. It's not every plane that takes off, but it just takes one plane to wake you up," he said.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said Portnoy's suggestion will be submitted to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, which oversees the airport and makes recommendations concerning airport operations to the village board and Prospect Heights City Council for approval. Both municipalities must approve any recommendations in order for them to become binding.

"It has been a long-time project to deal with the noise," Schultz said. "Very recently there have

been some isolated incidents of noise that have been most disturbing."

But Village Manager Craig Anderson said airport officials did not include a curfew in the recently approved rules and regulations for Palwaukee because there did not appear to be a need for the restrictions based on the number of planes using the airport during those hours.

In addition, Anderson added, the noise likely will be reduced when airport officials implement some noise abatement plans included in the airport's Federal Aviation Regulations Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study that has been under review by the Federal Aviation Administration.

# Developers modify plans for 37-unit town home complex

Wed. July 4, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two years after Wheeling trustees approved plans for a town house complex along Strong Avenue, new developers finally may break ground this summer for a more roomier development.

Village trustees recently approved plans for the Timberleaf subdivision, formerly known as the Strong Gate subdivision.

The subdivision was called Strong Gate two years ago when trustees approved plans for a 37-unit complex with nine town houses in each building. Prior to that,

developers had submitted plans for a 63-unit complex with some buildings containing six town houses and some containing 12, said Michael Klitzke, community development director.

But after plans were approved in 1988, nothing was ever built on the grassy field, located south of Strong Avenue, along Eleventh Street and a portion of Tenth and Twelfth streets.

New developers, Capitol Homes, Ltd., recently bought the property and plan to have the town houses built by August and ready for occupancy in October. The town houses, which will range in price



Daily Herald Map

from \$135,000 to \$150,000, each will have three bedrooms, 2½ baths and one-car garages.

Although the new plans call for the same 37 units previously approved, it will have more open space and will be lined with landscaping.

# July 5, 1990 WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

## Palwaukee buys outdoor equipment

Wheeling village trustees approved Palwaukee Municipal Airport's purchase of more than \$125,000 worth of maintenance equipment.

The purchase includes a rider sweeper for \$25,118 from Tenant Company of Bensenville; a loader/backhoe from Casey Equipment of Arlington Heights; and a wheel loader from Case Power Equipment of Wheeling.

The move is part of the airport commission's goal to assume the airport's daily maintenance, which now is being handled by Priester Aviation Services. Priester is paid about \$250,000 a year to maintain airport grounds.

Commissioners want to take over all of the maintenance duties in an effort to save money. Some of the work includes cutting grass and weeds, removing snow, de-icing and inspecting runways and taxiways and maintaining the

Federal Aviation Administration Tower.

## Village to buy asphalt roller

Trustees unanimously approved buying an asphalt roller and tractor for \$8,255 from a Waukegan company.

The company, Burris Equipment Co., was the lowest of four bids that quoted a price for the equipment specified by the village. The 1½-ton roller will be delivered within 50 days.

The highest bid received was from Crane & Machinery Inc. in Bridgeview, which quoted the cost at \$8,846.

## AMVETS to hold Summerfest Aug. 26

Wheeling AMVETS will hold its annual Summerfest on Aug. 26, for which trustees unanimously agreed to issue a festival license.

# Saturday, July 7, 1990 Communities dredge up balefill lawsuit

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In another step against a proposed balefill near Bartlett, several communities Friday are going to court again to stop the massive project.

The villages of Bartlett, South Elgin and Wayne, along with Hanover Township and the city of Elgin, filed an appeal in Illinois Appellate Court that seeks another hearing of their suit against Cook County and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Last month, Circuit Court Judge Albert Green dismissed a lawsuit filed by the five municipalities that sought to block the construction of a balefill, so called because

trash is compacted into bales before burial.

The suit contends that Cook County and the SWANCC, the consortium of 26 North and Northwest communities that is planning to build a landfill on 142 acres of a 410-acre site at Gifford and South Bartlett roads, did not follow proper zoning procedures.

"We believe that Judge Green erred in dismissing the suit," Bartlett Village President John A. Stark said.

Green dismissed all seven counts against Cook County and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County last month, even though the agency asked that the judge dismiss only parts of the suit, Stark said.

"He gave short shrift to the whole suit itself. And he also dismissed the entire case without being asked to do so," Stark said.

The appeal asks that the Green's decision be reversed and returned to Cook County Circuit Court.

SWANCC President Sheila Schultz said she stands behind the project as in previous court cases against SWANCC.

"The findings have been for us in every case and I would expect that to continue," she said.

SWANCC has secured permits and approval from the Cook County board and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Only a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit is required for the project to proceed.

# Firefighters to request arbitrator

1 Hurs., 7-12-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters say they will request that an arbitrator resolve the more than 25 issues still unresolved after four years of negotiations with village officials.

The move comes in the aftermath of a two-day negotiation session last week, in which only two issues were discussed with no resolution, said Bart Burns, Wheeling Firefighters Association president. The union plans to put in writing to the village this week the request for an arbitrator, Burns said.

The two sides have been negotiating a new contract since 1986, when the firefighters' pact expired. Firefighters continue to work under the terms of that contract.

Last week, firefighters issued an ultimatum that they would request arbitration if they don't have a new contract by this week. Burns said about 27 issues still unresolved would likely be settled by an arbitrator.

In arbitration, one side files a petition to bring in an arbitrator, who studies the unresolved issues and then makes legally-binding decisions on each issue.

After the village accepts the firefighters' request for an arbitrator, both sides meet and have 14 days to mutually agree on a person to conduct the arbitration proceedings. If no agreement is reached, negotiators request a list of seven eligible arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association and choose someone from that list.

The process may take three to four months before the arbitrator begins hearings on the issues. When the hearings are finished, the arbitrator has 30 days to reach a settlement.

Over the years of negotiations, some issues have been settled in court. Those issues include the composition of the union's bargaining unit and whether the firefighters should be required to be paramedics. The courts ruled that the village's six lieutenants may be included in the union, and the courts also provided an agreement that sets a maximum number of paramedics.

# Balefill transfer station studied

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE  
7-12-90  
Solid waste from the village would be hauled to a transfer station just north of River and Central Roads in Wheeling Township, under a plan being proposed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

The facility, in unincorporated Cook County, would be adjacent to the Sexton-Maryville landfill, which reached its capacity several years ago.

Village President Sheila Schultz, who chairs the agency, last week called the site for the proposed station isolated but central.

"This will be very efficient for us," she said.

The village's solid waste is now taken by a licensed hauler, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal Co., a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc., to the Lake Landfill in Northbrook.

Wheeling, a member of the solid waste organization, has backed the agency's balefill plans "from the very beginning," according to Schultz.

She stressed that only household waste would be transported to the Wheeling Township location, and that the organization would work to hold traffic generated by the facility to a minimum. "Part of our aim is to have as little over-the-road traffic as possible," she said.

Schultz also underscored what she felt was the timeliness of the project. "Landfills are disappearing," she said. "Time is running out."

Wheeling Township Supervisor Ruth Grundberg said Monday she envisions no problems arising from creation of the station, at which waste from 11 communities would be baled before ultimate disposal at the northwest balefill in Bartlett.

According to SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt, the agency is awaiting the issuance of a permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin operating the northwest balefill.

Noting that the station would be at least 900 feet away from any property with residential zoning, and be completely enclosed, Grundberg said, "It doesn't appear, at first reading, to be an unfavorable addition to that area. I don't have any strong, negative reaction to it."

Because of strong citizen objections last summer, SWANCC scaled down its plans to expand a similar facility in Rolling Meadows. Although it had intended to bring waste from 14 municipalities, including Wheeling, to that station, the agency agreed to initially process only garbage from Palatine

and Rolling Meadows there.

It did, however, reserve the right to receive waste from four more communities at the Rolling Meadows site, which it would do if it is granted approval to build the Wheeling Township station.

A spokesman for Save America's Future Environment (SAFE), which opposes the planned operation of the Northwest Balefill, said Monday her group would probably alert persons living and working near the proposed Wheeling transfer station that it might contribute to environmental and health problems.

The spokesman, Cathy Lindstrom, of Palatine, who also opposed the expansion of the Rolling Meadows transfer station, said that trucks hauling waste to that facility are washed on the site, with the water "draining" into Palatine storm sewers.

6  
We're going to do our best to make people aware of what's going down in their community, so they can make choices and think for themselves.

## Cathy Lindstrom

"We need to know whose sewers are going to be affected," Lindstrom said. "We're going to do our best to make people aware of what's going down in their community, so they can make choices and think for themselves."

SAFE opposes the Northwest Balefill because such a facility may leak pollutants into water sources, possibly causing leukemia and birth defects, according to Lindstrom.

Approval for the Wheeling Township transfer station would have to come from the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, according to SWANCC Assistant to the Director Brooke Beal. Beal said last week that the solid waste organization hopes to seek county permission to undertake the project, which would include the construction of an 8,000-sq.-ft. administration building and road.  
(Continued on page 19)

# Balefill

Continued from page 6

control reservoirs on a 49-acre tract, by late summer.

The station, itself, would occupy nine acres, and be buffered from neighboring areas, Beal noted.

He predicted that SWANCC would win approval for the proposal because it has "no potential negative factors." He pointed out that the station would use a charcoal air filtering system to minimize odors, and that no waste would be left at the facility overnight.

"We've heard some Des Plaines alderman might be opposed to it," he said. "But we feel once they hear the plan, there will be no potential negative factors."

The facility on the Wheeling Township site, one of about 25 considered by the 26-member SWANCC for the project, could be operating by late 1991 or early the following year, Beal said. That would leave eight SWANCC members still to be served by a transfer station. According to Abolt, his agency's member communities will be diverting over 40 percent of their solid waste from traditional landfills by 1996.

# Planner eyes new projects

COUNTRYSIDE  
7-12-90  
Wheeling's new village planner, Mark Janeck, was being "brought up to speed" this week on projects that had been interrupted since the January departure of his predecessor, according to Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke.

"We're going to be able to continue things that had been held in abeyance," Klitzke said Monday. "We've had a gap with a lot of projects."

Janeck, who earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of Wisconsin, succeeds Bob Sullivan, who left Wheeling to become village planner of Orland Park.

With a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, Janeck had done consulting work in Massachusetts, Maryland and Wisconsin before being hired by the village, according to Klitzke.

Klitzke also said Wheeling had begun interviewing candidates for the position of village engineer, which was vacated by Jim Edgmond in May.

Edgmond became village engineer and public works director of Sullivan, Missouri, according to Klitzke, who was Wheeling's village engineer before assuming his present position in December of 1987.

# Firefighters, village fail to settle

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
7-12-90  
Hopes that the village and the union representing its firefighters could settle their contract dispute on their own went up in smoke last week.

Bart Burns, President of the Wheeling Firefighters' Association, said Thursday the union requested binding arbitration after mediation sessions on July 2 and 3 failed to resolve 27 issues.

"We discussed two issues

for two days and couldn't even reach complete agreement on those," Robert Hoos, another union spokesman, revealed.

The impasse remained even though the association offered to make some compromises, Burns said.

"It's not because the village wasn't trying," Village Manager Craig Anderson said Thursday. "But you can't keep going back to the trough. If we make concessions... and then the other side wants more after let-

ting you know that was acceptable: That's hard to deal with."

Anderson also contended that Wheeling has a history of reaching reasonable settlements on labor issues, making it unlikely that it is responsible for the deadlock.

"It's interesting the village has been successful... in negotiating several contracts over the past three or four years," he said. "We've been able to hammer out good, fair

agreements" with police officers and communication operators, and public works personnel.

Moreover, according to Anderson, the village replaced representatives on the negotiating team in an attempt to work with the union representatives. Anderson said that in any contract discussions, "we have the big picture to look at: How it affects the taxpayers, the people who pay the bills."

Neither he nor Burns

would specify publicly what the disputed issues are, but the union president has said that the key issues are administrative, rather than economic.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said also that a large number of remaining issues are management related.

As he has in the past, Burns refused to reveal what the union members, who have been working without a contract for four

(Continued on page 20)

## Airport safety is questioned

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
7-12-90  
Citing safety questions, a member of the Wheeling Board of Health has urged the village to seek a reduction in the operating hours of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The airport's manager, however, said Monday that the facility's 24-hour per day operating schedule is common throughout the industry.

Bruce Portnoy, of the Board of Health, suggested the decrease in hours at the Wheeling Village Board meeting last week. He said Friday that he has "serious safety concerns" about flights originating and landing at the airport.

"There is definitely a potential for danger because of the flight patterns," Portnoy, who said his Harmony Drive home is directly within landing and takeoff configurations, maintained. "And because they're allowing larger planes to utilize the airport, that mandates more continuous preventative regulations and enforcement. That's an inherent responsibility of airport officials."

Portnoy also unsuccessfully encouraged the village, which administers the facility with Prospect Heights and a commission of representatives from both municipalities, to measure sound levels which he said he feared might be unhealthy, at the field.

Contending that he was speaking "indirectly for the majority of the community living in and around the airport," Portnoy said, "I've heard planes take off in the rain and fog... God forbid there should be a crash. Everything seems fine until you have a problem."

Portnoy, however, also decried what he considered a lack of active support for his efforts among area residents. "I'd hoped the community could mobilize before a tragedy occurs, but I'm seeing apathy," he said. "I'm not against operating the airport. Nobody's saying, 'Close the airport.' But

(Continued on page 20)

## Safe

there has to be a happy medium."

Portnoy appeared to have some potential backing on the Wheeling Village Board from Trustee Elizabeth Hartman, who said Monday she might support a decrease in operating hours, but would first like to see a comprehensive survey to see how many planes were involved.

"If a significant number of planes are operating through the night, I'd certainly like to look into it," she added.

"It is the exception rather than the rule that an airport is closed," Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart, Jr., said. "As a vital part of the national air transport system, (airports)

are normally open 24 hours."

Stewart also stressed that Wheeling, Prospect Heights and the airport commission had already approved a plan, which will be submitted to state regulators and the Federal Aviation Administration for their OK, aimed at creating a "safety area" which would increase the distances between street traffic and runways.

Part of that project would involve relocating the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads, Stewart said.

While that proposal would involve purchasing land, he added, "there are no plans to lengthen any runway at the airport."

years, are seeking in wages until the village makes an economic proposal.

He did say, though, that the entire package the union is seeking, which would cover 38 firefighters, firefighter paramedics, lieutenants and lieutenant paramedics, is "in line with most of the other agreements in the area."

Anderson, however, essentially disputed that characterization. "I don't think any one community has everything they would like," he said. Rather, according to Anderson, the union proposal might be said to include portions of agreements from numerous other communities. "They took the best parts," he ventured. "We're always trying to be competitive."

Burns said Wheeling and the union had about two weeks during which to agree upon an arbitrator in the dispute. Failing such an agreement, according to Burns, the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service will give the two sides a list of seven arbitrators, from which each may delete names until they arrive at an acceptable choice.

The arbitrators suggested by the service are members of the American Arbitration Association, a group comprised of lawyers, former judges, college professors and others with expertise in the labor field, Burns said.

He pointed out, however, that actual arbitration would probably not begin for three to four months, and that a final ruling might not be made until three months later.

As they have in the past, both Burns and Anderson indicated arbitration would be unlikely to satisfy both sides. "It means somebody

from the outside mandates wages and working conditions, and sometimes you get something both sides hate," Burns said.

"Arbitration is having a third party make decisions," Anderson said. "Obviously, it's better if both parties can come up with a satisfactory agreement."

But he suggested that arbitration might benefit the village by forcing contentious points into the open. "I'm not afraid to have the issues come out," he said. "Then the public might see the hang-ups in a different light."

Burns, meanwhile, suggested that despite the request for arbitration, the union was willing to continue negotiating with Wheeling. "We're open to bargaining any time the village wants to bargain," he emphasized. "We've left it in their hands. If they want to meet tomorrow, we will. We'll meet up to the day of arbitration."

Anderson, though, appeared less inclined to see any potential for progress in further discussions. "I wouldn't completely dismiss it but it's not likely to happen," he said. "We'd just be doing the same thing we've been doing for four years — butting heads."

"There wasn't any movement on their part so I'm not sure there's any great purpose to talking any more... But if I were halfway confident of productive results, I'd say yes."

Should binding arbitration occur, it would require resolving a precedent-setting number of issues, Burns said.

"We believe it's the longest-lasting fire labor dispute in the state," he said. "We keep on having to have third parties intervene."

# Turn lights on for Night Out

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

7-12-90

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
In an attempt to shed light on how citizen cooperation can help combat crime, Wheeling residents are being urged to turn on porch and yard lamps between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Aug. 7.

That illuminating gesture will be a symbolic component of "National Night Out," which its main sponsor, the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), hopes will heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for local anti-crime efforts and enhance relations between police and their communities. In addition, according to NATW project coordinator Matt Peskin, it will "send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are fighting back."

Such neighborhoods in other communities have held block parties, cookouts, rallies, youth events and contests in the six previous National Night Out events, according to Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop, who is coordinating the program locally.

In addition to turning on the lights, residents are asked to spend the evening outdoors with their neighbors, on porches, lawns and front steps. The gatherings, according to Kobishop, will demonstrate "solidarity among ourselves" in discouraging criminal behavior.

Kobishop is also encouraging Neighborhood Watch representatives and other interested citizens to attend an "informal brainstorming session" on July 16 at 7 p.m. at Hackney's in Wheeling, 241 S. Milwaukee Ave., aimed at generating concepts for other National Night Out activities. "I want to throw it out to the group and see what ideas they have," she said Monday. "We'll see how much energy they have."

The Tahoe Village Neighborhood Watch group is already showing initiative in literally taking the battle against crime to the streets, with its members going on informal patrols and reporting unusual activity to police, according to Kobishop.

"It's not a vigilante group," she emphasized. "They walk or drive and check out the neighborhood and get a feel of what's normal, so they can keep their eyes open for what's not normal."

"They've called us on several suspicious cars," she added. While some of those were actually abandoned vehicles, Kobishop nevertheless welcomes the calls. "They're our eyes and ears," she said of the residents. "What looks suspicious to us might be normal."

Wheeling is participating in the National Night Out for the first time. "Because we've increased our Neighborhood Watches over the past couple of years, we thought it might be appropriate to get involved," she explained.

# Sidewalk program sidestepped

July 18, 1990  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sidewalks will not be constructed on three streets on the northeast side of Wheeling, trustees decided after several residents objected to the proposed paved paths.

More than 70 residents from First, Second, Third and Strong streets signed petitions objecting to the village's plans to construct sidewalks along the streets. Trustees had set aside \$73,000 in this year's Capital Improvements Program to construct sidewalks along First, Second and Third streets.

However, residents said they don't want the sidewalks because they don't want the added responsibility of taking care of them, especially in the winter.

In addition, residents said there is not enough pedestrian traffic to warrant the sidewalks because all three streets are dead ends, and the sidewalks would detract from the appearance of the property along the streets. The petition also states, "There is enough concrete and blacktop being put down in Wheeling."

When questioned by Trustee Judy Abruscato whether young bicyclists, who ride along the streets there, would benefit from sidewalks, Second Street resident Lloyd Senne said that not many children ride bikes in that area.

Trustees agreed to use the \$72,000 to design and construct other sidewalks included in the Capital Improvements Program.

# Wal-Mart eyes village site

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

7-12-90

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
While Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., has been considering building a discount outlet in unincorporated Cook County on land bordered by Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, the move is evidently only in the discussion stage.

"We're just talking, so far," Roland Schwind, a co-owner of the property bounded by Lake Cook Road, Route 83, and Aptakisic Road said Monday. "There's nothing definite. We didn't sign any papers or anything. If you look out there, you'll see the field is still planted in soybeans."

Wal-Mart is a popular discount store chain which has recently expanded into areas in the east and Midwest.

The discussions themselves, he stressed, are no indication that the company is seriously interested in building on the site. Referring to other potential developers of the property, he said, "So many talk to us and nothing comes of it."

Wheeling Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke Monday basically sec-

onded Schwind's assessment. "Until I have an application, fees and documentation, I don't put much stock in it," he said. "We don't have any paperwork, officially."

"I've gotten several calls on this property in the past" which did not result in attempts to develop it, he added.

Wheeling or Buffalo Grove

There's nothing definite. We didn't sign any papers or anything. If you look out there, you'll see the field is still planted in soybeans.

Roland Schwind

would have to approve an application for annexation before any developer could actively pursue plans to construct such a facility on the site.

Even though no such application has been filed with Wheeling, however, Village Manager Craig Anderson noted that Wal-Mart has shown preliminary plans for the store to the village, and indicated it would "talk to the people in Cedar Run," a condominium subdivision near the property in question.

Phylis Rudnit, who lives in that subdivision, said Monday that she and many of her fellow residents might oppose the plan because of concerns that it would result in increased traffic, and water flow problems, in the area.

"This whole area is getting terrible," she said of area traffic. "And flooding is a big concern out here. I don't think our system could take any more water."

A public relations representative for the Arkansas-based Wal-Mart, Kristen Stehben, said last week she could not comment on any plans to build at the site.

# Wheeling manufacturer seeks tax exemption

and increasing the size of the 100,000-square-foot Wheeling center by 51,340 square feet. The business in Chicago would continue there.

In order to afford the expansion, which is estimated to cost about \$1.6 million, Dearborn owners want Wheeling trustees to approve a property tax exemption that would allow the property to be assessed at 16 percent rather than 36 percent for eight years.

Under a tax exemption, property is taxed at a lower rate for a number of years and then gradually brought up to the correct rate. Dearborn Plant Manager Nicholas M. Loitus said that with the tax exemption, Dearborn would pay about \$48,000 a year in property taxes for eight years. Without the exemption, however, Dearborn would pay about \$107,000 a year, Loitus added.

The owners of a wire manufacturing company want Wheeling trustees to approve a property tax exemption as an incentive to expand the company's Wheeling operation.

The business, Dearborn Wire and Cable Inc., manufactures, respoils, stripes and distributes wire and cable for large corporations for use in computers and other electronic equipment. Dearborn has affiliates based in Bensenville, Chicago and Wheeling.

Expansion plans include moving the Bensenville operation to the Wheeling center, located on 8.2 acres at 250 W. Carpenter Ave.,

Trustees are expected to vote on the request next month.

# Some residents criticize storm response

Wed, July 18, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite the contention of Wheeling officials that they appropriately handled the aftermath of a sudden rainstorm that whipped through the village last month, some residents are requesting that village employees be better prepared next time.

"We had a storm that was very narrow in nature," said Robert Anderson, of east Strong Street, where heavy damage occurred as a result of the June 13 storm.

"However, we had devastating damage in the village. I hope the village has learned out of this what procedures to follow for the future."

"I think we did learn a lot from the storm," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "We felt very good about the way our employees did react."

The storm, which traveled along a narrow corridor in northern Cook and southern Lake counties, blanketed the streets of Wheeling with leaves and branches. At least two houses and the village's fire station required roof repairs from trees that crashed through the buildings.

Some residents on the northeast side of town complained that village employees did not react quickly enough in clearing the debris, although Schultz said the streets were cleared of large branches by the next day.

"Does the village realize what happened and are we forming a plan for this in the future?" Anderson asked trustees. "To have such a narrow band of damage and not be able to handle it, I'd hate for us to be like (former Chicago) Mayor (Michael) Blandic handling a snow-storm."

Schultz said the village took responsibility for picking up debris in parkways, but that some residents took advantage of the service by moving debris from privately-owned to village-owned areas.

Robert D. Gray Jr., the village's director of operations and maintenance, is in the process of compiling a report outlining the clean-up costs.

# Double-digit hikes in tax bills coming

Tues. July 17, 1990

BY AMY CARR  
and TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Homeowners in Wheeling and the Cook County portion of Buffalo Grove will see double-digit increases in property tax bills this year, as escalating home values more than offset an overall decrease in tax rates announced Monday by county authorities.

Figures released Monday by the county clerk's office show total tax rates in the two villages decreasing by about 13 percent — normally an encouraging sign.

But that tells only part of the story.

The quadrennial reassessment of property in Wheeling Township last year resulted in property values increasing 27.1 percent. So with many local governments spending more, homeowners still can expect to pay more taxes.

Overall, taxpayers who saw increases of 25 percent in the assessed valuation of their homes should prepare for increases of about 14 percent.

For example, the owner of an average home in Wheeling would see a 14.3 percent increase in his tax bill, assuming there had been a typi-

cal increase in assessed valuation of his house. And, in Buffalo Grove, the owner of the average home would pay about 13.8 percent more than last year. Taxes will be due at the end of August.

Residents in the Lake County portion of Buffalo Grove also saw increases on their tax bills, which were mailed out in May. Tax rates released in April by Lake County showed a 2.9 percent decrease in the total rate — including the spending requests of municipalities, schools, libraries and other taxing districts. Yet higher property values and a higher county equalizer resulted in tax bills that were about 7.6 percent higher than last year's.

When the bills arrive in taxpayers' mailboxes near the end of the month, they'll represent increases in property tax requests approved by various boards last year, despite appeals by tax watchdog groups to keep spending down in a year when property values have been skyrocketing.

With help from the temporary supplemental state income tax, the villages of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling were able to avoid large increases in levy requests while increasing spending. In July, legislators im-

See TAX on Page 4

## DOUBLE-DIGIT: Tax bills up despite tax-rate decrease

Continued from Page 1

posed a temporary 20-percent increase in the state income tax. Unless renewed by the Illinois General Assembly, the increase will expire in 1991.

The primary reason for the increase in tax bills came from levy increases by Wheeling Township Elementary School District 21, the Indian Trails Public Library, the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling park districts, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and the Cook County board.

The temporary tax increase will bring about \$1.3 million to Buffalo Grove during the next two years, allowing the village to take on new projects — such as the construction of a fire station — without asking for additional property tax dollars from residents, Finance Director William H. Brimm said.

Buffalo Grove trustees approved a \$7.7 million levy in September, but tax abatements approved in December reduced that amount to \$4.6 million — about \$300,000 more than the village collected last year.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said the tax rate increase, coupled with a slightly increased levy, represents the village's intent to gradually decrease residents' contribution to local governmental spending.

"We've been on a six-year trend in both Lake and Cook counties to reduce the cost of government to the citizens," Balling said. "What we're hoping is that our contribution will result in lower taxes for residents."

In Wheeling, a number of factors contributed to the village levying 24.3 percent less than last year. The doubling in the amount of state income taxes; an increase in sales tax revenues of at least 15 percent; the village's growing population; and interest on investments, Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said.

As Fialkowski expected, Wheeling's tax rate is the lowest it has been since 1981 — the last time the rate dropped below \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

"Taxes are such an individual thing," Fialkowski said. "But, generally speaking, the dollars that you pay to the village this year will be noticeably less than last year."

Cash overflows in reserve funds due to property reassessments and a decrease in the road district budget contributed to a 16.1 percent decrease in Wheeling Township's levy last year. For all three township funds — town, general assistance and road district — township officials asked for \$1.22 million — a 16.1 percent decrease from last year.

In District 21, school officials are asking for \$21.8 million in property taxes — a 7.8 percent increase that partly reflects a 39 percent voter-approved tax increase.

Wheeling Park District officials increased the district's levy by 5.8 percent, to \$1.4 million, in order to collect the increased tax revenues resulting from the reassessment. Meanwhile, Buffalo Grove Park District officials say they needed a 12.6 percent increase in taxes to cover the costs of playground equipment and maintenance at a growing number of parks in the village.

Kenneth Swanson, administrative librarian of the Indian Trails Public Library in Wheeling, said the district increased its levy by 16.5 percent based on the reassessment. Swanson said library officials want to meet the tax rate ceiling to collect what money is available to expand services and increase salaries.

In Northwest Suburban High School District 214, school officials had issued a tax levy that was virtually identical to the previous year — \$77.2 million in property taxes this year.

### Buffalo Grove-Wheeling tax rates

(Per \$100 assessed valuation — Cook County portion)

	1988	1989	%
Cook County	\$1.128	\$1.048	-7.1
Forest Preserve	.101	.099	-2.0
Suburban TB Sanitarium District	.010	.009	-10.0
Metro. Water Rcl. Dist.	.536	.522	-2.6
NW Mosquito Abatement District	.011	.009	-18.2
Wheeling Township (all funds)	.096	.065	-32.3
School District 21	2.944	2.638	-10.4
High School District 214	2.238	1.883	-15.9
Harper College	.319	.290	-9.1
Village of Buffalo Grove	1.448	1.085	-25.1
Village of Wheeling	1.506	.965	-35.9
Buffalo Grove Park District	.707	.595	-15.8
Wheeling Park District	.503	.449	-10.7
River Trails Park District	.400	.338	-15.5
Indian Trails Library District	.279	.279	+0
Wheeling Twp. Rural Fire Dist.	.464	.404	-12.9
Forest River Fire Protection	.300	.269	-10.3
<b>Buffalo Grove Total</b>	<b>\$9.817</b>	<b>\$8.551</b>	<b>-12.9</b>
<b>Typical tax bill</b>	<b>\$2,543.32</b>	<b>\$2,893.21</b>	<b>+13.8</b>
Based on the village's average home sale price, \$132,400, with an increase in assessed valuation of 25 percent and a state assessment level of 16 percent.			
<b>Wheeling total</b>	<b>\$9.671</b>	<b>8.285</b>	<b>-14.3</b>
<b>Typical tax bill</b>	<b>\$1,739.46</b>	<b>\$1,988.56</b>	<b>+14.3</b>
Based on the village's average home sale price, \$100,280, with an increase in assessed valuation of 25 percent and a state assessment level of 16 percent.			

on the commission, which makes recommendations to the Wheeling village board and the Prospect Heights city council. All policies must be approved by both municipalities in order to take effect.

### Wheeling buys \$12,000 chipper

The village will spend nearly \$12,000 for a portable tree and brush chipper for the operations and maintenance department. Trustees agreed to buy the chipper for \$12,920 from Schuster Equipment Company of Lemont. Schuster submitted the lowest of five bids the village received for the equipment. The chipper will be delivered within a month. The highest bid of \$15,250 was from Vermeer — Illinois in Bata-via.

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

\$25,562 for building maintenance.

#### Airport commission terms outlines

Wheeling trustees have approved an ordinance that outlines terms of members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission.

Under the rules, members who serve on behalf of Wheeling on the commission will be appointed for staggered four-year terms that expire on May 1 of each successive odd-numbered year. Village President Sheila H. Schuitz appoints the members with the advice and consent of village trustees.

The commission oversees operations of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, which is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. Each municipality appoints four residents to represent the towns

#### Trustees hire janitorial service

Wheeling trustees have agreed to hire an Arlington Heights janitorial service for the building and vehicle maintenance department of the village.

The company, Quality Care, Inc., of Arlington Heights, submitted the lowest of the six bids the village received for the maintenance contract. Trustees agreed to pay Quality \$22,560 a year, or \$1,880 a month, to clean washrooms, a locker room, lunchrooms and reception and office areas.

The highest bid of \$70,920 a year, or \$5,910 a month, came from Lake Janitorial Service in Wheeling.

Last year, the village was under contract with Majesty Maintenance, Inc., of Wood Dale, for



Wheeling officials like Village President Sheila Schultz tried to hold the line on property taxes by asking for only what the village needed.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

## Taxes: Some areas able to hold the line

BY JEAN WRIGHT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite the temptation to increase property tax requests to take advantage of skyrocketing property values, a handful of Northwest suburban governments held the line during this year's budgeting and will be collecting only what they believe they need.

Despite decreases in total tax rates released by the Cook County clerk's office this week, residents in most suburbs can expect to receive tax bills in the next several days with double-digit increases brought on by soaring property values and local governments' higher spending.

Officials in Wheeling anticipated the effect of higher property values — which in area townships ranged from 18 to 45 percent increases — because of the quadrennial reassessment, and adjusted their levy to collect just what the village needed to cover its basic needs.

"There is no reason for us to have more money than we

need," Wheeling finance director Robert Fialkowski said. "There's no reason for us to take advantage of that."

Figures released by the county clerk's office show the tax rate for the village of Wheeling went down nearly 36 percent, largely because the village reduced its levy by more than 24 percent.

With property values increasing more than 27 percent, the lower levy doesn't necessarily translate into lower taxes. But it does reflect an effort to hold the line, officials say.

Wheeling was fortunate in that it received revenue from the temporary state income tax increase and a 15 percent boost in sales tax, Fialkowski said.

Also able to hold the line was Barrington, where officials increased the village levy by less than 1 percent.

"We were able to keep our expenses about constant with last year," said Finance Director Leonard Flood. "We look at the property tax as a last resort. The money still comes from taxpayers regardless of what happens



Bartlett Library residents will be paying higher tax bills.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

with the EAV (equalized assessed valuation) or rates. If you ask for more money, the taxpayers are going to pay more."

And other taxing bodies did ask for more, saying they had to use the quadrennial reassessment to boost lagging revenues.

In cash-strapped Schaumburg Township Elementary District

See TAXES on Page 5

Continued from Page 1

54, for example, the district requested \$68 million in property taxes, a 21 percent increase over what they collected last year.

"We have not been in the practice of balloon levying," said District 54 board President Vicki W. Harms. "This year, however, we levied based on the needs for the coming school year and in order to balance our budget, we had to try to get the maximum amount we could. And that's what we did."

Because District 54 has little in reserves and did not receive a "windfall" from the temporary state income tax increase, it was not able to lower its levy as some taxing bodies could, Harms said.

"Those who did receive a lot of money from the state income tax increase are almost obligated to do that," Harms said.

Also asking for more money was Bartlett, where residents will, on the average, be paying about \$45 more to the Bartlett Public Library District following a successful tax-increase referendum in April.

That, together with an increased levy, drove the library's tax rate up nearly 49 percent.

"We're certainly not padding the budget," library board President Ursula Moe said. "We were working on an extremely tight budget — hours were cut and services were cut. That's what we're levying for, to maintain the level of service we had."

## Zoning for gas station expansion approved

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owner of a gas station along Dundee Road in Wheeling plans to expand his service to include a "friction free" car wash.

The Amoco station, at 11 E. Dundee Road, now is used as an indoor car service station and mini-mart. The station owner, Robert Boho, also wants to increase the number of gas dispensers by two, bringing the total number of dispensers to five.

Trustees recently agreed to rezone the 1.5 acres to allow two buildings

on the single lot and to reduce the required distance from the building next door from 17 feet to zero feet. Trustee Judy Abruscato abstained from voting on the request to avoid a possible conflict of interest. She deals with Boho in her job as a personal banking officer at the First National Bank of Wheeling.

Although Village President Sheila H. Schultz commended Boho for the neat appearance of his station, Schultz was concerned about the new brick building, which would abut a cemetery on the immediate east side of the property.

Andy Eisenberg, a representative for the station, said landscapers would be drawing up plans to add a buffer, such as plants or ivy to block the building from the cemetery.

Boho, however, must bring back to the village board his plans for landscaping around the building as part of a condition of the board's approval of his plans.

The car wash is called "friction free" because no cloths touch the car, which is cleaned automatically with hoses. The car wash would be



Daily Herald Map

open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

## Palwaukee delays night curfew decision

THURS., July 19, 1990  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Imposing a night curfew on airfield use at Palwaukee Municipal Airport would be economically detrimental to the airport, Palwaukee officials and pilots say.

After receiving a couple of noise complaints from residents near the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson requested airport commissioners review the possibility of eliminating night flight operations.

However, commissioners on Wednesday agreed to postpone discussing a curfew until the Federal Aviation Administration approves

the airport's noise abatement plan. Called the Federal Aviation Regulations Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, the plan identifies areas near Palwaukee that are particularly affected by airplane noise and sets minimum flight planning standards for noise.

The study, which was completed in 1988, is awaiting final approval by the FAA's Great Lakes region. Approval is expected no later than next February, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

But Palwaukee officials and pilots say a curfew could drive corporate planes — a major source of income for the airport — to another airfield.

"This is what our airport is dependent on," said commission

Chairman Robert Strauss. "A curfew would be damaging to the airport."

From July 1989 through this month, Palwaukee has received 76 complaints from 15 residents, with 60 of those complaints coming from one resident in the Shadow Bend subdivision in Wheeling, Stewart said.

"To restrict the hours that somebody can come back from a trip is counterproductive," said Barry Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association.

"This airport could suffer economically... If people didn't know when they bought their house or condominium that the airport was here, something's wrong."

# Neighborhoods set Night Out plans

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

## COUNTRYSIDE

Residents of several Wheeling subdivisions are planning relatively conventional observances next month aimed at minimizing neighborhood crime. But they're already discussing how they can make similar events next year more compelling.

The activities are part of the "National Night Out," which the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) hopes will heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for local anti-crime efforts and enhance relations between police and their communities.

The NATW wants home owners to turn on porch and yard lamps, and mingle with their neighbors outdoors, between 8 and 10 p.m. on Aug. 7 as part of the effort.

The program is being coordinated locally by Wheeling Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop, who met with representatives of the Tahoe Village, Dunhurst East, Dunhurst West, Lexington Commons and Arlington Club subdivisions Monday to generate additional ideas for local participation in the national event.

"It was a high-energy meeting with a lot of brainstorming," Kobishop said Tuesday. "You want even the most absurd ideas, which might melt down into something that makes more sense."

"Everyone had great plans, but they realized there was no way" they could be achieved in the few weeks preceding this year's event, according to Kobishop. "We didn't want to bite off more than we could chew."

Consequently, Kobishop and subdivision representatives said, most neighborhoods will stick with the tried and true for "National Night Out," the first in which Wheeling is participating, with plans calling for possible block parties and potluck dinners, and children shining flashlights.

Jeff Lesitza, of Tahoe Village, and Dunhurst West organizer Ed Dzierzynski noted, though, that it might be difficult to even plan block parties on the relatively short notice. And Tahoe Village resident Janet Whitaker suggested that some neighbors might question the propriety of staging such an event on a week night.

As a result, according to Arnold Solars, also of Tahoe Village, "The first time around, we'll keep it kind of simple."

But the event is likely to include neighborhood visits by Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger and other police personnel, according to Kobishop. That would allow residents and police to "introduce themselves and get to know one another on a friendlier, more personal basis," she said.

"If somebody has a particular concern, this would be an opportunity to meet the chief face to face," she said.

In addition, McGruff, the Crime Fighting Dog, might also make appearances in some neighborhoods.

And Tahoe Village might try some fairly inventive approaches, such as leaving its pool open beyond the normal 9 p.m. closing time, and having residents link hands to form a human chain, according to Lesitza. Residents might also hide a model of McGruff, with a prize being awarded to the children who find it.

The emphasis of all such activities, in Tahoe Village and other subdivisions, in fact, will be the children, according to spokesmen. "The kids are

## Night Out Continued from page 3

the main thing," Lesitza explained.

Organizers will use this August's event as a gauge for planning the 1991 "National Night Out" in Wheeling. "Based on how it goes this year, we may go even crazier next year," Kobishop stressed. That might include a human chain, perhaps consisting in part of children and teenagers on bicycles, extending the length of the village, she said.

Whatever shape the events take, the message they convey will be clear, according to organizers. "It will let everybody know that we are con-

cerned about the safety of our neighborhood," Whitaker said. "It lets anybody who has any idea of breaking in or stealing anything know that we watch out for one another."

## County tax rates released; property taxes may go up

The bottom line is that many property owners will pay slightly higher tax bills this year.

Property owners will find out just how high when the bills begin to arrive at the end of the month.

Wheeling Township Assessor Dolores Stephan emphasized Tuesday that the new figures might be misleading to those who do not completely understand the taxing and assessing processes.

"It's impossible to predict the effect" of the reassessed tax rates, she said. "School districts and others might point out the tax rate went down, but that doesn't necessarily mean they've asked for less money. It means the assessed valuation increase allowed the tax rate to go down."

School district funding needs traditionally account for a large part of property tax bills. But according to Stephan, schools are not the only bodies that take their portion of the property tax coffers.

"There are over 160 different tax rates in Wheeling

### Wheeling Township Tax Rates\*

	1989	1988	% change
Cook County	1.048	1.128	-7.09%
Forest Preserve	.099	.101	-1.90%
Town	.047	.058	-18.9%
Gen. Assistance	.011	.029	-62.0%
Road and Bridge	.007	.009	-22.2%
T.B. Sanitarium Dist.	.009	.010	-10.0%
Metro. Water Dist.	.522	.536	-2.61%
NW Mosquito Dist.	.009	.011	-18.1
Buffalo Grove	1.085	1.448	-25.0%
Wheeling	.965	1.506	-35.9%
BG Park Dist.	.595	.707	-15.8%
Whlg. Park Dist.	.449	.503	-10.7%
Ind. Trl. Pub. Lib.	.279	.279	—
Rural FPD	.404	.464	-12.9%
School Dist. 21	2.638	2.944	-10.4%
School Dist. 214	1.883	2.238	-15.8
<b>Buffalo Grove:</b>			
Dist. 21	8.551	9.817	-12.8%
<b>Wheeling:</b>			
Dist. 21, in library	8.285	9.671	-14.3%
Dist. 21, park, library	8.598	9.916	-13.2
Dist. 21, in Whl. park, lib.	8.310	9.604	-12.4%

\*Source: Cook County Clerk's office

Township," Stephan said. "It's impossible to determine how over 55,000 property owners will be affected due to the most current reassessment and other factors."

"Needless to say, those who experienced a substantial percentage increase in assessed valuation would experience somewhat of a lower percentage in the total tax bill."

For example, according to Stephan, a 23 percent increase in assessed valuation for a home owner in Arlington Heights would translate into a 15 percent increase in his total tax bill.

Stephan, who said she had been swamped with calls since the release of the new figures, did not have a similar example prepared for Wheeling home owners.

However, noting that the tax rate in the Village of Wheeling went down about \$1 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation, Stephan

said, "That doesn't necessarily mean the tax bill is going down, because the assessment was increased."

To figure your tax bill, take the assessed valuation of your property, and multiply that number by 1.9133 (the state multiplier). Then subtract any exemptions (either homeowners or seniors). Divide this number by 100. Then multiply that figure by the tax rate to get your tax rate.

While figures released this week by the Cook County Clerk's office show area tax rates taking a considerable drop, taxpayers may shell out more because the recent quadrennial reassessment hiked area home values by approximately 25 percent.

Along with tax rates, the county-wide multiplier has also dropped by nearly one percent, a sign that Cook County assessments are now slightly closer to the actual selling price of homes.

## Village sets new flood plain laws

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents and business owners, unlike those of almost all other Illinois villages, may bypass the state approval process when making certain improvements to property in floodways.

That's because Wheeling has taken a "proactive" approach toward flood control, including being the first village in the state to pass a model ordinance governing the use of floodways — those sections of flood plains in which there is "the greatest conveyance of water," according to Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke.

As a result, someone wanting for example, to do underground utility work or set up a detached garage, storage shed or other nonhabitable structure, within the bounds of state and federal criteria, can now get a permit for such work directly from the village.

"The minor type of projects a homeowner would potentially be involved in can be handled locally, saving him the time and expense of getting state permits," Klitzke, vice-chairman of the

Illinois Association for Flood Plain Stormwater Management, explained.

"It's a prestige thing" for the village, he added. Wheeling, according to Klitzke, was the first village to be granted such permitting jurisdiction, technically called Floodway Permit Delegation Authorization, because it had actively addressed flood control issues, as evidenced by the passage of the model ordinance.

That ordinance was originally drafted by the state to address water flow problems after severe flooding occurred in Illinois in 1986 and 1987, according to Klitzke.

While Wheeling does not anticipate a flood of applicants for the local permits, it is reviewing a request for the expansion of a commercial parking lot under the new permitting authority, according to Klitzke.

He noted, though, that for many potential projects affecting floodways, businesses and homeowners would need more than local approval. "New development is all subject to full codes," he explained. "The larger stuff still needs state, and sometimes federal, approval."

### Calculating your tax bill

Tax bill for Wheeling home with a fair market value of \$100,000.

Home value	\$100,000
County Eq. factor	x .16
Assessed value	\$16,000
County multiplier	x 1.9133
EAV*	\$30,613
Homeowner Exmptn.	-\$3,500
	\$27,113
Divide by 100	271.28
Tax rate	x 8.598
1989 Tax Bill	\$2,331

\*EAV: Equalized Assessed Value

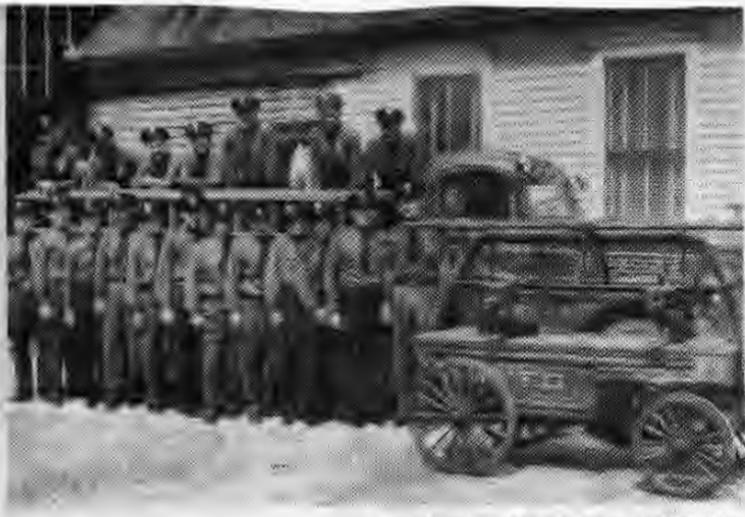


Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

In 1950, members of the Wheeling Fire Department used a fire pole to get down to the first floor when emergency calls came in.

## Firefighting brass to stand in history

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

Some of the Wheeling Fire Department's top brass will be given a place of honor in a local museum.

The brass in question is in the form of a pole, about 20 feet long, down which firemen used to slide at Wheeling's original station on Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, en route to conflagrations throughout the village.

When that two-story structure was replaced by the current, single-level facility at 255 W. Dundee Road in the early 1980s, the pole was dismantled and taken to the new building, where it was relegated to an ignominious fate.

"It was sitting in storage and collecting dust," Chief Keith MacIsaac said Friday. "It became a place to throw your coat."

The department, according to MacIsaac, wanted to give the pole a home where it would be properly appreciated. "It's important to the history of the village," he explained. "I can never see us with another two story structure needing a pole."

Most stations built within the past 25 years or so, are in fact, single level facilities, according to MacIsaac, making the pole an increasingly rare historical commodity.

The department had considered exhibiting it at the current main station, or mounting it on a trailer as a kind of traveling educational display, as the Palatine Fire Department has done, MacIsaac said. In the latter scenario, "we'd let the kids slide down it," MacIsaac said.

Both options proved impractical, however, and MacIsaac volunteered to donate the pole to the Carriage House museum of the Wheeling Historical

Society, 251 N. Wolf Road. It was delivered Friday by firefighters and Public Works Department personnel.

Firefighter/paramedic Don Malin said Monday he had volunteered to install the pole, a job he hoped to accomplish by July 20. The work will include cutting a hole in the ceiling of the Carriage House first floor to accommodate the pole, and installing the door which opens around it when stepped on.

While allowing a quicker slide down the pole, however, the automatic door also had a drawback when it was actually used. According to MacIsaac, it created "heating and air conditioning problems" by letting air seep upward from the garage into the firefighters living quarters. In addition, the chief said, the odors from the diesel exhausts of the trucks would make their way into the firefighters habitat.

Lt. Dan Dieter, though, who made his way down the pole many times at the old station, recalled that it offered an important advantage to hastily departing firefighters. "Believe it or not, it's safer going down a pole at 3 a.m. than the stairs," Dieter, who now works at the new facility, said. "You'd just slide down and, bingo." The downward maneuver, he remembered, was really nothing to get worked up about. "You'd just hook the pole in the crook of your arm and down you went," he explained.

The museum's curator, Betty Barrie, meanwhile, said Monday she welcomed the addition of the pole to the historical society's collection of fire fighting memorabilia, including pictures, helmets and badges. "It helps people know what Wheeling was like, and what we did years ago," she said.

## Residents find where the sidewalk ends

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

Giving residents their wish, the Wheeling Village Board Monday dropped First, Second and Third streets from the sidewalk construction program which had been scheduled under its capital improvements plan.

Over 70 home owners had petitioned the village asking for the move, saying there was not enough pedestrian

said. "(Residents) do not want the responsibility of taking care of them (sidewalks), especially in winter."

In response to a question by Trustee Judy Hartmann, a spokesman for the residents said an insignificant number of children rode bicycles through the neighborhood.

Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke said the sidewalk plan would not have raised residents' taxes. He added, though, that "we have a list a mile long of others to do."

Describing the neighborhood in question as "older and established," Klitzke said, "If they like it the way it is, we'll move on to the next one."

Assistant Village Manager David Kowal, who supported the residents' request, had told the board the cost of the project would have been \$72,000. He said that money could be spent on other sidewalk projects scheduled for the next fiscal year.

A similar petition had been submitted to the village requesting that sidewalks not be installed along nearby Edgewood Drive in April, according to Kowal.

There is enough concrete and blacktop being put down in Wheeling.

traffic to warrant the installation of the sidewalks, which they said would detract from the appearance of their neighborhood.

"There is enough concrete and blacktop being put down in Wheeling," the petition

### The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board committees of the whole  
Where: Lexington Commons Club House, 587 Lexington Drive.  
When: 7:30 p.m. Monday

## Wheeling to hold workshop at clubhouse

Sunday, July 22, 1990

As part of Wheeling trustees' continuing effort to meet with residents on their own turf, trustees will hold a workshop meeting this week in the clubhouse at the Lexington Commons subdivision.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

One concern likely to come up would be the issue of installing a traffic light at the intersection of Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road, where traffic builds up daily, making it difficult for residents to exit the subdivision, Anderson said. "There's no doubt that a traffic

signal is warranted there," Anderson said. "The traffic is so horrendous coming down Old McHenry Road that something has to be done."  
Officials have delayed putting a light in at the corner because the Illinois Department of Transportation has plans to improve Old McHenry Road — or Route 88, a state-owned road — within the next three to five years.

## Wheeling searches for new assistant

Monday, July 23, 1990

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have begun searching for a replacement for Assistant Village Manager David Kowal, who is leaving next month for a new job in Northbrook. Kowal, 29, recently resigned his post in Wheeling, a town of about 25,000 residents, to accept the job of assistant village manager of Northbrook, which has a population of more than 33,000. Kowal's last day in Wheeling is Aug. 10.

Kowal, a Buffalo Grove resident, started work in Wheeling four years ago as assistant to the village manager, who at the time was Tom Markus. Shortly after Markus died, Kowal took over as vil-

lage manager, when Markus resigned. Kowal's post was combined with the position of personnel officer and renamed assistant village manager.

"I think it (the position in Northbrook) is a natural progression for me," said Kowal, who came to Wheeling after finishing his master's degree at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he was born and raised. "The duties and responsibilities of assistant manager in Northbrook, I think, will provide me with additional and greater challenges," he said. "My four years here have been very rewarding."

Applications for the assistant village manager post will be accepted until Sept. 15, Anderson said. A replacement is expected to be named by November.

Kowal's most recent achievement is his coordination of a joint venture between Waste Management of North America, Inc. and Goodwill Industries of Chicago. The program combines the curbside collection of reusable and recyclable goods. Kowal developed Wheeling's curbside recycling program, which started in May 1989.

# Residents finally will get their stop light

July 24, 1990  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A traffic light will be installed by this fall at the congested entrance of a Wheeling subdivision, two years after residents first made the request.

Residents of Lexington Commons subdivision broke out in applause Monday when Village Manager Craig G. Anderson announced, at a meeting in the subdivision's clubhouse, that a temporary traffic light will be installed at Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road or Old Route 83.

"The traffic signal has been a big issue that we've been pushing for years," said Jim Miller, president of the Lexington Commons

homeowners association. "During rush hours it's practically impossible to get on Route 83."

In September 1988, Debbie Stuart, also a member of the homeowners' association, wrote her first letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation requesting the traffic light. Her children had difficulty crossing Old McHenry Road to catch their school bus, which would not turn into the subdivision because of the problems getting back out.

"Try to get out of here at 8 o'clock in the morning and turn right," Stuart said.

IDOT officials agreed that a signal was warranted at the corner but did not want to install one because the agency has plans to ex-

pand Old McHenry Road, a state-owned street, in the next three to five years.

Wheeling, too, did not want to spend \$100,000 to install a permanent light that would come down once the road construction begins.

But on Monday, Wheeling was notified that IDOT approved the village's request to install a temporary light which costs about \$30,000. Temporary lights are suspended from wires across the intersection rather than cemented to the ground like a permanent light.

"That means we'll be able to get out of here safer," Stuart said.

Lexington Drive also is used by many motorists as a thoroughfare to get from Old McHenry Road to Lake-Cook Road.

# Wheeling flood insurance rates may drop

7-25-90  
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents may see a 5 percent reduction in their flood insurance rates as a result of the village's efforts to regulate development in flood-prone areas, Wheeling officials say.

Since 1978, Wheeling has been a member of the National Flood Insurance Program, which provides federally backed flood insurance to encourage communities to enact and enforce floodplain regulations.

Now, as an incentive to communities to reduce the risk of flood damage to buildings, to protect new buildings beyond the program's minimum requirements and to keep accurate flood data for

insurance agents, directors of the program are implementing a new plan, called the Community Rating System. The system, which is similar to the rating system used for fire departments, is based on a scale from one to 10, with one being the best.

Under the system, communities are assigned a rating based on the number of credits accumulated for activities the village undertakes to reduce flood losses and to promote awareness of flood insurance. Communities that do not apply for the rating have an automatic rating of 10. Applications are due by Dec. 15.

Being in Illinois already would reduce Wheeling's rating to a nine next year because this state has

higher flood regulations than federal standards, said Michael Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development. In 1992, the village could be reviewed for a lower rating.

Klitzke could not estimate how low Wheeling's rating would be after the village's application is reviewed. But, he said, residents' insurance rate may be reduced by 5 percent because Wheeling has been implementing several flood regulations that accumulate credit for the village according to the rating system.

Some of those standards include maintaining and clearing obstructions from village creeks, keeping records of flood data and regulating floodplain construction.

# Firefighters union, village seek neutral arbitrator

COUNTRYSIDE  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER  
7-26-90

Apparently unable to agree on an arbitrator to settle their contract dispute, the village and the union representing its firefighters have asked an outside source to select one for them.

"It still doesn't leave out our mutually agreeing in the future," Bart Burns, President of the Wheeling Firefighters' Association, said Thursday. "But up until this point, we haven't been able to."

As a result, the American Arbitration Association, at the request of the village

firefighter/paramedics, lieutenants and lieutenant/paramedics.

Neither union nor village officials have been willing to specify publicly what the points of contention are, but Burns has said the key questions are "administrative, rather than economic."

Village Attorney James Rhodes has also said many of them are "management related."

Wheeling Fire Department Chief Keith MacIsaac, meanwhile, said Friday that the protracted dispute may be adversely affecting the department in several areas, including morale, an assessment Burns said he shared.

"There's still good cooperation and effort by the men," MacIsaac said. "But it takes its toll."

"Potentially, it's hurt our efforts to entice quality candidates" to jobs in the Wheeling department, he added. If a prospective firefighter has the opportunity work in a more settled labor climate, he explained, "it's a human nature that he'll consider it."

The contract problems have, to an extent, impeded departmental planning, MacIsaac said. "I don't want to present a program that becomes a big red flag, confusing the issues on the table," he emphasized.

As Burns has done, MacIsaac both expressed regret that arbitration is evidently necessary and appeared to accept its inevitability. "It's unfortunate the situation has come to this point," he said. "Neither side wins everything it's asking for when an outside individual makes the decisions."

"On the other side, four-and-a-half years of negotiations have not gotten a contract. In some ways, maybe this is necessary to bring things to a head."

Neither side wins everything it's asking for when an outside individual makes the decisions.

## Keith MacIsaac

and the union, will submit a list of seven names which would be ranked according to acceptability by each side. An arbitrator would be selected from that list through a kind of culling process.

Both the village and the union, however, have the option of rejecting one complete panel, according to Burns.

The contract would cover 38 firefighters,

# Rate hike takes homeowners association by surprise

COUNTRYSIDE  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER  
7-26-90

A spokesman for Waste Management, Inc., has agreed to tell the Lexington Commons Condominium Association how much it would have to pay for a recycling service that did not include plastics.

The spokesman, Lee Adleman, acted after Lexington Commons residents expressed dismay that their monthly per-resident bills for the program doubled — a jump from \$1 to \$1.95 when it was expanded to include plastics in July.

James Miller, president of the association's board, had asked the village board at a workshop in the subdivision covering a range of issues Monday, to exclude his group from the plastic collection service in place in other areas of the village, stop billing it for plastic pickup for six months, or fashion some intermediate compromise.

Miller contended that when the subdivision entered Wheeling's recycling program in January, village officials said plastics recycling would necessitate a "significant rate increase," but would not occur for two years.

While village officials said a moderate rate hike might be required in spring, "we assumed it would only be 5 or 10 percent," Miller maintained. Consequently, the association, which operates on a budget, was completely unprepared for the approximate doubling of the recycling bills. "It's not that we have any objection to recycling," Miller emphasized. "But it's the way the increase was brought about. It's a hardship on our budget."

Assistant Village Manager David Kowal, however, said Tuesday that the association had merely been told the \$1 rate would not rise "through the remainder of the terms of the agreement" Wheeling has with Waste Management, which ended on May 1.

"We didn't know the price increase much before the residents did."

He added that according to Waste Management, the recycling bills would have climbed by 40 to 60 cents per resident even without adding plastic to the program.

Miller indicated that Adleman's agreement signaled a change in Waste Management's position. "We were told before they could not bill us differently," he said.

Adleman suggested that even with the increase, association members were getting a bargain. "For the cost of a tip on a Dominos pizza, you can have recycling in your community," he said.

# Airport challenged to reduce noise

COUNTRYSIDE

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

7-26-90

With recommended restrictions on local aviation traffic indefinitely up in the air, the Wheeling resident who made them would like to see interim safety measures adopted.

A pilots' spokesman, meanwhile, believes the issue has already been adequately addressed.

Citing safety concerns, Wheeling Board of Health member Bruce Portnoy, acting as an individual citizen, has been lobbying for a reduction in the operating hours of Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling. He

has also been asking that noise levels of air traffic at the facility be monitored.

At Portnoy's urging, Wheeling, which administers the airport with Prospect Heights and a commission of representatives of both municipalities, asked that commission to consider the measures.

At a meeting last week, however, commissioners moved to defer action on the question until the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) decides whether or not to approve a safety plan for the facility which has been before it for about two years, according to Airport

Manager Fred E. Stewart, Jr.

Stewart said the FAA is expected to make that decision no later than February of next year, and possibly, he said, much earlier.

"I would hope to see some kind of intermediary action initiated so something can be done now to control flights and monitor the noise level of evening flights," Portnoy said Tuesday.

In seeking to ban or restrict flights at the airport between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., Portnoy has contended that there is a "potential for danger because of the flight patterns" extending over

areas surrounding the facility.

"Now that there is an increased density of neighboring areas surrounding the airport, there's a compounded necessity for the village and the airport to monitor constantly any conditions that could put residents in jeopardy," Portnoy added.

Portnoy has also charged that sound levels at the field may be unhealthy.

"The noise problems, and the potential for risk that goes with the increased weight of planes taking off, will not go away," Portnoy insisted.

Palwaukee Airport Pilots'

Association President Barry Axelrod, however, disputed Portnoy's claims Tuesday. Airport rules setting a maximum aircraft weight of 77,000 pounds, which took effect in April, merely accommodate the types of planes which had already been safely using the facility, according to Axelrod.

Arguing that newer development in the Palwaukee area had been mainly industrial, Axelrod challenged Portnoy's claim that it had become more densely populated.

"I have no knowledge of unsafe planes" operating at Palwaukee, he emphasized.

(Continued on page 9)

## Distant echoes

COUNTRYSIDE

7-26-90

While noise pollution at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport may be a nuisance to some, it appears that the airport commission is doing its best to keep a muffle on the problem.

At a meeting last week, the airport commission was asked by the village of Wheeling to consider reducing its operating hours and redefine air traffic patterns to appease concerns of residents living nearby. Commissioners moved to defer action on the question until the Federal Aviation Authority decides whether to approve a safety plan for the facility, which has been before the FAA for about two years. This decision is anticipated in the very near future.

The issue of noise pollution has surfaced, as such issues will around any suburban airport, frequently over the past several years. It is precisely because of those complaints that airport officials are continually forced to refine rules of operation, redraw landing patterns and act as buffers between local residents and pilots.

To date, it appears they have succeeded in those attempts, and two facts speak loudly to that point.

First, the airport commission and pilots' association have for several years maintained both good-neighbor and aviation safety measures, including setting maximum aircraft weights and asking pilots to cut back on power in certain situations. The airport also has a policy of contacting individual pilots who may be making more noise than is warranted, one official said.

Second, a small but vocal group of only 15 people are responsible for the 76 complaints on airport-related issues received over the last year, according to airport officials. This hardly indicates a widespread problem.

The airport commission should maintain its vigilance over noise and safety and continue to study the potential effects of restricting night flying hours and air traffic patterns. And critics of the airport commission should remember that things could be worse. At least they don't have a proposal of a new airport flying in their faces.

The issue of noise pollution has surfaced, as such issues will around any suburban airport, frequently over the past several years.

He added that he did not know how Portnoy was defining an unsafe aircraft.

"People think we're going to have 747s landing here," Axelrod said. "That's nonsense. Since jets have been flying out of the airport for 25 years, why is he (Portnoy) making such a commotion about it now?"

He noted that the airfield had instituted a "good neighbor policy," under which pilots were asked to cut back on power in certain situations to reduce noise. "The main thing is to fly safely," he stressed.

Since safety measures had already been taken by the airport and were still being explored on a continuing basis, Axelrod said he would like to see the commission "close the book" on Portnoy's suggestions.

Stewart, too, stressed that the airport has an ongoing program for minimizing any negative effect it might have on the area. "Sometimes it involves contacting tenants who are making more noise than is warranted," he explained. "We need more information on what's causing problems," Commissioner Elizabeth Hartman, who is also a Wheeling trustee, said Monday. "If it's just one or two planes, maybe something can be worked out with the owners."

Even if the airport ultimately agreed to adopt Portnoy's proposals, they might not be implemented for up to another two years, Hartman added. That time period would allow "severely impacted operators to relocate, or change or order new aircraft," she explained.

Axelrod said restricting airport hours "could be devastating" economically for the airport and pilots using it. The latter often required late night flights in or out of Palwaukee to keep business appointments in other

that of the neighbors, to close the airport," he added. "We recognize its value to the regional area."

Hartman noted that while over the past year, the commission had received 76 complaints about airport issues, they had been lodged by just 15 people.

Axelrod called that figure a "minuscule percentage" that indicated "the tail is wagging the dog" on the issue.

Portnoy, though, suggested that the number of complaints might not tell the complete story of resentment over airport policies. Area residents, he said, had told him "things are not getting done going through the airport."

"Many people feel the need to complain but don't know how to channel it, or they're intimidated by the complex airport operating process," he maintained. "Sometimes, we're told the answers are very technical."

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# Business seeks tax relief for expansion

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

7-26-90  
Wheeling has approved the type of tax break being sought by Dearborn Wire and Cable, Inc., which wants the relief to help finance expansion, in 24 of 27 cases since

The theory behind it is they're going to go elsewhere if they're not given the break.

## Craig Anderson, Village Manager

1986, according to Village Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

And among those whose requests were rejected was a plating company of questionable value to the community, Village Manager Craig Anderson said Thursday.

With the tax relief, technically an exemption that must be approved first by the affected local municipality and then the Cook County Assessor, Dearborn Wire and Cable, Inc. would have its property assessed at 16 percent of its market value, rather than 36 percent, Fialkowski said.

Anderson, who supports granting the request, explained that such relief is traditionally given to increase the likelihood of a business remaining, locating or expanding its operations in a Cook County community. "The theory behind it is

they're going to go elsewhere if they're not given the break," he said.

While he and Fialkowski indicated Dearborn Wire and Cable, Inc., would, in fact, expand its operations in a municipality besides Wheeling if the break were not allowed, an attorney for the company, Henry Wolff, was less definite when asked about that prospect by Trustee Elizabeth Hartman at a recent village board hearing. "I don't think we're prepared to answer that question tonight," Wolff said. "We'd have to look at the numbers."

Thursday, Wolff said such a determination would be a "business decision" he could not make.

If the company were granted the exemption, according to Wolff, it would construct a \$1.6 million building, on its site at 250 Carpenter Ave., to be shared by three affiliates.

Altogether, Wolff said, the project would bring 30 new jobs to the village and generate about \$48,000 in property taxes for each of eight years.

Calling Dearborn Wire "a good corporate citizen," Anderson said the company doesn't "pollute or require extraordinary service."

He contrasted that profile with that of the plating operation whose exemption request was denied by the village. "We had real concerns about pollution and health," Anderson said. "We thought that was a company we didn't need to attract with a tax break."

The village board might consider the request next month, according to village officials.

If the exemption were granted by the village and the county, construction at the site could begin by Sept. 15, according to Wolff.

# New stoplight set for Lexington entrance

7-26-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE  
Village officials told residents of Lexington Commons Monday that traffic signals might be installed at the intersection of Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road before winter.

Village Manager Craig Anderson received loud applause when he told over 100 members of the Lexington Commons Condominium Association, packed into the group's clubhouse for a village board workshop Monday night, that Wheeling had

received Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approval for the project.

Residents had been petitioning the village to install signals because of traffic safety concerns, according to James Miller, president of the condominium association's board. "Lexington is one of the primary cut-throughs from traffic between Old McHenry Road and Lake Cook Road," Miller explained Tuesday.

During morning and evening rush hours, Miller said, it's extremely difficult to get out of the subdivision.

# Assistant manager announces resignation

COUNTRYSIDE  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

7-26-90  
Assistant Village Manager David Kowal announced last week he was resigning to accept a similar post in Northbrook.

"The decision to leave wasn't easy," said Kowal, who has served the village in various staff positions for about four years. "I've always had good relations with the village managers, and been treated very well by the village."

"But I think the position

in Northbrook is going to present me with new challenges, and I'm excited about the change," he said. Kowal was promoted to assistant to the village manager in 1987 and assumed his current duties in January of this year.

Kowal's contributions have been numerous, according to Village President Sheila Schultz. "Many programs bear his mark," including the recently initiated recycling program, she said.

In addition, Schultz noted, Kowal has been "excellent in

his personnel director's responsibilities."

Asked how the departure of Kowal, who will remain in his present position through Aug. 10, would affect continuing village programs, Schultz replied, "It's the mark of a good administrator that he makes (transitions) easier by training other people. He's worked with other people on the staff, so it doesn't leave the void it might have had it been done differently."

"I'm very, very sorry to see Dave leave," Schultz added, "but on the other

hand, I'm happy for him because it gives him greater opportunities to do the things he hasn't been doing here. He's been an all-around good person for the village. He's worked in almost all the departments."

"When you have someone with his qualifications, experience and personal ability, it's never surprising that he's wooed away by another community," she said.

Kowal said the search for his replacement would probably begin this week.

He's been an all-around good person for the village. He's worked almost everywhere.

Sheila Schultz  
Village President

# Wheeling seniors call for compliance on cab-fare law

# Trees near airport may be spared

July 27, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are making an effort to save a few trees during a \$415,000 demolition project to remove obstructions around the airfield.

Included in the airport layout plan, which maps out what the airport ultimately will look like, is the demolition and removal of some buildings, trees, fences and debris near the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads in preparation of the relocation of those two roads. The intersection is scheduled to be moved west by 1994 to create a clear zone

because, under Federal Aviation Administration standards, the airport's main runway ends too close to the intersection.

The layout plan also calls for clearing the west corner of Sumac Road and Milwaukee Avenue to make way for future corporate hangars in that area. Some trees along Milwaukee Avenue may be saved during that demolition, airport Commissioner William A. Rogers said.

Commissioners recently approved hiring Lake County Grading Company of Libertyville, Inc. for \$415,300 for the demolition project. The com-

mission's recommendation now awaits approval of the airport owners - Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

However, before the project begins, engineers for the airport will review the plans to determine whether any trees could be saved rather than demolished with the rest of the obstructions.

"Somewhere along the line we've got to think about preserving the green area," Rogers said in making his request to review the plans.

Rogers concedes that the number of trees saved may amount to no

more than five. Under the demolition plans, the grading company would remove an abandoned gas station at the southwest corner of Wolf and Hintz roads and remove a barn, fence and debris from the southeast side of that corner.

In addition, 32 of the airport's 70 T-hangars would be demolished because they, too, are located too close to the main runway. Pilots now storing their airplanes in those corporate hangars would be moved in September to a new tie-down area for outside airplane storage on the southeast side of the airport.

Cab companies must apply to the village for an operating license, and one of the conditions for approval is compliance with the reduced-fare ordinance, Anderson added. Anderson said he will review how other towns enforce the senior rate reduction and make a recommendation to trustees as to whether the village should reimburse the cab companies. Trustees may discuss Anderson's recommendation later this year.

One of the biggest problems is trying to get the taxi cab drivers to pick up the fares," Anderson said. "We've received not a lot of complaints, but we've received about three complaints that the taxi cabs have not been honoring that requirement." Unlike other communities with similar laws, Wheeling does not reimburse the cab companies for the reduced fares.

Wheeling seniors call for compliance on cab-fare law. Cab companies must apply to the village for an operating license, and one of the conditions for approval is compliance with the reduced-fare ordinance, Anderson added. Anderson said he will review how other towns enforce the senior rate reduction and make a recommendation to trustees as to whether the village should reimburse the cab companies. Trustees may discuss Anderson's recommendation later this year.

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## Buffalo Grove, Wheeling near fire aid pact

8-3-90  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents who live on the border of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove may soon see an improvement in fire department services if the two departments combine emergency response efforts.

During some emergency calls - particularly those at the northwest end of Wheeling and the east end of Buffalo Grove - it may be quicker and more efficient for the fire department from the opposite town to respond to certain calls, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said.

Wheeling trustees plan to sign an agreement on Monday that allows the departments to assist each other, a move that could reduce response time by up to two minutes, MacIsaac said. Buffalo Grove trustees are set to vote on the agreement Aug. 20.

Under the mutual aid agreement, the Buffalo Grove Fire Department would send a fire engine to the Arlington Club subdivision, located on the west end of Wheeling at Buffalo Grove and Dundee roads, for emergency calls. In addition, a ladder truck would be sent to the multi-family complexes, including Fairway View and Pine Hill apartments, Cedar Run and Lexington condominiums and Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged, off Old McHenry Road.

Once the property at Old McHenry Road, just south of Lake-Cook Road, is developed, it would be added to the agreement.

In return for Buffalo Grove's assistance, Wheeling would provide a ladder truck to the industrial park area directly north of Wheeling, including the 12-story Riverwalk Complex at the Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road. In addition, Wheeling would provide a truck to the entire area bounded by Lake-Cook Road, Inverary, the Wisconsin-Central Ry. tracks and Milwaukee Avenue and to Cambridge on the Lake subdivision, if requested.

Both villages would provide and participate in quarterly training. The agreement also stipulates the towns would waive all claims between each other in the event of damages.

## Residents say garbage transfer station would tangle traffic

Sat. 7/28/90  
BY VICKI SPEER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Wheeling Township residents fear a proposed garbage transfer station - considered critical to plans for a Bartlett landfill - would snarl traffic in their neighborhood.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County asked Cook County zoning officials Thursday for industrial zoning that would allow construction of the \$9 million transfer station on 49 acres northeast of River and Central roads. Garbage from 13 communities would be compacted and baled at the station and then trucked to the controversial Bartlett landfill.

Twenty-two of SWANCC's 26 member communities already have written letters of support for the project, said William F. Abolt, SWANCC's executive director.

"The proposed use is both consistent with and critical to the solid waste plan," Abolt told members of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals, which may issue its recommendation to the Cook County board next month.

But residents of Forest River subdivision, which lies about 900 feet northwest of the site, are unhappy with the prospect of increased truck traffic.

And plans to install a traffic light at the site's entrance - along River Road, about 1,600 feet north of Cen-

tral Road - would clog traffic already slowed by lights at the River-Central and River-Kensington Road intersections, resident Florence Villadonga said.

"Three lights within a half mile doesn't make any common sense," Villadonga protested.

David B. Miller, a traffic consultant for SWANCC, said the traffic lights would be interconnected so motorists would not be stopped at each of them. Besides, Miller said, SWANCC may ask the Illinois Department of Transportation for permission to install the signal at the request of Maryville City of Youth, located west of the site.

Of the additional truck traffic, Abolt said: "Our impact on River is really negligible. That doesn't mean it's not a major arterial - that's one of the reasons we're here."

Still, SWANCC officials plan to meet with residents of Forest River subdivision next month to discuss their concerns.

Villadonga said she also worries about how the agency plans to dispose of water used to clean the transfer station each night. "We want to know if it's going to the (Des Plaines) River, or the sewer system," she said.

Abolt said the water, which will never touch garbage baled at the station, will go into a sanitary sewer system not related to residents' water source.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Villages will sign fire service pact

Wheeling trustees plan to sign an agreement this week with Buffalo Grove that is expected to improve fire service for both villages.

The agreement, called a "Mutual Aid Agreement," is an effort by the fire departments from the two towns to respond quicker to emergency calls. Because the two communities border each other, during some emergency calls it may take less time for the other village fire department to respond, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said.

For Wheeling, the agreement would improve the fire response service on the west and northwest fringe area of Wheeling and highly-populated areas.

Under the agreement, the Buffalo Grove Fire Department would send a fire engine to the Arlington Club subdivision, located on the west end of Wheeling at Buffalo Grove and

#### The top meeting

Who: Wheeling Village Board  
Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.  
When: 8 p.m. Monday

Dundee roads. In addition, a ladder truck would be sent to the multi-family complexes, including Fairway View and Pine Hill apartments, Cedar Run and Lexington condominiums and Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged, off Old McHenry Road.

Once the property at Old McHenry Road, just south of Lake-Cook Road, is developed, it would be added to the agreement.

In return for Buffalo Grove's assistance, Wheeling would provide a ladder truck to the industrial park area directly north of Wheeling.

# Labor dispute draws protest in village

By WAYNE TRYHUK

COUNTRYSIDE 8-2-90



RICHARD BAJALIEH/Pioneer Press

Ed Shivers, of Laborers Union Local #2, picketed outside the Wheeling Village Hall last week, in a

protest centering around a construction firm hired by the village.

While the pickets have left the village hall, allegations that a contractor hired by Wheeling is violating the spirit of labor laws remain.

The contractor, though, emphatically denies those contentions.

Representatives of Laborers' Union Local #2 marched outside the village hall for several days last week, claiming that Kim Construction Co., was not paying its nonunion employees the prevailing wage as required by state law. Kim Construction is presently rehabilitating more than 1,800 sanitary sewer manholes throughout the village.

The prevailing wage reflects union wages ordinarily paid in a given area.

The picketing ended when an audit requested by the union demonstrated that Kim Construction was, in fact, paying the prevailing wage, according to spokesmen for the local and the company.

One of the picketers, Ed Shivers, however, also charged that the use of nonunion (Continued on page 11)

## Yard waste program fields few complaints

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although other nearby communities have been besieged with illegal dumping and resident complaints concerning new yard waste collection programs, Wheeling's share has been kept to a minimum, village officials say.

"We've gotten some (complaints)," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said of a new collection program that began July 1. "We're kind of giving it a chance to see how it operates."

The village's new program complies with a state mandate banning yard waste from landfills — an effort to prolong the life of dwin-

ding landfill space.

During the first month of the program, Wheeling received about six complaints, Anderson said. Most of those calls were from residents who were unaware how the program works, he added.

Under the village's yard waste collection program, pickup for household trash is reduced to one day a week rather than two days. Landscape waste is picked up on the same day that recyclables are collected and household trash is picked up on the other collection day.

Residents must bag yard waste, which includes grass clippings, leaves, twigs and branches, in special paper bags or put the land-

scape trash in garbage cans. Large pieces of wood that exceed three inches in diameter are not accepted.

Buffalo Grove officials say they received about 50 calls last month from residents with questions concerning the new yard waste removal program, which is the same as Wheeling's program. More than half of the calls were from residents who complained of odor or unsightliness resulting from the reduction in pickup days.

In Mount Prospect, residents were illegally dumping yard waste into lesser used areas of village parks. Village staff members were reassigned from their daily duties to clean up the messes.

labor jeopardized the quality of the rehabilitation project. "I'm a laborer. I can see (code) violations," Shivers said.

Shivers also suggested that the allegedly inferior work could have dangerous implications, saying, "If I'm driving down the street and a manhole caves in ..."

A co-owner of the company, Larry Vallow, called Shiver's contentions "nonsense."

"We strive for not just good but excellent work," he said Tuesday, noting that the village engineer oversees such projects. "If work was not being done to specifications, they'd let the right people know about it."

"Being union doesn't mean it's better than non-union, and being nonunion doesn't mean it's better than union," he added.

A spokesman for the law firm of Arnold and Kadjan, which represents the local also alleged Tuesday that while Kim Construction was technically paying the prevailing wage, it was also classifying all its employees as

laborers. That move, according to the spokesman, who refused to identify himself, allows the company to pay laborers' wages to employees who are performing skilled tasks that qualify them for higher compensation. "In reality, they're doing cement finishing and running heavy equipment," he contended.

While that alleged tactic violated fair labor principles, he said, "that's for some other trade (union) to challenge."

"He's totally wrong," Vallow countered. "No one's getting less than laborers' wages, and some are getting more. And some are getting a lot more than prevailing wage."

"Basically, what they're trying to do is organize (a union)," he added. "We do our own work. We have to pay prevailing wage, but we don't have to live up to their rules."

"The unfortunate thing is, in union relations, the company is guilty until proven innocent. And any time you have to prove yourself innocent, who gains by it?"

## A 'night out' supports fight on crime, drugs

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents in Cook and Lake counties are encouraged to shed some light on crime and drug prevention Tuesday as part of national effort to heighten crime awareness.

From 8 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, residents are being asked to turn on their outside lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outdoors on porches, lawns and front steps for this year's National Night Out.

Residents would join more than 21 million people from 8,000 communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases around the world in showing support for

the seventh annual coast-to-coast crime and drug prevention event.

Although all residents are encouraged to participate in the National Night Out, some communities — including Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Vernon Hills, Wheeling and Wood Dale — have formally registered with the National Association of Town Watch, Inc., and are planning other festivities in conjunction with the event.

The National Night Out is an effort to heighten crime and drug awareness, generate support for local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and send a message to criminals that neigh-

borhoods are organized and fighting back, said Matt A. Peskin, project coordinator for the national event.

The National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, Inc., a non-profit organization to develop and promote organized crime and drug prevention activities.

Its members include law enforcement agencies, state and regional crime prevention associations, businesses and residents.

Less than 7 percent of an average American community participates in crime and drug prevention groups, Peskin said. "Given the impact that crime has on everyone, that's not a high number," he added.

## County seats would give suburbs voice

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER  
COUNTRYSIDE 8-2-90

Cook County commissioners would be more accountable to residents of Wheeling — and other suburbs — if they were elected by district, according to Village President Sheila Schultz.

"Ordinary Wheeling residents have the comfort and luxury of knowing who to go to when there is a problem," Schultz, herself a Democratic candidate for suburban commissioner of Cook County, said recently. "They should be able to do that on a county basis, too, and say, 'This is who I can call if I have a concern.' They would have an advocate who would tell them what options they have."

With the 17 commissioners now elected under an at-large system which leaves them representing the entire county rather than a specific district, they are often not directly accessible to their constituents, particularly those in the suburbs, according to Schultz.

Joined by five fellow Democrats seeking suburban seats in the November election, and Richard Phelan, Democratic candidate for Cook County Board President, Schultz announced that she would work to have voters approve a switch to the district system in a binding referendum in November.

Phelan said nonpartisan organizations, including the League of Women Voters, supported the referendum effort.

According to Schultz, the proposed change to district elections should not be weighed in the context of benefiting Republicans or Democrats. "The question is, 'Is it good for the voters?'" she stressed.

Calling the suburban electorate "very sophisticated and well informed," she said area voters will be more discerning about the quality of candidates regardless of party.

Schultz said earlier this month that she would encourage the county board to hold budget hearings outside of Chicago if she were elected a commissioner.

In addition, she charged that the County Sheriff's Office has been inadequately patrolling unincorporated "pockets," creating crime prevention and law enforcement problems in multi-family apartment complexes such as Tiffany Court, Plum Creek and The Oaks of Northfield in Wheeling. To remedy that problem, Schultz said, she would propose a plan under which villages would be allowed to provide protection when and where necessary under a contractual arrangement with the county.

If successful in her effort to become a commissioner, Schultz would have to resign as village president. Her term in that office expires in May of 1993.

# Waste transfer station draws little opposition

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRY SIDE  
The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County believes it made a strong case for its proposed Wheeling Township garbage transfer station at a public hearing last week.

A spokesman for Save America's Future Environment (SAFE), which adamantly opposed construction of a similar facility in Rolling Meadows, meanwhile, said her group will reserve final judgment on the Wheeling Township proposal.

Under the plan, waste from 11 communities, including Wheeling, would be baled at the Wheeling Township site, in unincorporated Cook County, for ultimate disposal at the proposed Northwest Bafill in Bartlett.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who chairs the solid waste agency, said Monday the agency had addressed concerns about potential flooding and traffic problems at the Wheeling Township site, just north of River and Central roads, at the hearing held Thursday in the village hall.

The solid waste agency, which includes 26 member communities, plans to install a water retention system that would go "above and beyond" what it would have to on the property, which is adjacent to a landfill which reached its capacity several years ago, according to Schultz.

On the traffic question, Schultz said several steps were being taken to prevent congestion. There would be only one point for entering or leaving the facility, on River Road, and that would line up with a road leading to the Maryville Academy, forming an intersection for better traffic movement, she explained.

In addition, traffic signals might be installed at the new intersection, and the transfer station would have storage and turn-around room, according to Schultz.

She added that the transfer station would not even be visible from River or Central roads, and called the Wheeling Township site

ideal because it is "central but isolated."

"It's not near homes or businesses," she explained.

SAFE representative Cathy Lindstrom, one of only three citizens who attended the Thursday hearing, said Tuesday that while her group still opposed the project, the new Wheeling Township facility would appear to have a notable advantage over the Rolling Meadows station.

At the latter, Lindstrom said, water used to wash garbage trucks runs directly into storm sewers. Water from the proposed facility would, instead, flow into sanitary sewers, minimizing the likelihood that garbage would contaminate nearby property during floods, according to Lindstrom.

Nevertheless, Lindstrom said, SAFE intends to distribute leaflets in the area of the proposed facility outlining SWANCC's plans there. "We can't afford to sit back and be apathetic," she explained. "If you like what they're doing there, fine, but at least you should have a choice. And after you've had that choice, you have no right to sit back and say you don't like it."

SAFE objects to the proposed creation of the Northwest Bafill because such a facility may leak pollutants into water sources, possibly causing leukemia and birth defects, according to Lindstrom.

Divorcing herself from her SAFE role, and stressing that she was speaking as an individual, Lindstrom added that the proposed site, while perhaps unacceptable, may be "much better than the one in Rolling Meadows, which is right across the street from families raising children."

Approval for the Wheeling Township transfer station would have to come from the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals, which conducted the Thursday hearing, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

A spokesman for the zoning board said Tuesday the earliest it could meet on the matter would be Aug. 15.

Palwaukee compatible

8-2-90  
Prospect Heights/Let's set the record straight regarding comments by the Palwaukee Airports Pilot's Association president in your article of July 26.

First of all, Palwaukee Municipal Airport cannot and will not be a large money maker for the Village of Wheeling and City of Prospect Heights. All airport profits must be returned back to airport uses, according to State and Federal law. The relatively minute sales tax that the village and city make off of Palwaukee is insignificant compared to depreciation in home values in Palwaukee flight patterns.

Second, the recent changes in airport rules do not merely accommodate planes already using this facility. The new rules allow a sizable increase in the maximum aircraft weight at our airport. This sets a dangerous and unsafe trend.

Third, the scope of the noise problem should be discussed. Because of the relatively flat take-off angles and low flight patterns required in order to stay below the 3,000 foot altitude limit, jets from Palwaukee not only hurt property values but also negatively affect the general well-being and quality of life of people living in much of Wheeling, as well as all four wards in Prospect

Heights and the northeast part of Mount Prospect.

Most of the residential homes that are affected were here either prior to the existence of Palwaukee or certainly prior to the unpredictable change in character of this airport from a small propeller aircraft field to a full blown jet airport.

The problem exists now from just a few inconsiderate and abusing jet aircraft, but can you imagine what it would be like when this airport expands operations as planned?

I believe that along with limiting the size of aircraft at Palwaukee, that an evening curfew on departing aircraft that do not meet stage III noise criteria as defined by our federal and state governments, would be the key elements to making Palwaukee compatible with our communities.

To say that an evening curfew of this type would be economically detrimental to this airport is just a lot of baloney.

Warren G. Sunde

# Flood program may reduce insurance costs

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRY SIDE  
Wheeling residents could eventually save between 5 and 45 percent on flood insurance under a new program Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke plans to recommend to the village board.

Called the Community Rating System (CRS), the federal plan will rank municipalities according to the flood prevention steps they intend to take. To a lesser extent, the plan will also include municipalities which have already taken flood control measures, and grant their residents commensurate breaks in the cost of insurance against water flow problems.

In Wheeling, which experienced serious flooding in 1982 and 1987, 429 property owners have already purchased National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies, according to David Schein, Natural Hazards Program Specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which administers the program. Those policies, at an average cost of \$256 per year, provide an average coverage of \$72,655, Schein said Friday.

Citing national FEMA

statistics, Klitzke said that over the life of a 30 year mortgage, there is a 26 percent chance that a property will suffer flood damage, compared to one percent for fire damage.

While Wheeling has 1,100 residential and 114 commercial/industrial buildings, it still ranks 14th out of 720 Illinois communities in the number of policies purchased, according to Klitzke.

Under the CRS plan, managed by the federal Flood Insurance Administration, insurance would be purchased through private companies, all of whom would give the same rate reduction to residents of a given community, he said.

Ultimately, Wheeling residents are likely to receive substantial breaks because the village is already enacting flood prevention measures. "We'll rate well because we've been doing a lot of creditable things," he said.

Those steps have included instituting storm management, creek and stream maintenance, restrictive development programs in areas likely to flood, and a public information program on water-flow issues, Klitzke explained.

"We're now in the process of pulling numbers together," Klitzke said. "It's a documentation phase."

Schein said his agency considered Wheeling a good candidate to qualify for the CRS.

Once granted the initial 5 percent reduction — the

I think it's an opportunity for a community that's going above and beyond the minimum to be recognized.

Michael Klitzke

most any community can receive in the first year of the plan — the village would evaluate other programs which could earn it an even more favorable ranking, he added.

Klitzke noted that the greater the number of participants in the program,

the more attractive the premiums will become. "With more people spreading out the risk, they can keep the rates from going up," he explained.

He also pointed out that the CRS would have financial benefits for village residents beyond lowered insurance costs. In taking the flood abatement actions, for instance, Wheeling would probably obviate costly, taxpayer-financed responses to water flow problems in the future.

In addition, he noted, effective flood management makes a municipality more attractive to businesses and residents alike.

Klitzke stressed that homeowners need not live in a flood zone to purchase insurance under the program. "If you're on a hill, you can buy it," he said. "Of course, your rates are less on the top of the hill than at the bottom."

He also emphasized that anyone receiving a federal loan applied to property in a flood hazard area is required to purchase flood insurance.

For a community to qualify for CRS participation, it must demonstrate to the FIA that it has a plan to minimize flooding at "repet-

itive loss" properties, Klitzke added. Those are defined as sites which suffered insurable flood damage of \$1,000 or more at least twice since a municipality entered the NFIP, he said.

Wheeling has eight such properties, all residential, he said.

Preventing repetitive losses might entail "a wide gamut from levees, dams, and storm water basins, to buying them up and moving them out," according to Klitzke.

Klitzke said the village board may consider participation in the CRS, which would be free and voluntary, in October or November.

Applications must be submitted to the FEMA in December. While the agency will determine the community ratings in July of next year, the reductions would not go into effect, for either new or renewed policies, until October of 1991, according to Klitzke.

"I think it's an opportunity for a community that's going above and beyond the minimum to be recognized," he said. "Or to receive some benefits for those efforts, that can relate directly back to the residents."

# Wheeling council OKs fire pact

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A cooperative agreement between the Wheeling and Buffalo Grove fire departments not only will reduce response times for fire calls, but it also may prevent a need to build additional fire stations in the towns. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said.

Wheeling trustees Monday unanimously approved a "Mutual Aid Agreement" with the two fire departments that would allow the departments to assist each other in fire calls near the borders of the towns. Buffalo Grove trustees are set to vote on the agreement Aug. 20. "It certainly will improve our re-

sponse to fire calls and will also be a benefit to Buffalo Grove," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. Although each fire department would continue to handle their own fire calls, the other department would send back-up trucks immediately when requested. Now, firefighters respond to calls, assess the situation and then request back-ups, which may cause delays. MacIsaac said the agreement, which may reduce response time by up to two minutes, would also diminish the need for more fire stations. "Rather than build more stations, we could use what we have and what others have," MacIsaac said. Under the agreement, which would take effect immediately upon Buffalo Grove's approval, Buffalo Grove Fire Department would send a fire engine to several of Wheeling's multi-family complexes, including the Arlington Club subdivision, which is located on the west end of Wheeling and is closer to the Buffalo Grove Fire Department. For Buffalo Grove, Wheeling would provide a ladder truck to the industrial park area north of Wheeling. Wheeling could also provide a truck to the entire area bounded by Lake-Cook Road, Inverary, the Wisconsin-Central Ry. tracks and Milwaukee Avenue. MacIsaac also is working on similar agreements with Mount Prospect and Northbrook fire departments.



KATHY TRAY/Pioneer Press

Phyllis Harmon, 73, recently returned from a bicycling journey which brought her and 65 other riders through 13 states in seven weeks.

bicycle, she made it clear she does not ride for her health. "The feeling of being on your own, the camaraderie of the open road and the scenery — that's what I ride for," she said. "Nothing else compares."

The only activity that comes close to matching the social benefits of biking, according to Harmon, who "for years" took regular weekend cycling tours, is square dancing.

But how has the biking life changed in her 62 years of riding? The bicycles themselves have evolved from the balloon tire variety to the

sleek, lightweight multi-speed versions, which are far superior for riding ease, according to Harmon. "Shifting gears is neat," she said, adding that she generally only uses five or six of them.

Weighing the relative merits of the modern bikes and their predecessors, though, might literally be a matter of balance. "For stability, I could do more," on the old heavyweights, Harmon remembered. "I used to stand up on the pedals with the seat between my knees, put my hands in my pockets and coast for one or two miles on the highway in the 30s."

# Wheeling's senior cyclist is rolling on

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

## COUNTRYSIDE

Bicyclists hoping to keep pace with 73-year old Phyllis Harmon have a long way to go. The Wheeling resident has pedaled countless kilometers since she bought her first bike in 1928.

Just over a month ago, in fact, she rode from California to Massachusetts in a charity event. And she plans to keep the wheels of her 18-speed Schwinn Paramount turning.

Harmon, who founded the Wheeling Wheelman in 1970, does no special exercises to keep in shape for her cycling feats. "I don't do all that training stuff," she said last week. "This new stuff, like keeping cadence or, 'Don't eat this' — I just ride my bike."

Nevertheless, she experienced none of the discomfort one might expect during or after the cross country excursion, which took her and 65 other riders through 13 states in seven weeks. "I don't get stiff, I just ride," Harmon, who raised \$8,600 for the Red Cross and the League of American Wheelmen, laughed.

The only significant physical problem she encountered, in fact, was, actually, all in her head. "I got a beautiful migraine in Ohio," Harmon, 55 years the senior of the youngest rider in the group, recalled.

That ailment required her to travel for three days in a van accompanying the riders, meaning the grandmother of 13 actually biked a mere 3,341 miles on the trip.

While Harmon acknowledged the path to fitness might well be one traveled by

# Three coffee breaks get cop in hot water

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police officer who has two lawsuits pending against the village now faces disciplinary charges that he left the village while on duty.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has charged officer Robert Pressley with leaving the village limits while on duty during three separate occasions last October and November.

In his charges, Haeger states that Pressley, a Wheeling officer for nearly 12 years, left the village for up to 22 minutes at a time last year to buy coffee at a gas station just outside village boundaries.

In addition, Pressley took a coffee break during the first hour of a shift, and he also brought a training officer with him to get coffee outside village boundaries, the charges state.

Haeger would not comment Tuesday on the charges.

A disciplinary hearing for the charges against Pressley, who has been suspended three different times since 1985, is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 13 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Pressley, who is on sick leave, could not be reached for comment on the charges.

Pressley's attorney, Alan M. Freedman, claims the charges against Pressley were filed in retaliation for Pressley's lawsuits and other past controversies in which he has been embroiled.

"We think there is an ulterior motive that these charges were filed against Bob Pressley," Freedman said, "and they (the charges) are related to the charges previously brought against officer Pressley."

Freedman declined further comment.

charges next week.

Pressley, the village's only black officer, filed a racial discrimination and harassment lawsuit against the village and Haeger in U.S. District Court in 1983. In his lawsuit, which still is pending, Pressley charges that Haeger denied him salary increases and falsely accused him of illicit sexual activity in a case that was later dropped by the village's fire and police commission.

This past March, Pressley filed a civil rights lawsuit after Haeger prohibited the officer from discussing his discrimination case with the media. A U.S. District Court judge ruled that Haeger's gag order was unconstitutional.

Pressley then filed a lawsuit in April seeking an undetermined amount of punitive and compensatory damages resulting from the March ruling. The case is still pending.

# Arlington backs TCI channel reduction

By MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite voicing frustration and displeasure with the service provided by TCI of Illinois, Arlington Heights trustees have become the first officials in an eight-community council to approve TCI plans to drop the number of cable channels from 120 to 60.

The cable company has asked each member of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council — made up of Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount

Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling — to approve franchise amendments so the company can eliminate one main cable.

TCI officials said the company would provide a better picture and service with a single cable system, and customers with cable-ready sets will be able to hook up to cable without a converter box.

In addition, TCI is charging customers in those communities served by a single cable less than those on a dual-cable system. The village board action will result in

a \$2.50 basic rate reduction for Arlington Heights customers. TCI officials said rates would not increase again until next July.

But some trustees, who said reception is terrible and complaints are more frequent than ever, voiced skepticism.

"I have a hard time getting into negotiations based on good faith when you haven't lived up to your promises over the past 10 years," Trustee Martin S. Agran said. "What I see here is the emperor's new clothes. I see nothing. I see an illusion."

## Company to get tax exemption

Wheeling trustees have unanimously approved a tax exemption for a Wheeling company to expand its business.

The owners of Dearborn Wire and Cable Inc., which manufactures, repairs, stripes and distributes wire and cable for large corporations for use in computers and other electronic equipment, plans to increase the size of the 100,000 square-foot Wheeling center by 51,340 square feet.

Plans include moving the Dearborn operation to the Wheeling center, located on 8.2 acres at 250 W. Carpenter Ave. In order to afford the \$1.6 million expansion, trustees approved the property tax exemption, which allows the company to be taxed at a lower rate for a number of years. The rate then is gradually brought up

## Baxter & Woodman get bridge contract

A Crystal Lake engineering firm will repair deteriorated deck beams on a Wheeling bridge.

Village trustees unanimously approved hiring Baxter & Woodman of Crystal Lake for \$9,000 for all engineering services associated with repairing the Jeffery Avenue bridge. Those services include reviewing bid proposals and making a recommendation to the village for a company to repair the bridge and provide full-time engineering supervision for the work.

The bridge's deterioration like-

## Resident cited for fundraising work

Phyllis W. Harmon, a 73-year-old Wheeling resident, has been honored by village board members for her fund-raising efforts.

Village President Sheila H. Schmitz declared Aug. 7 Phyllis W. Harmon Day. Harmon participated in the Pedal for Power Across America, which is a bicycling fund-raising event that took place from Los Angeles to Boston over 47 days.

Harmon, who participated in the event from May 13 to June 28, was one of the highest fund-raisers, generating more than \$8,600 for charity.

## to the correct rate.

Dearborn Plant Manager Nicholas M. Lotius estimates the tax exemption would save the company about \$59,000 a year in property taxes.

## Great fireworks

HERALD - 8-8-90  
This year we were happy to see the fireworks display in Wheeling be "GREAT."

We want to thank all the residents and businesses for their support. If you feel you were left out because you wanted to send a donation there is still time. Send your donation to: Wheeling 4th of July, P.O. Box 893F, Wheeling, Ill. 60090. Thank you everyone.

## Water hitting the deck, village of

Water hitting the deck, village officials said. The repairs are expected to take about a month to complete.

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Judy Abruscato  
Wheeling 4th of July  
Organizer

# Plastics to be part of recycling program

Our village has successfully been recycling glass, aluminum and paper products for about a year. Now plastics also will be accepted in the recycling program.

Through the opening of a new Chicago Plastic Recycling Alliance (PRA) facility, 40 million pounds of plastics will be able to be recycled in the next year. Wheeling residents can contribute to that end.

Plastics which will be accepted for recycling are: 1-gallon milk and water containers, bleach containers, liquid laundry detergent containers, orange juice containers, windshield washer solvent containers, and 1- to 3-liter pop bottles. Not acceptable for recycling are: oil containers, mouthwash containers, liquid soap containers, anti-freeze containers or shampoo and hair product containers.

If you live in the Wheeling area and do not have curbside pick-up of recyclable materials, you may bring the materials to the recycling bins, located in the rear parking lot of the village hall complex, at 255 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling.

For further information on recycling in Wheeling, call the village hall at 459-2600.

Lisa Schab

# Seniors charge cab fares are unfair

By WAYNE TRYHUK

COUNTRYSIDE

8-9-90

Local cab fares aren't fair. That's the contention of Wheeling senior citizens, who say they are regularly denied the 20 percent discount on taxi rides they're allowed by village ordinance.

Cab drivers seem generally unaware that the discount even exists, according to Marvin Horcher, head of the board of directors of the Wheeling Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). "They say they haven't heard about it," Horcher said last week.

And the resulting overcharges to seniors can be significant, Horcher emphasized. "Some people have to go to hospitals, like Holy Family" in Des Plaines, he pointed out. A one-way ride to that facility from Wheeling, Horcher said, can cost \$16.

By contrast, because Des Plaines, Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights either regulate the fares charged seniors, or reimburse them for the cost of the rides, older cab customers from those communities pay only from \$1.75 to \$2.25 for trips to hospitals, according to Horcher.

Given that kind of disparity, AARP has suggested that the village work through the Northwest Municipal Conference to establish a norm for fares in the area, according to Horcher, whose group has urged the village to address the discount question

That might eliminate some understandable confusion on the part of cabbies serving several communities, Horcher said. "I'd hate to be a driver with five or six (fare) systems," he explained.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said last week that while it was sometimes hard to get drivers to comply with the ordinance mandating the discount, the village had received only a few grievances from riders on the issue in the past two years.

Emphasizing that he didn't want to minimize the issue, Anderson said it was difficult to determine how widespread the problem might be "unless we get complaints."

Anderson added that at a fall meeting at the Pavilion Senior Center on transit needs, he asked participants to apprise him of their concerns in writing. "That never came, so I didn't think much about it afterward," he recalled.

He added that he had written American Taxi, which serves most of the Chicago area, to explore the issue.

American Taxi President Randy Moss said last week that while he had received few complaints from riders about discounts, he encouraged anyone experiencing difficulties in obtaining them to contact him.

Moss added, though, that the village's present discount program actually penalizes driver's, who must bear the cost of the fare reductions themselves.

Because his cab drivers lease cabs on a flat rate basis and keep the fares, granting the senior discount "takes money out of their pockets," Moss contended. "They're subsidizing seniors, and that should be up to the village to do."

"Wheeling has an outmoded program," Moss charged. "Everybody else has dropped that (discount system)."

A practical alternative, according to Moss, is a program already used by some municipalities, which provides riders with cab tickets to be given drivers in lieu of cash. The communities then reimburse the cab companies for the amounts shown on the tickets.

Anderson said he plans to review the senior fare issue, and make appropriate recommendations to the village board. "I'm not sure what they will be," he added. "It may be keeping the discount, or something else."

"We've amassed quite a bit of information from other communities in terms of what they do for seniors with respect to discounts and subsidies," he said.

Anderson said that he hoped to present some recommendations prior to the adoption of the next budget, which would take place by January.

Anderson also pointed out that the village had the means of enforcing the current fare ordinance, or any possible replacement, should lack of driver compliance be deemed a significant problem. "We have a lever," he said. "We issue the license to operate in the village."

Horcher, a former AARP legislative chairman, meanwhile, said the group's local chapter had offered "research or footwork" to help the village resolve the issue. "I'm not looking for fault," he emphasized, "but we have a need."

# 'National Night Out' deemed shining success

By WAYNE TRYHUK

COUNTRYSIDE

8-9-90

Tuesday's "National Night Out" in Wheeling was so successful organizers are already talking about next year's event, according to Wheeling Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop.

And the village's participation has also generated a local plan to coordinate cooperation among subdivisions to solve problems that are not actually police matters, she added.

Wheeling's Night Out was part of a nationwide event during which residents turned off their lights and mingled with neighbors between 8 and 10 p.m. Its goal was to heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for local anti-crime efforts and enhance relations between police and their communities, according to the National Association of Town Watch, which sponsored the effort.

In Wheeling, the event was

marked by a "very positive atmosphere" in five participating subdivisions, according to Kobishop, who coordinated the effort in the village.

That spirit was exhibited, for example, in the formation of a human chain in Tahoe, a cul de sac party in Malibu, and a block party in Dunhurst East, Kobishop said.

There were "massive quantities of people" taking part in the event, Kobishop added. "In Tahoe, there were mobs. I would guess there were a couple hundred."

Working those crowds were Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger and Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

Haeger "loved it," according to Kobishop. "I had to tear him away."

Crime Fighting Dog McGruff, in fact, got choked up over the event, but for unexpected reasons. "The fan in his nose stopped working," Kobishop laughed. The problem was remedied by letting McGruff remove the upper

portion of his costume while traveling between subdivision appearances, she explained.

The enthusiasm shown for the Night Out will continue into next year, Kobishop predicted. "Everyone was saying, 'This is the first year. Next year, we'll do it even better,'" she said.

Within the next two weeks, Kobishop plans to mail letters seeking representatives from subdivisions to serve on a combination Night Out steering committee and neighborhood "problem solving group."

The latter body would cooperatively address day-to-day complaints that might not require police intervention, such as children riding bicycles on sidewalks or skateboarding unsafely, Kobishop explained.

"Different neighborhoods may have encountered such problems and addressed them," and be able to lend their expertise on the issues to other subdivisions, she said.

## Palwaukee noise

Wheeling/As a result of last week's article that appeared in your paper regarding Palwaukee night air traffic noise and operational hours, I have received many requests from area residents inquiring as to whom they should direct their thoughts on this sensitive issue.

Palwaukee Airport manager Fred Stewart has encouraged neighborhood contact through 537-2580, as well as Village of Wheeling Manager, Craig Anderson at 459-2600.

We are fortunate to live in an open society where we are free to express our views and to live in a village (Wheeling) where the government is willing to listen and to act, as appropriate. The hardest part for concerned residents is to know specifically, to whom to direct their thoughts. By doing so, the number 15 (those on record attesting to the existence of an unacceptable noise problem surrounding the airport) will no doubt increase. As a result, the few pilots who care so little for the community out of which they fly, will be put on notice that unacceptable take off noise levels, will not go unchallenged!

Dr. Bruce M. Portnoy

# Cable regulation debate sends out mixed signals

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

8-7-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
People following the efforts in Congress to re-regulate the cable television industry are getting scrambled signals.

After six years of de-regulation in the cable television industry, new controls are under consideration in Washington and the focus of debate throughout the country.

Bills in the Senate and the House don't try to regulate rates for premium channel cable packages. They do, however, discuss rate regulation for broadcast and public access channel packages.

In addition, discussions on Capital Hill include who will supervise technical quality and customer service in the cable industry.

Regulating the cable business is a complex issue.

The FCC wants local governments to do it, but Congress currently is considering bills giving regulatory powers to the FCC.

And the cable industry wants to make sure that local phone companies, who have an upper hand because they are wired into every home, aren't allowed to enter the business.

Currently, the phone companies lack the delivery systems to send video signals over their existing phone lines.

Local governments want to maintain rate control to insure franchise fees. Cable companies don't want this because they fear that rate control will become a political issue which could negate any chances of rate increases during an election year.

In the Northwest suburbs, local officials object to letting phone companies enter the cable business because franchise agreement fees would be lost.

The city of Rolling Meadows currently receives between \$80,000 and \$90,000 in franchise fees and Ald. Fredrick Jacobson (7th) said the city doesn't want to lose that money.

"We feel very strongly about our franchise agreement and we don't want it tampered with," Jacobson said.

And while the Telco bill, which would have allowed phone companies to own cable firms, has been withdrawn, Congress is still considering bills that call for rate regulation to be placed with the FCC.

"The bills as they stand now are awful," said Carole Stannard, executive director

of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council, comprised of representatives of communities with TCI, Inc. franchises. "Right now, they (only) are calling for rate regulation of the basic package."

TCI cable company General Manager Kelvin Fee said the cable industry favors basic service rate regulation.

"It's something that we could live with," Fee said. "We don't want regulation. If we had to have any regulation, we would rather have

6  
The current (cable) standards are too low. People in our communities would never pay if the standards were as low as the current FCC standards.

## Carole Stannard, Northwest Municipal Cable Council

it at a national level."

Continental Cablevision's Governmental Affairs Vice-President Bob Ryan said he expects some regulation, but he hopes it is placed in the right hands.

"I don't know that a certain amount of regulation is harmful," Ryan said. "It makes sense to have a centralized technical standard-making body. The local municipalities don't have the expertise to regulate technical quality."

Jacobson said he didn't mind if the technical regulations came from Washington, as long as the power to enforce those rules was left with local governments. He said that technical difficulties haven't been a major problem for cable customers in the Continental Regional Cable Group.

That group includes Rolling Meadows, Palatine, Buffalo Grove, Hoffman Estates and Elk Grove Village.

However, Stannard said technical problems have driven the regulatory issue in the Northwest Municipal Cable Council's viewing area. This area includes

Schaumburg, Wheeling, Streamwood, Hanover Park, Bartlett, Mount Prospect, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Glenview, Northbrook, Golf, Park Ridge, and Prospect Heights.

"Congress is reacting to constituent complaints," Stannard said. "What really causes people to call in is that they aren't getting what they are paying for. That's really more the issue in our area than the rates themselves."

She said that TCI customers are subjected to snowy pictures, constant outages and flashing screens.

Stannard also said that the technical standards being considered by the current legislation on Capital Hill wouldn't help improve the picture.

"The current standards are too low. People in our communities would never pay if the standards were as low as the current FCC standards," she said.

Stannard said that her customers probably would pay more for their cable service if it were technically improved.

And customers might see higher rates.

Extensive rate regulation would dry up funding for program development, Ryan said. He noted that deregulation allowed the cable industry as a whole to invest in programming.

At the national level, the FCC recently issued a report recommending that the control be placed locally and urged that regulation be kept at a minimum.

"There is certainly nothing wrong with establishing a federal standard regarding rate regulation," FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes said in a prepared statement about the cable industry. "But when the authority is exercised, it should be done locally, as underlying cost circumstances vary widely."

While the issue is debated on Capital Hill, Fee said, the cable industry sits in limbo.

"We're dead in the water right now," Fee said. "If we can just get something out of Congress, we can make some decisions."

He explained that construction and capital outlay plans are being placed on hold until a decision is made on the new regulations and rate control.

As it stands now, the regulations being debated only regulate basic service, which includes the standard broadcast stations, public television and less than a handful of cable stations.

# Villages approve fire aid contract

COUNTRYSIDE  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
and MICHAEL ULREICH  
STAFF WRITERS

8-7-90  
Where's the fire? Even if the answer to that question is "in Buffalo Grove," Wheeling units might now help battle the blaze, under a mutual assistance agreement approved by the Wheeling Village Board Monday.

According to Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac, firefighters from either department, in fact, would respond to calls in specified areas of the other's jurisdiction upon the latter's request.

In Wheeling, those areas would generally be more than one-and-a-half miles from a Wheeling fire station, and located "where there's a congestion of people," as in multi-family developments in the northwest section of the village, MacIsaac said Tuesday.

The plan may save several minutes in response time, he said, because in many cases, a fire in one community might actually be closer to the fire station in the neighboring municipality.

In Wheeling's case, that situation is the result of the village having undergone significant growth at its "fringes," MacIsaac explained.

"The key is improving service," he said. "It will immediately mobilize the closest people."

That, he said, was in contrast to "waiting for a fire to extend beyond our capabilities. It's a proactive rather than a reactive mode."

"It's going to benefit people in both communities," he added. "It's definitely an improvement over what we have now, but that's not saying what we have is unsafe."

Specifically, Wheeling might receive the assistance of four Buffalo Grove firefighters with an engine or ladder truck in any given case, according to MacIsaac.

One area in Buffalo Grove to which Wheeling units might respond would be the 12-story office com-

plex known as Riverwalks, scheduled to be completed within a few weeks, at Lake Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue, he said.

In response to a question by Trustee Elizabeth Hartman, he stressed that assisting at a call at that structure, one of the tallest in the suburban area, would not unduly tax the department's fire fighting capacity, in part because the building is compartmentalized to prevent the spread of any blaze.

Noting that a similar building was planned for the site, he added that Buffalo Grove firefighters are going to need "immediate assistance" should fires break out there.

As its part of the bargain in the mutual aid pact, Buffalo Grove will provide assistance to Wheeling in the area of Buffalo Grove Road and Dundee Road, according to Fire Chief Thomas Allenspach.

Allenspach said the mutual aid pact with Wheeling was part of his long-range plan to improve response times in the ever-expanding village. Buffalo Grove is also working on a similar mutual aid pact with the Vernon Fire Protection District.

The mutual aid pacts with both Wheeling and Vernon should help hold down Buffalo Grove's fire insurance rates as set by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

The department's response times were criticized earlier this year and an ISO official said the village needed two more fire stations and more manpower to keep its ISO rating at its present level.

Buffalo Grove's mutual aid pact with Wheeling is scheduled to be approved by the village board on Aug. 20.

MacIsaac said that at the most, Wheeling might be expected to respond to two or three Buffalo Grove calls each week, which could be done at "minimal cost."



Photo courtesy RS Anderson Company

The RS Anderson Company plans to build a new poultry distribution facility on Hintz Rd. in Wheeling.

## Company comes home to roost in Wheeling

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

A poultry company building a new facility in Wheeling put local firms at the head of the pecking order when it contracted for work on the project.

"In all the trades, we gave a little preferential treatment" to Wheeling companies, Gary Kipnis, a spokesman for R.S. Anderson Company, said last week. "All my civil, electrical and mechanical engineers are from Wheeling."

In addition, according to Kipnis, foundation holes for the plant, which will replace the current facility at 6851 Irving Park Road in Chicago, were drilled by a village firm, and all the concrete is from Wheeling.

With over 20,000 square feet of refrigerated warehouse space and eight truck docks, the company will regularly distribute meat, pork

and other food products, in addition to poultry, throughout the Chicago metropolitan area, northern and central Illinois, southern Wisconsin and northern Indiana.

In addition, R.S. Anderson products are now "periodically shipped throughout the country," and may be sent into Canada, according to company officials.

Kipnis indicated local workers won't have any reason to squawk that his business is overlooking them in meeting its employment needs. "We hope to be able to tap Wheeling" for the 20 to 25 unskilled laborers and five to 10 sales and clerical employees the company may hire over the next several years, he said.

The new building, which will occupy about five acres at 275 E. Hintz Road, will probably be completed between February and April of next year, according to Kipnis.

## New charges filed in Pressley suit

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger has brought new, undisclosed charges against a controversial officer, who is suing him and the village, before the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

The board, at the request of one of the officer's attorneys, who was unable to attend its meeting Monday, continued the matter until Sept. 13.

Neither the charged officer, Robert Pressley, his attorneys nor Haeger would comment publicly on the substance of the charges.

Pressley, who is black, filed a civil suit over seven years ago, claiming his Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection were violated in 1983 when the chief allegedly "retaliated" for the officer's successful challenge to a 1982 suspension.

Haeger had suspended

Pressley for allegedly breaking department rules of truthfulness in relation to a citizen's complaint that he'd had sex with a woman in a van parked outside The Original Granny's Restaurant, at 831 W. Dundee Road.

Following the board's reversal of that suspension, according to Pressley, he was unfairly disciplined. Pressley's attorneys have alleged that he was punished more severely than white officers who had committed more serious offenses.

In addition, the suit contends, fellow officers harassed Pressley with racial epithets and cartoons, activities in which Haeger failed to intervene.

According to one of Pressley's attorney's, the village board refused to approve an agreement which could have resolved the issues last year.

## Board approves center

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The Wheeling Village Board Monday approved plans for the construction of a shopping center on vacant property at Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue.

While the mall could accommodate as many as 22 businesses, an attorney for the firm which will design it said he could not specify the nature and number of concerns which would ultimately occupy it.

Under questioning by Trustee Judy Abruscato, however, attorney David Shaw, representing Miller, Melby, Anderson Architects, did say that the center might include a gourmet-type produce food store and an upscale, hardware house supply store.

Abruscato, the only trustee to vote against the approval, had expressed concerns that the new center might be plagued by the vacancies she said afflicted several other malls in Wheeling. "What will you offer that will make more retail people come in besides the video stores, White Hen Pantries and cleaners, which we have an abundance of?" she asked.

While Shaw acknowledged that he could not guarantee such stores would not be part of the new mall, he stressed that it would feature a "unique location" more accessible to pedestrians than those of competing shopping centers.

"We're very aware of the softness of the retail market," he added. "But we don't intend to build shell buildings... We're not going to throw up one store and leave the others vacant."

He added that the center,

which would be lined with trees and other landscaping, had received "good interest" from prospective tenants with "recognized names."

In approving the proposal, the board granted the developer a special use of the property, one not ordinarily allowed under village ordinance, and variations in Wheeling's zoning code.

One of those variations permits two of the center's three separate buildings to be constructed on one lot of record, according to Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke.

Another includes allowing development of property through which a sanitary sewer line runs, Klitzke said.

In addition, the site is located at the south end of the village's Overlay Zone and Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District. To operate in the Overlay Zone, the center must meet higher standards than it would in other areas of Wheeling, according to village officials.

In a TIF district, additional taxes generated by new developments are used to retire tax increment bonds issued by the local government for development of a specific area.

The Wheeling Plan Commission had recommended that the board approve the measure.

Abruscato, the only trustee to vote against the plan, said Tuesday she did so because she would hate to see the village become a "gas station town like years ago." In the 1960s and 70s, filling stations could be found on every corner, she claimed, but many later went out of business, leaving vacancies dotting the

(Continued on page 18)

village.

"A center would be nice if it would bring something into the village that we need," she added. "I'd like to look at an upscale shopping center."

Shaw said it was impossible to predict when work at the center might begin, and added, "I'm not sure we could make this construction season."

He noted that while the developer had never built a shopping center, it had constructed a successful office complex in Glenview.



finance district, property taxes are frozen at their existing rate for a number of years and then slowly brought up to the current rate in an effort to encourage redevelopment in an otherwise deteriorating section of the community.

"An attractive, successful retail center at the south end of the overlay zone and TIF district might spur other redevelopment along Milwaukee Avenue," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Village planners worked carefully with the developers on the plans for Manchester Court because officials say they want to pay particular attention to increasing number of village shopping centers and their potential viability in the community.

## New center may spark construction

By TRESH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new shopping center along Milwaukee Avenue might generate other construction in Wheeling's redevelopment district, village officials say.

Village trustees recently approved plans for the Manchester Court Shopping Center at the northwest corner of Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue.

Glenview developers Martin and Arnold Golden plan to build a 26,000-square-foot center, which would house about 15 stores, such as a convenience store, professional offices, travel agency and video store. The developers are planning a fall opening.

The shopping center site is included in Wheeling's downtown redevelopment district, which is where officials have plans to clean up areas in the oldest part of town. In the district, known as a tax increment



Kathy Tray/Pioneer Press

### Democrat party

*COUNTRYSIDE 8-9-90*  
Cook County Board candidate Ed Reinfrank (left) and county clerk candidate David Orr (right) and county clerk candidate David Orr Village President Sheila Schultz's bid for gathered Sunday at Chevy Chase for a county suburban commissioner.

## Apartment owner wants to appeal taxes

*8-13-90*  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling apartment complex owner wants village trustees to change an agreement preventing the owner from appealing his property tax assessments.

Four years ago, Continental Properties bought the Wildwood apartment complex, now known as Arbor Court, on Dundee Road between Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road. The complex was deteriorated and overrun with residents violating the village's occupancy limits.

The new owners, Continental Properties, made an agreement with the village to renovate the property and the village would pay

a major portion of the redevelopment costs. Under the agreement, the village agreed to loan Continental Properties \$220,000 to upgrade the then 90-unit complex.

After five years, the loan would be forgiven if the new owners continued to maintain the property and provide on-site management of the complex. The owners also agreed not to appeal property tax assessments — an effort made by the village to recoup some of the money it loaned.

However, Larry Floria of Continental Properties, said property taxes have increased so much over the past four years that he wants to appeal the recent reassessment of property values with the Cook County (Tax) Board of Appeals.

"I don't think they ever felt that taxes would go out of line like this," Floria said, adding that his apartment complex assessment increased by 25 percent this year. "The property just can't be operated with taxes that are equal to about 35 percent of the income. . . . It's a very narrow profit picture at best."

Floria said his taxes have increased from \$80,000 to \$162,000 a year since Continental Properties acquired the complex.

Village trustees have asked Floria to provide information about the complex's profits and rents, which run from \$525 per month for a one-bedroom apartment to \$750 per month for a three-bedroom apartment.

## Recycling program may include apartments

*8-15-90*  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling apartment dwellers may be included in the village's recycling program as officials look for ways to further reduce the amount of waste dumped at area landfills.

Residents of single-family homes pay \$1.95 a month for the village's recycling program, which was started just over a year ago and includes curbside pickup of newspaper, glass, aluminum, tin and plastics. Residents of condominium and town house complexes that have curbside garbage pickup may join the program with the approval of their homeowners associations.

However, after a request from residents of the Foxboro apartment complex, village officials is considering expanding the program to apartment dwellers — at least for a trial period.

"Since there's been an interest expressed by folks living in at least one apartment complex, we're going to pursue it," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "We've had such success with the curbside program, maybe it's time to try it with the multi-complexes."

Anderson said he will request that the village's trash hauler — Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal — develop a recycling program for apartment complexes. If such a program cannot be developed,

village officials want to know why, Anderson added.

One way the program may be run is to install large bins for recyclables near the garbage receptacles at the complexes, Anderson said. Although that would be a convenient way for residents to drop off their recyclables and household trash, the complexes would require a large enough space for the bins, he added.

Foxboro, located on the west side of Wolf Road north of Hintz Road, may be the site for a pilot program so that village officials could determine whether such a plan would be successful for the rest of the more than a dozen village apartment complexes, Anderson said.

## TCI cable complaints down in August

*8-16-90*  
BY MELISSA REISER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Things seem to be looking up for TCI of Illinois, with the Northwest Municipal Cable Council reporting decreases in complaints and five communities moving forward with franchise changes requested by the cable company.

Complaints against the cable company, which has been criticized for frequent service interruptions and poor service, are down so far in August, compared to the last three months, cable council officials said Wednesday.

Carole Stannard, cable council executive director, said complaints received by the council reached a record high from May

through July with a total of 768 complaints, including 116 unresolved problems that were reported previously. In 1989, the total number of complaints was 1,502.

"In three months, we took over half the complaints that we took over all of last year, and in some towns we exceeded what we had last year," Stannard said.

But, she said, the outlook seems to be improving. So far this month, the council has received only 61 complaints. But, there are still 167 unresolved complaints received previously.

Work on franchise amendments to reduce the number of channels from 120 to 60 also are proceeding in many towns. Arlington Heights trustees recently approved the

contract amendments, becoming the first community in the council to agree to change from two main cables to one.

Representatives from Hanover Park and Bartlett said those two villages will vote on the issue within the next week. Officials from Des Plaines and Park Ridge said they will discuss the proposed amendments next month. Mount Prospect, however, has stalled discussions on the franchise changes and instead will have a special performance evaluation of TCI, also known as Telenois, next month.

Customers in communities that switch to a single-cable system will see roughly a \$2.50 decrease in the basic monthly cost for cable.

## Lights out?

*8-16-90  
COUNTRYSIDE*  
Nobody has turned the lights out, but some municipalities are stumbling around their Commonwealth Edison franchise agreements as if it were dark.

The Northwest Municipal Conference is encouraging its membership to hold off on signing the long-term, 50-year agreements until a common stand can be developed among its ranks. The wisdom at work is that 50-year agreements may strap them into antiquated technology a few decades down the road.

While Wheeling's agreement is not due to expire until 2009, its residents should be interested in the position officials take on this matter.

Apparently, some of the towns are anticipating the possibility of setting up their own public-sector power companies in the future.

But what exactly are these municipalities trying to plug into?

Inverness has been without a franchise agreement since October of last year, and it has cost them about \$2,000. Electricity for municipal buildings is provided free to those with franchise agreements, like Barrington Hills, which is expected to officially sign its agreement next week.

The bigger the town, the bigger the bill. While Inverness' \$2,000 bill may be worth the principle, Barrington — whose agreement expires in 1992 — pays on the order of \$38,000 each year, and taxpayers should understand who would really picking up that tab.

Furthermore, these are not exclusive franchise agreements. They only permit the utility to lay and repair lines along established easements without seeking building permits. Any concessions won by municipalities will increase Com Ed's cost of doing business, which will fuel petitions before the Illinois Commerce Commission for higher rates.

Are Northwest Municipal Conference municipalities enlightened, or are taxpayers being duped?

What exactly are these municipalities trying to plug into?

# Firefighters contract set for arbitration

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

8-16-90

COUNTRYSIDE

Arbitration in the contract dispute between Wheeling and the union representing its firefighters will probably begin in October, according to representatives of both sides.

And while any decision reached in that process would not technically be binding, it would, in effect, be final, according to Bart Burns, President of the Wheeling Firefighters' Association.

The arbitrator, Lamont E. Stallworth, an associate professor of Industrial Relations at Loyola University, would be unlikely to alter a ruling without a "compelling reason," Burns said Tuesday.

Although the village would have 21 days following Stallworth's decision to challenge it, such a move is unlikely because it would require approval by three-fifths of the village board and Wheeling would be responsible for any legal fees the union incurred because of it, Burns said.

"In practical terms, it would be binding," Burns said of any contract award made by Stallworth.

Stallworth was selected through a culling process. The American Arbitration Association furnished a list of seven names, which the village and union each ranked according to acceptability.

Having earned a doctorate in industrial relations from Cornell University, he is a member of the private National Academy of Arbitrators, and formerly sat on the National Labor Relations Board.

The contract would cover 38 firefighters, firefighter/paramedics, lieutenants and lieuten-

ant/paramedics. Members of the association have been working without a labor agreement for four years.

Neither union nor village officials have been willing to specify publicly what the points of contention are, but Burns has said the key questions are "administrative, rather than economic."

Village Attorney James Rhodes said Tuesday some of them concern "management's right to manage."

Burns, meanwhile, said he had met recently with Village Manager Craig Anderson, and offered to resolve some or all of the issues any time before arbitration begins. Anderson had not responded to that proposal as of Tuesday, according to Burns. Anderson confirmed that the meeting had been held, but said Burns had requested it primarily to enumerate what he considered the main issues in the dispute.

"I appreciate him taking the time to make sure we're all at the same place," Anderson said.

Anderson said chances were slim for further negotiation outside of arbitration.

"We're at the point of being at loggerheads, and not being able to move," he explained. "I don't feel confident it would be worthwhile to go back."

Union and village spokesmen agreed that arbitration would provide an imperfect resolution of the dispute. "I don't think it's designed to get a favorable settlement," Burns said. "It's more like a punishment for the parties' being unable to get a settlement on their own."

"It's absurd for anyone to say, 'We won in arbitration,'" he added. "Both parties lose."

"The arbitration process is not the preferred way of handling labor negotiations, without a doubt," Rhodes said. "However, when you reach a situation, in good faith negotiating for five years, where you're faced with new issues occurring all the time, and the other side is indicating it's already reached its bottom line on issues they have to have, then there's no room for negotiating."

In another development, Burns said the union was "disturbed" by Wheeling's rejection of his group's application to solicit funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), on the grounds that the union was not a charitable organization.

"We were not even notified," of the village's decision, which was based on a "technicality," Burns said. He contended that the union only learned of the rejection Friday, when it called Rhodes to determine the status of the application.

He contended that if the union had been informed earlier that its not-for-profit status was not enough to win approval of the request, the group would have resubmitted the application under MDA auspices, thereby increasing the likelihood of obtaining a village OK.

The delay caused by the lack of formal notification, according to Burns, made it impossible for the fund drive to take place.

Rhodes, however, suggested the union should have indicated on the application that the funds would go to the MDA. He also implied that Burns misunderstood the approval procedure. "It's unfortunate, perhaps, that their anticipation that it's just, one, two, three and it gets approved, was incorrect," he said.

# New Planner eyes plan revision

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

8-16-90

COUNTRYSIDE

Although on the job just a little under two months, Village Planner Mark Janek has already set his sights on projects that would cover a lot of ground in Wheeling.

One, in fact, would connect Wheeling to Mundelein and Chicago by commuter rail, while another would link it to Buffalo Grove and the Lake Cook Forest Preserve with a bicycle route.

And an updated comprehensive master plan would literally determine how land is used in Wheeling for years to come.

"We're hoping something good happens with this," Janek, 30, said of Wheeling's proposal to build a train station near Heritage Park and Catherine Court, south of Dundee Road.

The construction would be part of a proposed commuter service extension being considered by Metra, the commuter rail branch of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). While the village would build the station under the plan, Metra would supply the platform, according to Janek.

"It's in METRA's court now," Janek said. "They have to have engineers look at the site and see if it's up to snuff."

While that determination might be made by December, the decision on whether or not to expand commuter service might not be reached until a year from now, Janek added.

Michele Wilson, a project manager for NORTRAN, an RTA-funded agency which coordinates mass transit plans with Metra, said a study showed that an average of 1,097 riders would board trains from a Wheeling station each day.

That number, according to Janek, might be higher than that of any of the other six municipalities which could be served by the route extension.

Janek foresees the bicycle path possibly joining Wheeling with the forest preserve and Buffalo Grove, and might "link up all the areas of the village, particularly the park systems," he said.

The trail would use main streets only where necessary.

Despite the presence of some bike path signs in the village, Wheeling has not formally designated such a route.

Janek said he would like to complete an update of the village's comprehensive master plan, a guide to how property is zoned and utilized, within the next six months. He said the plan, which has been in effect since 1985, needs updating to reflect population growth.

"We need to get good ideas of how housing has changed," he pointed out.

The revision is expected to address the fact that there are large parcels of land remaining to be developed in the northwest and northeast sections of Wheeling, as well as portions of Milwaukee Avenue that are prime candidates for rede-



Kathy Tray/Pioneer Press

Village Planner Mark Janek is finding his way around Wheeling after two months on the job. He has already delved into plans for a commuter rail link to nearby towns and efforts to update the village's comprehensive plan.

velopment, according to Janek.

Janek earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of Wisconsin. He succeeds Bob Sullivan, who left Wheeling to become village planner of Orland Park.

With a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, Janek had done consulting work in Massachusetts, Maryland and Wisconsin before being hired by the

village.

In a related development, Village Manager Craig Anderson said last week that it might be October or November before Wheeling names a successor to David Kowal, who resigned as assistant village manager effective Aug. 10 to accept a similar post in Northbrook.

The village will accept resumes from applicants for the position through Sept. 15, according to Anderson.

# Dearborn Inc. yet to file application for tax relief

By WANE TRIVUK

STAFF WRITER  
COUNTRIES IDE

The Cook County Assessor's Office will try to facilitate the processing of a Wheeling firm's tax relief request, according to David Druker, the agency's director of community relations.

As of Friday, however, Druker said, the office had not received an application from the company, Dearborn Wire and Cable Inc., for the tax break, which the company wants to help finance expansion.

Henry Wolf, an attorney for the firm, was unavailable for comment this week on when the firm would file the application.

If the company were granted the relief, technically a property tax exemption, it would construct a \$1.6 million building on its site at 250 Carpenter Ave., to be shared by three affiliates. Altogether, Wolf has said, the project would bring 30 new jobs to the village and

generate about \$48,000 in property taxes for each of eight years.

The Wheeling Village Board unanimously approved giving the tax break to the

**The project would bring 30 new jobs to the village and generate about \$48,000 in property taxes for each of eight years.**

firm last week. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the relief is traditionally granted to increase the likelihood of a

business' remaining, locating, or expanding its operations on a Cook County community.

With the exemption, Dearborn Wire and Cable would have its property assessed at 16 percent of its market value, rather than 36 percent, according to Village Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

Once the assessor's office received the application for the relief, called a Cook County Real Estate Class 6 (b) Property Tax Exemption, "we would try to expedite it," Druker said.

He noted, though, that it does require on-site inspection, and a look at the request.

Druker added that there isn't any specific time frame within which his office must review applications for the exemption.

Wolf had said before village approval of the break that if the exemption were granted by Wheeling and the county, construction at the site could begin by Sept. 15.

Friday, a portion of that water already has drained out of the reservoir, thus leaving room for additional rainfall, Talhami said.

The reservoir is draining water constantly, but, even if it were plugged up so no water could escape, it could hold another 3 million gallons on top of the 225 million gallons it already has taken in, he said.

In Wheeling, where flood problems have been few and far between, officials aren't worried about additional rainfall.

"Things have been so low key, and we've had no problems around here that we're not expecting any problems," said Wheeling Police Sgt. Jack Koening.

without recommendation because the village plan commission could not garner the four votes necessary to recommend approval. Some plan commission members were concerned about traffic congestion at the bank's entrances and exits.

Original plans for the now vacant land across from the Arlington Club housing complex called for a retail center. But Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a bank would have less impact on traffic in that area.

The bank, which will offer free checking, consumer loans, savings, IRAs, evening hours and an automatic teller machine, will target the consumer market rather than the commercial market.

## Towns work to prevent possible flooding

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

keeping an eye on rising water levels at the Buffalo Creek retention reservoir on the west side of Arlington Heights Road, just north of Lake-Cook Road.

On Monday, water levels were only one foot below the reservoir's maximum capacity, said Gregory Boysen, director of public works.

Since the expansion of the flood-control reservoir in 1988, water levels have never been as high as they are now, said Ayoub Talhami, an engineer for the Metropolitan Sanitary District.

Even so, Talhami says the reservoir can handle more rain.

The reservoir is designed to handle six inches of rain in 24 hours. Although Buffalo Grove has received 5.98 inches of rain since

Rising water levels in the Buffalo Creek retention reservoir will be monitored closely as the threat of rain looms ahead, but officials say there is little chance the reservoir will overflow.

Officials in Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Long Grove report little or no flood problems resulting from weekend downpours that dumped nearly six inches of rain on the communities.

Now, they are doing everything they can to prevent any possible problems should the rains continue throughout the week.

As part of its efforts, the Buffalo Grove public works department is

## Wheeling puts bank drive-through in gear

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The only entrance to the drive-through lanes will be on Huntington Lane. The 30-foot-wide lane will widen into a 70-foot pavement that allows for six drive-through lanes. It will narrow to 20 feet wide to channel traffic along the bank to exit on to either Huntington Lane or Dundee Road.

"The narrow entrance that widens and then narrows again channelizes traffic," said Village Board President Sheila H. Shultz, who broke a 2-2 tie by voting in favor of the bank.

Because they work in the banking industry, Trustees Judy Abruscato and William Rogers abstained from voting.

Although city staff supported the plan, it came to the trustees

Wheeling trustees narrowly approved Monday Household Bank's request to build a drive-through bank on the town's western border.

The 6,320-square-foot bank will be built on 1.5 acres at the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Huntington Lane.

Trustees James Whittington and Elizabeth Hartman voted against the proposal, expressing concern about the flow of traffic through the drive-up windows.

"Everybody has to use this thing, from 16-year-olds to 80-year-olds," Whittington said. "I'm concerned this is a real obstacle course."

## 'Drizzle' closes two Wheeling roads

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It was only drizzle, but Tuesday's rainfall was enough to close two major roads in Wheeling for portions of the day.

Illinois Department of Transportation officials closed Milwaukee Avenue just south of Hintz Road early Tuesday morning when a water back-up left skill pavement, said Paul Plucienik, maintenance operations engineer for IDOT.

The road, which was closed at about 4 a.m., was re-opened in the middle of morning rush hour, at about 7:30 a.m., Plucienik said. Apparently, a piece of carpet or

debris was lodged in a sewer inlet, preventing water from draining off the road properly. Once the debris was removed, high water levels subsided and the road was re-opened, Plucienik said.

The rain also forced the closure of a small section of Wheeling Road, police said. Officials shut down one lane just south of Dundee Road early Tuesday morning because of flooding.

Ironically, Tuesday's light rains brought an end to Long Grove's one minor road problem. Village Administrator D.M. Doughy said. During the weekend, water began rushing across a portion of Checker Road just east of Old Hicks Road. The puddle of water, which was about one inch deep and

about 15- to 20-feet wide, did not cause any major problems along the road, but it did pose a nuisance, Doughy said.

But, while a slight break in rainfall on Monday and the light rains on Tuesday, Doughy said the problem had rectified itself.

Overall, Buffalo Grove officials have recorded 6.9 inches of rain since Friday. Yet, even the village's traditional trouble-spots have remained virtually flood free, said Gregory Boysen, director of public works.

In University Court, where residents have been plagued with flooding problems for more than 20 years, a recently completed drainage system has performed "perfectly," Boysen said.

## New system to improve fire communication

Aug. 23, 1990

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire Department will reduce its dependency on phone lines when a new communications system is up and working in about two months.

"The system will insure the reliability of dispatch, regardless of whether we have phone lines," Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said.

He said a fire like the one at an Illinois Bell switching station in Hinsdale last year would cause communication problems for the fire department.

"If I lose the phone line now, I am out of business," he said.

The \$29,000 system, which has been approved by Wheeling trus-

tees, will also simplify communication between the village's two stations. There is no way, except by phone or through police dispatch, for firefighters at the two stations to talk now.

But the new system will form a common network without tapping into regular telephone lines, MacIsaac said. Station 23, which serves the north half of Wheeling, will be able to talk directly to Station 24, which serves the south half. In the past, all communications between the stations, and between firefighters in the field and headquarters, had to go through police dispatch.

"If there is an incident in the field that they aren't sure about, they will be able to speak to us di-

rectly," MacIsaac said.

When a call is dispatched with the present system, an 11-second warning tone flashes simultaneously to both stations, letting them know a call is coming. With the new system, there will be different warning tones, enabling firefighters to know which station is being called and whether the call is ambulance or fire-related. There will also be a special tone to signify calls that both stations should respond to.

"It gets the mind set into the type of call you will be responding to," MacIsaac said. "There is a psychological benefit."

The system is being purchased from and will be installed by Scan-am of McHenry.

addresses items that would be affected by the relocation. Some of those concerns include the impact on wetlands and noise and air pollution caused by cars using the new roads. The assessment also addresses social concerns caused by the relocation.

But residents may have other concerns to raise at a public hearing, which may be held at the end of September. Before a hearing is set, the environmental assessment must be approved by the FAA, Illinois Department of Transportation and the airport owners, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

During the hearing, which is required in order to receive federal funding, airport officials will address all concerns and later submit the environmental assessment to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval.

The roads must be moved west because the airport's longest runway ends too close to the intersection of the intersection.

The first step toward holding a public hearing on the planned relocation of the intersection, the first step toward holding a public hearing on the planned relocation of the intersection, was an environmental assessment, which was approved by the village board on Wednesday.

Residents will be able to voice their concerns about the proposed relocation of the intersection at a public hearing on the intersection of Hintz and Hinz roads near Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

Airport commissioners Wednesday unanimously approved a proposed environmental assessment, which was held at the end of September. Before a hearing is set, the environmental assessment must be approved by the FAA, Illinois Department of Transportation and the airport owners, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

During the hearing, which is required in order to receive federal funding, airport officials will address all concerns and later submit the environmental assessment to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval.

The environmental assessment also outlines proposed land acquisition needed for the relocation. About 16 houses along Wolf and Hintz roads will be acquired along with the Twin Drive-In Theater property along Milwaukee Avenue. That property may be acquired as soon as next year, while construction on the intersection could begin by the end of next year or the beginning of 1992, he added.

Commissioners recently acquired land on the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection and the parcels will be cleared in September.

## Residents to have say in intersection move

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-16-90

# Wheeling chief is enforcing law and order among officers

8-23-90

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Four months had passed since Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger charged one of his officers with violating the department's disciplinary rules.

Now, Haeger's quest for internal law and order is regaining momentum, and the spotlight. Haeger recently filed charges against Officer Robert Pressley, perhaps Wheeling's most controversial police officer of the 1980s.

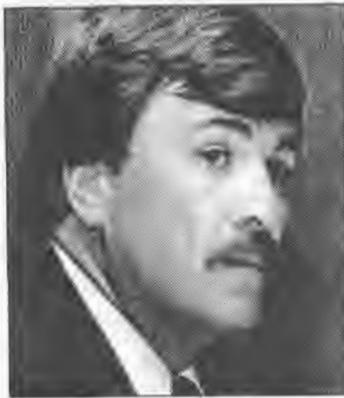
Haeger charges that Pressley, who has two lawsuits pending against Haeger, left the village limits while on duty and brought a rookie officer with him. Although Haeger's charges do not suggest a punishment for Pressley, he asks the village fire and police commission to "take appropriate action" for the alleged discipline code violations.

Pressley's attorneys, however, claim the charges are evidence of Haeger's continued attempts to rid the department of its only black officer.

The charges against Pressley mark the fifth time since January 1989 that Haeger has publicly accused his officers of violating department disciplinary regulations. Not counting the disciplinary charges filed against officers that remain in personnel records, the public charges have resulted in the firing of one officer and suspension of three others.

Here's a synopsis of the other charges:

■ Richard R. Imber, a 10-year department veteran, was fired in April 1989 on gambling and battery charges.



Michael J. Staufenbiel

■ Michael T. Rompala, a 21-year officer, was suspended for 10 days in June last year for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase, which was handled by other police departments and ended in Chicago.

■ Michael J. Staufenbiel, an 18-year veteran and sergeant, was suspended for 21 days last September after he upended the village flag and left it in a garbage can.

■ Adrian D. Russell, a 12-year officer, was suspended for 30 days for putting himself and others in a dangerous situation when he handled a call concerning a man described as violent, hostile, paranoid and armed with two guns. Russell's job performance also was unsatisfactory when he allowed a robbery suspect to escape his custody, commissioners ruled.

While some officers allege in off-the-record talks that the controversy also has resulted in low morale in the department, Haeger justifies



Robert Pressley

those short-term effects with his determination to run a by-the-books department.

"If the person continues to make the wrong choice and can't comply with the system, then that person — they themselves — are choosing to seek consequences and sometimes those consequences result in severe disciplinary action or having to make a decision to terminate someone from the department," Haeger said. "That's one of my responsibilities as a chief is to ensure that the rules of the department are complied with."

When Haeger left the Woodridge Police Department eight years ago to join the Wheeling Police Department, he said he took the job "because of the challenge of taking the department from where it was and building it back up to where the men and the community can be proud of it."

"I want to forget the past and look ahead," Haeger said in a 1982 Daily



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Herald interview. "If the past starts to sneak up, I'll be able to hold it off and not allow the department to become embroiled in controversy."

Haeger was referring then to a lawsuit filed by 11 officers against the former police chief and several former village officials, claiming they had tampered with promotion test results.

Haeger said he has met the challenge he set back eight years ago.

"I think it's been met, but I haven't met it alone," Haeger said. "I think it's been that this police agency has met that challenge, and I do believe that they have re-established their reputation in this community. So what may have started off as a singular challenge for me as the chief executive quite quickly became the challenge of the agency as a group."

Haeger says his goal is to bring the department up to the standards that he and village leaders expect of those who serve and protect. Those

See POLICE on Page 3

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The actions of the village's fire and police commissioners serve as testimony of their support of Haeger's management style, as do comments by village leaders.

"We want to have very high standards for our police department and all village employees," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "We're serious about that. I think consistency is very important. We think it's been a fair process and we support the chief in that."

Although officers are reluctant to speak publicly about the department, perhaps the most blatant gesture came from former Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel and his symbolic display of discord. But before that, his case was precipitated by another disciplinary hearing of a fellow officer.

**Richard Imber**

In January 1989, Haeger charged Richard R. Imber with gambling, battery and disorderly conduct stemming from three separate incidents that occurred at a village restaurant the previous year.

that "the public thinks we're a bunch of yahoos" because of the disciplinary hearings.

"If they (village officials) have a question about anybody's dedication, they shouldn't," Staufenbiel said, "because everyone is dedicated."

**Another lawsuit**

In yet another case related to the Imber charges, a 17-year department veteran filed a lawsuit in May against Haeger, the fire and police commission and two other officers.

Officer Robert L. MacDonald claims he was passed over for a promotion to sergeant because of his relationship to Imber, the officer fired for gambling.

As a "close friend" of Imber, MacDonald claims he was next on the promotion list to replace Staufenbiel, the sergeant who resigned. MacDonald's lawsuit charges that his First Amendment right to free speech had been violated. He is seeking a judicial review of the commission's proceedings, a reversal of commissioners' decision and a promotion to sergeant.

**Robert Pressley**

In his latest charges, Haeger accuses Pressley of violating department codes that prohibit officers from taking breaks within the first two hours of their shifts and taking breaks which exceed 15 minutes.

In the charges, Haeger states Pressley went to a gas station just outside village boundaries on at least four occasions while on duty last October and November. Several times, Pressley also took a probationary

testimony for Pressley.

**Michael Rompala and Haeger's defense**

In the time between the Staufenbiel and Imber hearings, police officer Michael T. Rompala, a 20-year veteran, was suspended for 10 days for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase that ended in Chicago.

Haeger says he is concerned that the public hearings may reflect poorly on his department and that the officers are not recognized for the good work they do. But, he adds, residents, overall, notice the improvements he has made.

"I think the community is very pleased with this police department and the service we provide," Haeger said. "But it's the isolated incidents that become public that I think bothers the people that they are public because it reflects poorly on them (officers). So all the good that they do by the way they perform their job is sort of looked at in a negative

manner. It's like the old proverbial 'one bad apple spoils the barrel' and it's not true."

Although not publicly, some officers and former department employees contend that Haeger is trying to reform the department and rid it of its old regime, starting with officers with at least 10 years' tenure on the Wheeling police force.

Haeger denies the charge.

"I don't think we can blame our problems that we are experiencing today totally on the past and if we were to blame it on the past, I think it would be pure conjecture," Haeger said. "I think those of us who are here today are responsible for the problems of today. Enough time has passed that it can no longer be blamed on the past."

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Whether retribution is real or only a fear is unknown. But it has resulted in a tight-lipped department about some very public issues.

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"I think they have confidence in the system that's here," Haeger added. "Certainly there's officers that are critical of it because they ha-

ven't been able to comply with it. And if they would comply as opposed to continually deviating from it, then maybe they wouldn't be so critical and maybe their morale wouldn't be so low. It's not a difficult system in which to comply. It's a set of rules. If they don't want to comply with the rules as they're established, they have to anticipate that they're going to have consequences."

Meanwhile, Haeger says he'll continue to run the department like he has, bringing law and order to the community, starting with his own employees.

"I am a very open and honest police chief," Haeger said. "I'm a very ethical police chief. And I have very high standards of performance and high standards or expectations of the personnel that are going to be on the police department that I manage. If people can't comply with those standards, and again they make choices not to comply, then I have a responsibility to this department and to the community to take appropriate actions."

# suburban Images

NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, HEALTH

AND BETTER LIVING

91

## A matriarchal political dynasty

By JANE LEMME

The face of politics is changing — literally. More women are seeking and winning political positions on all levels of government and their participation is effecting change in the political arena.

In fact, women in politics "firsts" are becoming fewer as the 90s begin. But one effect of the increasing number of women in politics can still be considered a novel concept: a matriarchal political dynasty.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz is proud that her daughter, Vernon Hills Village Clerk Kathy Ryg, has followed in her footsteps of community government involvement. And, by sharing that common bond, Schultz has found someone with whom to share the trials and tribulations of public service.

On a local level, serving in an elected position requires the ability to effectively juggle time and schedules and, often, to work long hours. Schultz and Ryg can certainly attest to this.

Schultz, village president of Wheeling since 1981, recently attended a board meeting that didn't break up until 4 a.m. Ryg, Vernon Hills' village clerk since 1989, combines a busy schedule organizing the village's business with assisting in such events as the annual Vernon Hills' annual Summer Celebration summer festival.

### Similarities

Both are dynamic women and similarities between mother and daughter go beyond physical characteristics. They are out-going, gracious, articulate and very, very, busy.

Schultz combines a full-time position at Wheeling's Indian Trails Library with her part-time position as chief elected official of Wheeling.

In her elected position, Schultz initiates policy, manages the village's legal matters, chairs village board meetings and still finds time to preside as president of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Wheeling's Liquor Commission. She is also chairman of the Solid Waste Committee and a member of the Northwest Municipal Conference.

Her daughter, Ryg, is serving a four-year term as village clerk. Ryg's full-time position keeps her busy maintaining all the village's records, serving the village board by keeping minutes, preparing and recording



Forest Muschewski

Sheila Schultz (left), the village president of Wheeling, and Kathy Ryg, the village clerk of Vernon Hills, are not only a part of the trend of increasing involvement by women in politics, they also have the relatively unique distinction of being a mother-daughter political team.

ordinances and legal documents and representing the village at community events.

A Wheeling resident since 1956, Schultz has been involved in the village's political scene for nearly 20 years. Her political activity was a gradual extension of the activities she was engaged in at the time her family moved to the community. Raising seven children kept her busy, but she still found time to work part-time as a librarian and participate in school and church organizations.

### Filling a void

"I never had a political goal or timetable. It was a matter of filling a void and working to meet a need," said Schultz. "I think that is generally true of the women I know in politics."

In 1971, Schultz was asked to become a campaign manager and through this experience she gained an understanding and respect for the local political movement in Wheeling.

Schultz' desire to initiate a forum for change resulted in her winning a

village trustee position in 1979, which was the start of her political career.

"The (then-current village) president held opposing political views and I was asked by other elected officials to run for office," said Schultz. "It was a compliment and I had a lot of good support. However, the point is not attaining the office, the point is to effect the kind of positive change you want to happen. If you can be part of that and make it happen, I think that's the real motivation."

While holding a position on the village board, Schultz campaigned for village president in 1981. She won the election, beating the incumbent by 93 votes and became the first female to hold the position in Wheeling. She was re-elected in 1985 and 1989.

Schultz' daughter, Ryg, had a similar start in politics.

"Like mom, I never planned to run for a political position," Ryg said. "I think people perceive holding a political office as something other than what it really is. It almost evolves from being involved in campaigns for people

you want to support or being involved in a community event."

### Mom's influence

Growing up with a politically active mother, Ryg readily took to campaign management and, along with her siblings, actively supported her mother's campaigns.

Schultz' campaign strategy is to go to the people — door-to-door — and it often meant long hours, sore feet and braving foul weather.

"We were always encouraged to be open to new experiences and to learn to question and find out more. If there was something to do, we were encouraged to go out and do it," said Ryg.

After obtaining a master's degree, Ryg was working as assistant director of Arlington Heights' Northwest Mental Health Center when she decided to take the plunge into politics and campaign for the village clerk's position.

Her entry into politics involved a full-out family effort, beginning with the encouragement and support of her mother, who helped her campaign all the way to the polls, where she accompanied Ryg on election day. Ryg also enlisted the help of her father, sister and brothers, and her two young daughters, Karyn and Lindsay, who accompanied their mother on her door-to-door campaign throughout the community.

"I knocked on doors for three months, every day, all day. It was a lot of hard work, but it was a wonderful opportunity and very gratifying because on election day, standing at the polls, a lot of people came up to me and said, 'You're the only person that I really met.' Fortunately, Vernon Hills is still the size that is workable to do that kind of campaigning," said Ryg.

### Grandma's story

A strong family bond and spirit of support between Ryg and Schultz is evident. In a recent interview, Schultz turned to Ryg and asked if she could tell her "grandmother story."

"In 1985, when I was campaigning, Karyn was five and Lindsay was three and Kathy got the girls to help campaign. It was a tough campaign. I had three opponents at the time and we did a lot of door-to-door campaigning. The Sunday after the election, we were coming home from church and Lindsay said, 'Are we going to pass papers today?' I told her no, the election's over and Lindsay said, 'Oh

(Continued on next page)

good, I was getting so tired!" Ryg's favorite campaign story occurred during her bid for village clerk.

"During the election, the girls worked really hard with me. I was doing a car pool and out of the five kids in the car, four of them had one or the other of their parents campaigning for something," Ryg said. "The kids were full of buttons and it didn't matter to them that people were running against each other, they all wore the buttons."

In the first year of her newly won position, Ryg gives full credit to her mother, not only for helping her win her election, but for being her role model and providing early-life values, which eventually motivated her to serve her community.

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While mother and daughter have parallel views about social and government issues, differences between their generations and the strides that have been made is evident to both women.

"I think it's very interesting in this community and among my contemporaries that our lifestyles are so different as wives and mothers than when I was growing up with mom being home and involved in the school and church," said Ryg.

According to Schultz, while her contemporaries were involved in the same projects as her daughter's, there was no recognition of their contributions, nor did they look for or expect any.

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"The most important value my mother has given me is a belief that I can accomplish anything I choose to accomplish — she's given me confidence in myself," said Ryg.

What effect has it had on the mother/daughter relationship, having two politically involved participants in community government? Both women are quick to respond: "Great!"

"It's wonderful ... a real bonus," said Schultz. "I've relied so much on Kathy's help previously and I was glad to help her with her campaign. But I think the nicest thing is to be able to talk to someone you're close to that understands your frustrations and excitement. And now the fun part is to go to public events and say, 'This is my daughter and she, too, is an elected official.'"

As for their views on issues, there seems to be no generation-gap between mother and daughter. Both agree they share similar viewpoints about local, state and national issues.

"I think ecologically and environmentally, we're both very much the same," said Schultz.

An issue which both mother and daughter discuss often, is Sheila's race for the Cook County board. She was slated by the Democratic Party and won the primary election. She is now preparing for a hard campaign before the November elections.

There's a sense of sadness in Schultz' voice as she talks about her next political move. Her tenure as village president holds many fond memories of campaigns fought and won, a community that grew and changed under her direction and friendships made thorough public service affiliations.

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Both Schultz and Ryg believe that women have begun to reshape the political environment and their involvement has breathed at least a little fresh air into the smoke-filled, often antagonistic, political chambers of the not-so-distant past.

"I see a more cooperative, rather than an adversary, way of government. Women aren't afraid to ask for help or admit they don't know something," says Schultz. "A young man, who is a dynamic and involved public servant working for a government official, said to me, 'Women have networking that the good old boys wouldn't think of.' But we don't think of it as networking, it's just automatic that you would discuss and relate with other women. Men do it on another level."

Schultz is encouraged by women's involvement and visibility in politics, but adds, "I have a mayor friend who puts on a great show of saying, 'Women are going to take over the world.' My answer to him is when we reach 50 percent, we'll discuss it. When it's no longer a novelty, then I think we'll know what kind of an impact women are making."

In her position, Ryg has had the opportunity to watch the women mayors from Vernon Hills, Mundelein and Libertyville work together. She admires the spirit of cooperativeness among the three women and their ability and desire to communicate with one another, in spite of holding separate agendas.

Chairing or attending frequent board and commission meetings, Schultz interacts with a diverse group of citizens and public officials. In the larger groups and in smaller conferences with her peers, Schultz has heard comments that there is no difference between the sexes. "But I don't believe it and I don't want that to be true," she says.

Friday, August 24, 1990

# Palwaukee plans approach final approval

By TRESH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport's first development plan in eight years is one step closer to becoming official.

Airport commissioners recently approved the Airport Layout Plan, which now goes before the airport owners — Wheeling and Prospect Heights — for approval. From there, it goes to the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation for the final go-ahead.

The plan maps out the major improvement and development projects in the airport's \$83.59 million capital improvement program that was approved last spring. An updated, approved plan permits airport officials to apply for federal funding for the projects.

"I think it's a very good document," Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said. "It follows the direction that we have received from the commission and the communities."

Over the next 12 years, airport officials plan to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads, realign

the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, reconstruct major runways and install a fence around the airport, according to the plans.

The intersection must be moved west, in conformance with FAA standards, because the airport's main runway ends too close to the roads. The drainage ditch, which meanders through the airfield, also must be relocated because it, too, runs too close to the runway and places too many restrictions on land to be developed around the field.

Several other steps must be completed before those projects become

reality, though. Those steps, which are outlined year by year in the program, include acquiring land around the intersection and demolishing several obstructions for aircraft using the airfield. Plans call for buying the Twin Drive-In theatre property on Milwaukee Avenue next year in order to relocate the drainage ditch there by 1993.

The program also includes moving the airport's second largest runway to the southwest because it ends too close to some airplane storage hangars.

## Pressley faces new charges

By WAYNE TRYHUK

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger has an "ulterior motive" for bringing new charges against Wheeling Police Officer Robert Pressley, Pressley's attorney has claimed.

An attorney for Haeger denies that claim.

The new charges allege that Pressley took too many breaks while on duty, at least some of which were outside the permissible area, and that he lied when questioned about the charges. They will be heard by the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on Sept. 13.

While refusing to specify the alleged motive for filing the charges, Pressley's attorney, Alan Friedman, implied he felt the charges were part of a pattern of alleged punitive steps taken by the department against his client.

"Years later, they bring up these absurd charges," he said Tuesday of the allegations, some of which refer to conduct said to have taken place nearly two years ago. "This is the best they can do to get at my client. You can draw your own conclusions."

### Civil suit

Pressley filed a civil suit over seven years ago claiming his Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection were violated in 1983 when the chief allegedly "retaliated" for the officer's successful challenge to a 1982 suspension.

Haeger had suspended Pressley for allegedly breaking department rules of truthfulness in relation to a citizen's complaint that he'd engaged in sexual relations with a woman in a van parked outside The Original Granny's Restaurant, at 831 W. Dundee Road.

Following the board's reversal of that suspension, according to Pressley, he was unfairly disciplined. His attorneys have contended

Pressley, who is black, was punished more severely than white officers who had committed more serious offenses.

In addition, the suit contends, fellow officers harassed Pressley with racial epithets and cartoons, activities in which Haeger failed to intervene.

According to Friedman, the village board refused to approve an agreement which could have resolved those issues last year.

Referring to the new charges, Friedman conceded that Pressley went beyond the allowable area to take breaks, but said other Wheeling officers had done the same, without punishment.

He added that Pressley was not lying when confronted with the charges, but merely confused because of the time that had elapsed since the alleged offenses.

"I couldn't remember where I was in October, 1988," Friedman said. "But he should remember if he took two minute breaks? That's preposterous."

Moreover, according to Friedman, some of Pressley's allegedly unauthorized breaks were actually proper because Pressley called in to the station to notify the department he was taking them, a procedure police rules permit.

Noting that Haeger had been enjoined by a court from disciplining Pressley for "speaking out on racism," Friedman said, "This is an act of desperation by the chief."

The attorney representing Haeger before the commission, Steve Culliton, said his client "unequivocally was not motivated by anything other than the duty the chief has to act on violations of rules of the department."

In addition, according to Culliton, "the matters that were brought to the attention of the chief were acted on promptly, once they came to his attention."

## New bank wins approval

After weighing concerns about potential traffic problems, the Wheeling Village Board Monday narrowly approved construction of a proposed bank with a drive-through.

Richard Lucas, vice-president and bank property manager for Household Bank, said the new bank could be open by early next spring at the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Huntington Lane.

Village Manager Sheila Schultz, whose vote for the approval broke a 2-2 tie, said Tuesday she supported the plan because the village staff had adequately addressed traffic concerns. She said the 6,320 square-foot bank would benefit Wheeling residents.

Schultz pointed out that vehicles leaving the site would only be allowed to turn west onto Dundee Road, minimizing congestion at the bank. She added that the bank was expected to generate less traffic than a shopping center.

Schultz acknowledged, however, that "if it is successful, it does create traffic, so we're kind of caught in a box."

Lucas told the board traffic

from the one story bank was unlikely to burden the area because cars do not exit drive through facilities in a steady stream, but "more or less creep out."

But Trustees James Whittington and Elizabeth Hartmann were not convinced. They voted against the proposal after grilling Lucas on whether vehicles entering and leaving the bank would create added congestion.

Hartman said he felt a potential for accidents might exist.

Whittington said one access point to the bank would require motorists to make a difficult turn, particularly in winter weather.

"Everybody is going to use this, from 18 to 80-years-old," Whittington declared. "This is a real obstacle course."

Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke said the pattern of vehicle flow from the bank was in large part dictated by Illinois Department of Transportation regulations, and, consequently, beyond village control.

The bank proposal may have had an unspoken ally in the proliferation of shopping

malls in Wheeling. Some trustees indicated they supported the bank proposal because it was a better use of the property than another mall.

"There is a concern about additional shopping centers," Schultz said. She said a site with a single use, such as a bank, is preferred.

In addition, Schultz said this bank is set up more to serve personal accounts than business accounts, and thus fills a need for Wheeling residents. She also said it promised to be an attractive facility, whose appearance would be enhanced by landscaping.

Lucas said the bank would initially employ 10 to 12 people and ultimately about 20. He said it could be open by March of next year. The bank must still apply for permits allowing it to begin construction, hopefully in October, he said.

Along with Schultz, Trustees Joseph Ratajczak and Anthony Altieri supported the proposal. Trustees Judy Abruscato and William Rogers abstained, citing their interests in other financial institutions.

## Broken Promise

The manager of the Arbor Court apartment complex has come to the village this week for tax relief. Back in 1986, the village created a Tax Increment Finance District for the complex, which had partially burned down.

Larry Floria has done nice things in improving the complex. And we sympathy that the project has cost him more than he anticipated. But under the TIF district, new taxes from the redeveloped complex help pay off the loan awarded the complex.

Tax relief would prolong the loan and add to the village's cost. It would be, as Village Attorney James Rhodes said, taking "two bites of the apple." This is why the village made Floria promise he would not seek tax relief in 1986. We feel a promise is a promise.



Danella Brown/Pioneer Press

A plane descends over the intersection of Wolf and Hintz Roads, where IDOT wants to build a noise barrier. The intersection reconfiguration is part of a planned expansion of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

## Wheeling to ask IDOT to nix noise barrier plan

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The Village of Wheeling will urge the Illinois Department of Transportation to reconfigure the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads in a way that does not require the construction of unsightly noise barriers.

The reconfiguration, part of the proposed expansion of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, now calls for such a barrier on the east side of Wolf Road, about a quarter of a mile north of Hintz Road, across from the Foxboro apartment complex, according to village officials.

Trustee William Rogers said Monday the barrier might diminish the values of one or two homes in the area.

"They can compromise a little bit, too," he said, noting that the village had allocated over 60 acres of land to the airport to accommodate the expansion.

Compromise might entail putting a bend in the road that moves it farther from the homes, making a noise barrier unnecessary, Rogers suggested.

Village Manager Craig Anderson generally agreed with Rogers' analysis.

"We've got nice homes there, and the village made some accommodations for the airport," he said Tuesday.

He said he would write a letter to IDOT, suggesting the road be moved to avoid being too close to the homes before environmental impact assessment hearings on the expansion, expected to be held in September or October, take place.

"The village will hold firm on this," he predicted.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart, Jr., meanwhile, emphasized that the construction of the barrier was merely being considered, and might not actually be undertaken.

He said the proposal for the barrier might have originated in a report on the proposed expansion done by the engineering firm of Crawford, Murphy and Tilly.

Stewart added that residents in the Wolf Run subdivision and Plum Creek Condominiums, which would be affected by the project, had asked that barriers be installed near their residences.

## Wheeling firm wins \$16.4 mil

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

A Philadelphia soft drink distributor has been ordered to pay for \$16.4 million: the amount a jury awarded a Wheeling supplier last week in a breach of contract suit.

The Wheeling firm, Nedlog Company, 90 Marquardt Drive, successfully argued in court that the distributor, ARA/Cory Refreshment Services, Inc., reneged on a 1984 agreement, and a 1988 out-of-court settlement arising from that breach of contract, according to Nedlog's attorney, Alan Salpeter.

ARA serves food service companies, whose typical customers are school and hospital cafeterias, while Cory deals with convenience stores and gas station mini-marts, Salpeter said Tuesday.

Under the 1984 deal, Salpeter explained, Nedlog was to have been the exclusive supplier of fruit-based drinks to ARA for five years, and to Cory for until about the middle of 1987.

up to the terms" of its agreement with Nedlog, he charged.

Consequently, in its 1989 suit, Nedlog asked to have the out-of-court settlement the defendants violated abro-

We're very satisfied with both the amount of the judgment, and the way it vindicates the company.

gated, and to be awarded punitive damages of \$7.3 million, and a compensatory judgement of \$12.4 million.

On Aug. 15, in U.S. District Court in Chicago, a jury awarded Nedlog \$5 million dollars and \$11.4 million in punitive and compensatory damages, respectively.

"We're very satisfied," with both the amount of the judgement, and the way it vindicates the company, Salpeter said. "We were treated very shabbily," he explained.

Noting that Nedlog is a family owned operation which sells about \$3 million worth of its products annually, compared to ARA's yearly sales of about \$4.5 billion, he said, "This was a classic case of the little guy who stood up to a gigantic company that was trying to crush it."

ARA Manager of Corporate Communications David Flaherty, said Tuesday his company planned to appeal the decision. "We believe the award was unjustified," Flaherty said.

Salpeter said in order to appeal, ARA would have to file motions by Aug. 27 with Judge Milton Shadur, who presided over the case, seeking a reversal of the verdict and a new trial.

"We're very confident we would win" should an appeal be filed, Salpeter emphasized.

But because the appeal process would probably take about a year, during which Nedlog would be without any compensation, Salpeter said his client would "think seriously" about agreeing to accept a slight decrease in the award. "It might be a very small discount, but enough to give them incentive to give us money," he explained.

Basically, they bought crumbs from us

When the distributors terminated the contract in April of 1988, Nedlog sued them. About three weeks later, the defendants agreed to a remedial settlement, which, in addition to directing them to pay Nedlog \$825,000 by the end of the year, effectively reinstated the original agreement, Salpeter said.

### Back to court

But Nedlog went back to court in January of 1989 because, despite the settlement, "they shorted us by about \$400,000, and never treated us as an exclusive supplier," according to Salpeter.

"Basically, they bought crumbs from us," he said.

For example, Cory purchased just 5,000 of the 140,000 cases of fruit concentrate the agreement called for, and ARA bought only about a third of what it was required to, Salpeter said.

He said court records show that the distributors dropped Nedlog as a supplier, in large part, because Coca Cola Foods, which produces Hi-C fruit drinks, "paid over \$7 million to ARA to acquire various beverage contracts." ARA "never intended to live

## LETTERS

### LETTERS POLICY

The Wheeling Countrysidewelcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and provide the writer's daytime telephone number. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and brevity, or to reject letters deemed libelous, redundant or inappropriate.

The deadline for letters is Noon Monday.

Send letters to:

Managing Editor, Wheeling Countryside, 200 James St., Barrington IL 60010.

payment penalty). There was no way she could appeal. She would not go to the press because she was afraid "they'd do something else to her." I feel free to tell her story now because she died last week. On Feb. 22, 1989, the \$35 payment was made by Lucy Dressler.

The 333 percent increase in vehicle license fees is one hell of a penalty for seniors to pay for fighting an unjustified \$870,000 new tax on utilities. Seniors have a right to see that all public taxes and expenditures are justified and cost effective.

Marvin O. Horcher  
Director, Wheeling AARP Chapter

### Senior citizens penalized

Wheeling/This letter was addressed to Sheila Schultz, President, Wheeling Village Board, with a copy to the Wheeling Countryside.

Your comments on the senior citizens vehicle tax recommendations, made at the Village Board workshop session at Lexington Commons on July 23, indicated lack of understanding. To avoid creating a utility tax, the seniors recommended a 50 percent vehicle tax increase (from \$10 to \$15 for passenger cars and from \$3 to \$4.50 for seniors). This would have yielded the additional \$130,000 needed for the Roads and Bridges fund. The seniors did not ask for the 333 percent increase (from \$3 to \$10) your board stuck them with.

The utility tax your board recommended was opposed because, as industry representatives and seniors pointed out to you, it would have yielded over \$1,000,000 (more than seven and a half times the additional \$130,000 that was said to be needed). An example of the resentment generated is the case of a 74-year-old widow. Concerned over the health of her 81-year-old brother, she was 22 days late in renewing her vehicle license. When she took her \$3 check to the village hall, she was told to write a new one for \$35 (\$10 for the license plus \$25 late

surrounded by adults.

For two months now he's endured a steady regime of chemotherapy sessions at Luth



Jean-Pierre Bosze  
General H

# Firefighters move to arbitration

Sat. 8-25-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters moved one step closer to a contract with the village early this week when an arbitrator was named to settle the differences between the union and the village.

Lamont Stallworth, a professor of industrial relations at Loyola University for 15 years, has been chosen to settle the dispute. Stallworth also has 15 years of arbitration experience.

He has been a member of the Illinois Labor Relation Board and a member of the executive board of the Industrial Relations Association.

Stallworth will hold his first negotiation session Oct. 29.

Representatives of the firefighters

union and the village will give testimony about the negotiating process, present their positions on the more than 24 unresolved issues and then make a final offer to settle each issue.

Union President Bart Burns said Stallworth has to choose one of the final offers on the economic issues but that he may fashion his own awards on any issue not related to money.

"Most of the issues that are left are non-economic," he said.

Burns said that the union has asked the village to meet one more time in an effort to narrow down the issues.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the mediator has asked both groups to come back to the table for another round of talks. But Rhodes

said that any more meetings between the village and the union will be held to define the issues before arbitration begins.

"It is clear to me that there are areas and issues that parties cannot agree upon, and when parties can't agree, the process needs arbitration," he said.

Although Rhodes refused to guess at how long the arbitration process would take, Burns said that he expects Stallworth to take at least 90 days to render his decisions.

Firefighters have been working without a contract since 1986, when they wanted to include lieutenants in their union.

Wheeling refused to negotiate with the lieutenants, but the Illinois Supreme Court decided in the firefighters' favor last April.

Monday, 8-27-90

# Alderman wants to combine fire districts

By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Prospect Heights alderman has asked the city's police and fire commission to investigate consolidating the Prospect Heights and Wheeling Township rural fire protection districts into one municipal department.

Fourth Ward Alderman Paul Richartz said he would like the commission to look into whatever it would take to combine the two departments. The move would give residents one department they can call for help.

Richartz said he made the request because the two departments have apparently failed in their own attempt to consolidate.

Fourth Ward Alderman Carey Chickeneo said the council should first ask the commissioners if they want the responsibility. If not, then the council could create an ad hoc committee to research the possibility of a municipal fire department, he said.

Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer said using the commission may not be the best avenue for the process.

"My biggest concern would be that the commission is more in the form to have meetings than to go out and do research," Meyer said. "I feel an ad hoc committee would be the better way of doing it."

The Prospect Heights fire district tried but failed to consolidate the districts in 1988. Fire district officials want to merge the dis-

tricts to give them jurisdiction over, and property taxes from, the entire city of Prospect Heights and several unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

City Administrator Robert R. Kiely said the city council should delegate the proposal's groundwork to a board or commission.

"The police and fire commission has time to do it now that they have hired all of the police officers," Kiely said.

The Wheeling Township fire district contracts with local fire departments for service. While two-thirds of the district is in Prospect Heights, most of the district's residents are protected by the village of Wheeling.

# of fire engine

one van, one hazardous materials truck, one squad truck and pick-up truck that contains material for fighting chemical fires.

Fire engines are custom-made for each municipality, so Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac wants trustees to approve the purchase now. It will take about one year for the engine to be completed and delivered.

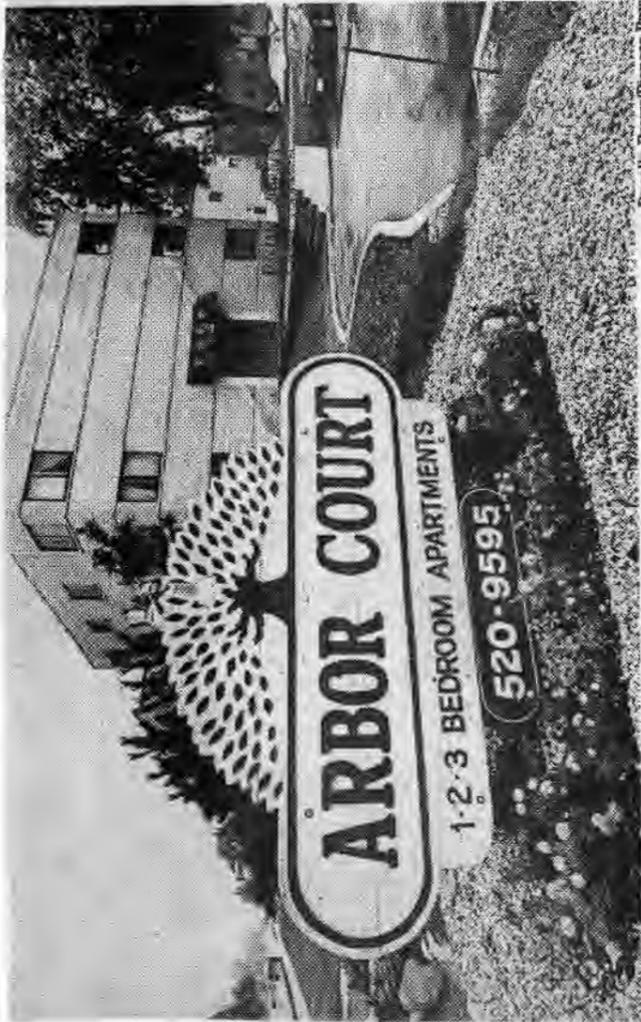
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ago, he emphasized. "There



Danelle Brown/Pioneer Press

seek relief. The manager says a near doubling of his taxes has made the relief essential.

The manager of Arbor Court apartment complex is now seeking tax relief from the village, despite being the beneficiary of a 1986 TIF district at which time he promised not to

# Arbor Court manager seeks village tax relief

8-23-90 COUNTRYSIDE

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

After running up bills restoring run down buildings, and getting hit with unexpectedly high taxes, Larry Floria, the primary manager of Arbor Court, is asking the village for assistance.

Floria is asking Wheeling officials to help him get a tax reduction from Cook County, despite an agreement he made in 1986 not to seek tax relief.

Wheeling officials have indicated they're not opposed to the request, and have directed village staff to prepare a report on the issue.

Floria said he has spent close to \$1 million, substantially more than he had originally anticipated, in renovating the apartment complex, which now consists of seven separate buildings in the 100 block of Dundee Road.

was a devastating amount of damage. "In some cases, buildings were near collapse," he recalled, noting that in one instance, a roof had been close to caving in.

After a fire severely damaged one of the Arbor Court apartment buildings in 1986, Floria removed 12 of the original 18 units from that structure, with the aid and encouragement of the village. The village established a Tax Increment Financing district to benefit Arbor Court.

Under the TIF district, the village gave Arbor Court a loan that was to be paid of by additional taxes generated by new development within the district. As part of the agreement, Floria waived his right to seek future tax relief.

Both parties gained from the TIF agreement. While the village, in effect, reimbursed the owners of the burned out building for its purchase price under the TIF arrangement, the deal benefited Wheeling because parking at the complex improved and its density

"It worked out well for the village because it got rid of a God-awful parking situation," Floria recalled.

Floria said he has made quite a bit of improvements since his recent reassumption of operational responsibilities at the complex. He had been relieved of those duties in 1987 by his three partners in Continental Properties.

"We cleaned up the exterior dramatically," he said of the complex, long considered an eyesore in the village. That process included painting curbs, planting flowers, removing weeds and doing \$3,000 worth of landscaping, Floria said.

But Floria says he is now asking the village to wave his earlier pledge for no tax relief because his property taxes have almost doubled in the last four years, making the cost of his renovations unbearable.

This year, the taxes amounted to \$162,000, compared to \$80,000 in 1986, he said.

His "average" apartment (Continued on page 24)

tax bills were about \$2,100 in 1989, compared to approximately \$1,500 per unit in 1988, he said. By comparison, taxes on single family homes and condominiums in 1989 ran from about \$1,200 to \$1,300, and \$700 to \$1,000 respectively.

"We want the opportunity to bring taxes down to a reasonable rate," similar to that of the single family homes, he said.

Floria and his two remaining partners have borrowed \$400,000 just to keep the taxes paid, he argued.

"At the end of the year, if taxes got out of hand, they made no guarantees," he acknowledged, "but they left the door open."

Village Attorney James Rhodes agreed that it would be flexible on the matter. But he noted that tax relief was aimed, in effect, at helping to improve the business climate in the village.

Since new taxes of the development pay of the loan, any tax village's cost increase the value in due to the loan. "Any increase in value goes terms of TIF fund," he

THE WEEK-AHEAD  
Sun. 8-26-90

# Trustees to consider

Wheeling trustees will consider the purchase of a new fire engine when it meets as a committee of the whole Monday.

The board will also look at a study that has been recently completed by fire department officials determining the equipment needs of the department and the best ways to go about meeting them.

The department's ladder truck is

22 years old and two of engines are over 20 years average cost of a ladder about \$550,000 and pumper truck runs \$20 hoses and other equipment the truck are not included price.

The village started a placement fund two years village officials said that it

Monday, 8-27-90

# Alderman wants to combine fire districts

By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer said using the commission may not be the best avenue for the process. "My biggest concern would be that the commission is more in the form to have meetings than to go out and do research," Meyer said. "I feel an ad hoc committee would be the better way of doing it."

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tricts to give them jurisdiction over, and property taxes from, the entire city of Prospect Heights and several unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

City Administrator Robert R. Kieley said the city council should delegate the proposal's groundwork to a board or commission. "The police and fire commission has time to do it now that they have hired all of the police officers," Kieley said.

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"We want the opportunity to bring taxes down to a reasonable rate," similar to that of the single family homes, he said.

Floria and his two remaining partners have borrowed \$400,000 just to keep the taxes paid, he argued.

"At this rate, we can't afford to maintain and have quality property there," he said.

Floria claimed that at the time the TIF agreement was made, village officials agreed he could come back to them if taxes got out of hand.

"They made no guarantees," he acknowledged, "but they left the door open."

Village Attorney James Rhodes agreed that Wheeling had indicated it would be flexible on the matter. But he noted that the provision ruling out tax relief was aimed, in effect, at helping to improve the business climate in the village.

Since new taxes from the development pay of the loan, any tax relief would increase the village's cost due to the loan.

"Any increase in value in terms of tax dollars goes into the TIF fund to assist redevelopment," he explained. Asking for an amendment to the agreement could be construed as wanting to take "two bites of the apple."

Nevertheless, Rhodes suggested that Wheeling might be sympathetic to Floria's request.

"In my opinion, there ought to be data presented to the village that shows that, arguably, there are discrepancies" between Floria's taxes and others paid in the area.

"I'd like to see a lot more detail," commented Trustee William Rogers.

Rhodes said that while the staff had not scheduled a date for presenting the report, it would try to meet a "loose deadline" of sometime in October, to allow Floria time to file a potential tax appeal with the county.

Floria was optimistic that his request would be granted.

"They've always been very helpful in the past," he said of the village board. "They are interested in tax revenues, but also in being fair."

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. 8-26-90

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Fire engines are custom-made for each municipality, so Fire Chief Keith S. MacLennan wants trustees to approve the purchase now. It will take about one year for the engine to be completed and delivered.

# Firefighters to battle fake high-rise blaze

Mon. 8-27-90

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove's tallest building — the 12-story Riverwalk office tower — will go up in smoke Tuesday when firefighters turn the building into a training ground for battling high-rise fires.

Firefighters from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Vernon will battle a simulated blaze at the high-rise at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Because none of the departments has ever provided fire service to a building the size of Riverwalk, fire officials felt the exercise would prepare the department for a fire, should one occur at the building, said Lt. Paul Tierney, of the Buffalo Grove Fire

Department.

"We will use elevator commands and the stairwell communication system to fight the fire," Tierney said. "This is the first time we have had a joint practice with Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Vernon. It will be a fairly relaxed drill, in that everyone will just walk through the building."

Firefighters will blow simulated smoke into the fifth, 10th and 11th floors of the building, located at Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Crews then will begin extinguishing the fake fire.

Unlike most buildings in the villages, Riverwalk is so tall, firefighters cannot reach the upper floors by using ladder trucks.

The trucks stretch only as far as the third floor of the office tower, thus they would be ineffective if the fire began or spread to a higher level, Tierney said.

Fighting a fire at the hi-rise also would take more manpower than one at other buildings, he said.

"With a high-rise fire, it very quickly exhausts manpower," Tierney said. "We will need more manpower than any one department has."

Wheeling trustees recently approved a cooperative fire services agreement with Buffalo Grove. To cover its part of the agreement, Wheeling agreed to provide a ladder truck to Riverwalk in the event of a fire.

# Buffalo Grove ready to oppose Lake-Cook project

Mon. 8-27-90

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans to widen Lake-Cook Road will not be revealed publicly until September, but Buffalo Grove officials already are lining up to oppose parts of the recommendation, including a plan to widen the road to nine lanes at one intersection.

The preliminary recommendation comes from an engineering study of an 8.7-mile congested stretch of Lake-Cook Road between Rand Road and the Tri-State Tollway. Officials from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Palatine, Arlington Heights and Cook County formed the Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency last year in hopes of finding solutions to ease rush-hour traffic along the corridor.

A public hearing on the recommendation will be held Sept. 25, however, a location for the hearing has not been determined.

The plan, which would expand most of the road to seven lanes, would ease rush hour congestion,

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling says. Still, he and Village President Verna L. Clayton hope engineers will develop a scaled-down version of the expansion before the hearing.

"During rush hour it will be nice," Balling said. "But the other 22 hours during the day we're going to have a raceway going through town."

Of major concern is a proposal to expand the five-lane intersection at Lake-Cook and Arlington Heights roads to nine lanes.

"It is immense," Balling said of the proposed intersection. "We have to stress the impact on our community. This study really reaches beyond what is warranted."

Officials also are concerned the extended roadway and right-of-way, as proposed, could hurt area businesses.

For example, the required right-of-way for the road would stretch to the awning of the existing Ritzy's Cafe, at 1180 Lake-Cook Road. An entire row of parking would be eliminated from the Dominick's.

# Wheeling to purchase new fire engine

8-28-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees gave the go ahead to purchase a new engine for the Wheeling Fire Department.

Although the department recommended a four-point equipment plan to the trustees, Chief Keith MacIsaac wanted the engine purchase approved now because of the time it will take to manufacture it. He estimated the new engine will cost around \$225,000.

"These engines are built one at a time," he said. "It takes one year from the time you place the order until the time it arrives."

Two of the department's four engines are more than 20 years

old.

The department's equipment and specifications committee will prepare specifications for the new engine.

Some trustees felt a consultant should help design the engine, but MacIsaac said there wasn't a consultant available.

"We are our own best consultants," he said. "At 2 a.m. they are the persons who are going to be using that vehicle. The people on that committee are 110 percent dedicated to fire safety. They should have the opportunity to be involved in designing what they are using."

MacIsaac said it will take at least two months to put specifications together for the new engine.

But he said they will be similar to other engines in the area because the more complicated the specifications get, the harder it becomes to get replacement parts and have the engine repaired.

"We will write specs for large companies who can competitively bid," he said.

He recommended that the village order a new engine in 1995 and every five years thereafter. He said the village would need to set aside \$60,000 a year towards those purchases.

MacIsaac also recommended purchase of a new ladder truck in 1993. The village will have to finance that purchase because a ladder truck costs around \$600,000.

# Village ponders fuel saving step

8-30-90

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
As gas prices increase, Wheeling officials hope to rise to the occasion by discussing ways to handle the possible impact of more expensive fuel on village operations.

Fuel cost hikes have yet to directly affect Wheeling because it is using previously purchased gasoline. But they "have the possibility of having some impact on the budget" in the future, Village Manager Craig Anderson explained.

And although Wheeling's bulk buying of fuel makes its per gallon costs much lower than those of ordinary consumers, the village might suffer a proportionately significant increase in its gasoline expenses, Anderson pointed out.

"Even though we're not paying the same at the pump as they are, relatively speaking, our increases might be the same," he said.

Anderson said the board might discuss minimizing the idling time of all village vehicles as a way to alleviate some of the increase.

"Of course, there's not as much idling time at this time of year as there is in winter," he acknowledged.

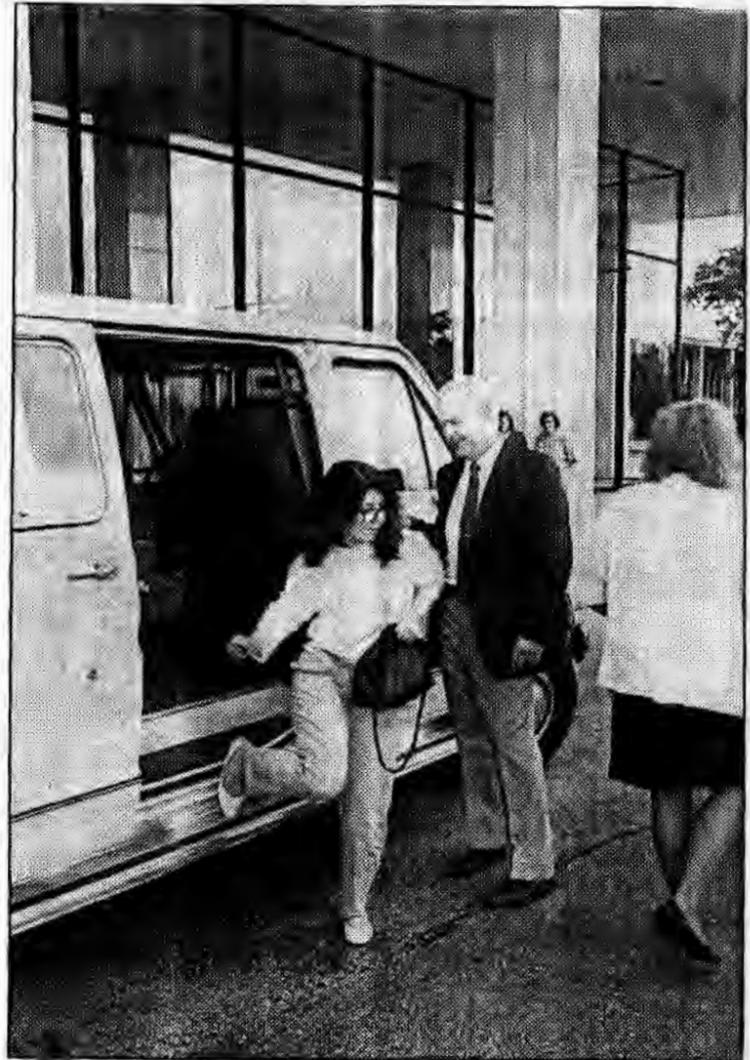
Staff members might also review the practice some municipalities adopted in the 1970's to require police officers to stop their vehicles periodically throughout the day to conserve gasoline, Anderson added.

During that period, he recalled, a number of villages "had their police departments stop patrolling for an hour every couple of hours, and write reports at that time."

While emphasizing that he is not advocating any of these measures, Anderson said "I imagine that's the kind of thing we'll talk about."

He added that village officials and residents would do well to take a large-scale view of the entire issue.

"Quite frankly, we should be global in our perspective," he explained. "To make sure there is enough available, if things go from bad to worse," in the Middle East, "it's important for people to conserve any way they can."



Rich Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Employees leave a van at Allstate, part of the Rideshare program the state would like to expand into Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. Allstate has 39 vans in its program.



Danelle Browne/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Fire Lt. Dan Dieter displays the 1969 Ward Le France engine, the oldest in the department's fleet, which fire officials want to replace with a newer vehicle.

## Fire Chief asks village to replace 1969 engine

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
After giving Wheeling Village Board members an overview - in one case, from some five stories up - of the condition of fire fighting equipment, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac won what he feels is preliminary approval to purchase three new fire trucks.

The board gave MacIsaac permission to prepare specifications for a fire engine replacement for a 1969 Ward Le France engine, a truck which transports hoses, pumps and water. They viewed much of the equipment during a special workshop on the purchase proposal Monday night.

The workshop included a demonstration of a ladder truck's elevating platform, during which several trustees, Village President Sheila Schultz, Village Manager Craig Anderson and reporters, were lifted over 60 feet in the air outside the Dundee road fire station.

### Worst engine

Village Manager Craig Anderson termed the Ward La France the "worst engine" in the department. In addition, he has asked permission to order a new engine in early 1995 and a new ladder truck in 1993 or the following year.

Eventually, MacIsaac said, he would like to see Wheeling buy a new truck every five years, retiring those with 20 years of service. Such a program would ultimately give the village a mixed fleet of new and old trucks ranging from 5 to 20-years old. Some vehicles would be relegated to reserve status as they were replaced.

The board's action Monday laid the groundwork for that plan, MacIsaac said.

"I view it as a tentative agreement, subject to change" he said. Unforeseen taxing or budgetary constraints could alter the plan.

### Custom made

Each new truck, which must be custom-made, would be delivered about a year after being ordered, according to MacIsaac.

"There's not a lot of people who sell them," he told the board. "They build them one at a time."

Unlike the manner in which cars are often bought, MacIsaac said, "There's no such thing as saying, 'I'll take the lime one, or the red one.'"

He added that a committee of firefighters and public works mechanics would help determine the features of the three new vehicles, which together would cost approximately \$1.65 million.

Wheeling already has the funds to replace the 1969 Ward La France, according to Anderson, but such action still has to be formally approved by the village board.

The feasibility of buying the other equipment would probably be discussed in January, when the village considers its budget for the coming fiscal year.

### Fire rating

MacIsaac's proposal was based in large part on requirements established by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), a private group which rates fire departments throughout the country according to their service capabilities. When last evaluated in 1980, Wheeling's department received an average rating, according to MacIsaac, who took over the department in April.

Because of his relatively brief tenure as chief, the ISO granted his request to postpone the village's next rating, which had been scheduled for later in the year, for about two years, MacIsaac said.

"That will give me time to get my feet wet and reevaluate things," he explained.

## Sides dispute reason for stall

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER 8-30-90

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
A union official is challenging Village Attorney James Rhodes' claim that management rights is now the focus of a contract dispute between Wheeling and its firefighters.

The union official suggested Rhodes' contention may be a ploy the village has used in past negotiations with firefighters.

"I don't think we have anything that touches on management rights" scheduled for upcoming arbitration, Bart Burns, president of the Wheeling Firefighters' Association, said Friday.

According to Burns, issues dividing the two sides include administrative grievance proceedings, seniority regarding layoffs and recall, vacation days, holiday schedules, certain benefits, working conditions and conditions of employment.

"The whole negotiating process has failed (because) . . . people in the administration and on the village board have been given poor advice," Burns insisted. He said village administrators have been led to believe the talks have stalled because of concern about preserving management rights.

Burns claims village trustees and administrators were similarly misinformed about four years ago while the union was urging lieutenants be including in its bargaining unit.

"They were told they would lose the ability to manage the department," he said. "The department is still running, and the lieutenants are part of the chief's team. They're appointed to committees by the chief, and they've taken on additional duties."

The Illinois Supreme Court ruled in the union's favor four years ago on that issue.

Rhodes, however, strongly disputed Burns' analysis. He said village officials still see an inherent

contradiction in lieutenants being considered supervisors as well as union members. The supreme court decision, he added, was based on a "very technical review" of the statute covering the question.

"The overwhelming number of issues outstanding are related to who is going to manage the fire department: the village or the firefighters and the union," Rhodes insisted.

"Whether the union likes it or not, it chose to work for the village," he said. "They've got to take a certain amount of supervising and management along with the performance of their jobs."

Defending the village's general posture in the negotiations, Rhodes asked, "If we're being so terrible, how come we've gotten contracts with every other union in the village, and were able to settle in a relatively short time?"

"No one else has even taken a year," he said.

Members of the association have been working without a labor agreement for about four years.

Rhodes also disputed Burns' claims that the board is getting poor advice.

In fact, according to Rhodes, the firefighters are asking management about what's going on in the negotiations. "It seems to me, someone other than the firefighters is running the show," he said.

"That's a total error," Burns replied. "We keep our firefighters very well informed as to what's going on. I don't think the guys would be going to management and asking them. They come to us on a regular basis."

Arbitration in the case is expected to begin in October. While any decision reached in that process would not technically be binding, it would, in effect, be final. The arbitrator would be unlikely to alter a ruling without a "compelling reason," according to Burns.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling may be home to new Wal-Mart store

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Executives of the third largest discount store chain in the United States are eyeing a Wheeling site as part of their Chicago area expansion plans.

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck said he has talked with Wal-Mart Stores Inc. executives about building a Wal-Mart and a Sam's Wholesale Club at the corner of Lake Cook and Weiland roads. No date has been set for Wal-Mart to appear before the village plan commission, he said.

"We have looked at their pre-

liminary plans and given them our idea of the best plan," Janeck said. "They are asking our opinion and we are giving it to them."

"It's no big secret that we are talking with Wal-Mart," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Anderson said the village would have to annex the 29-acre site — farm land in unincorporated Cook County — if Wheeling trustees approve the plans.

Wal-Mart executives would not comment on their Wheeling plans. But Patrick E. Perry, real estate manager for Wal-Mart, told the Mount Prospect Zoning Board of



Daily Herald Map

Appeals last week that "we are going before the village of Wheeling for a zoning approval on Lake Cook Road."

Perry appeared before that board regarding a proposed Wal-Mart in Mount Prospect Plaza, at Rand and Central Roads.

# Tax exemption request to be considered

Sunday - 9-3-90

Wheeling trustees will consider the tax-exempt status of a corporation when it meets Monday.

Faucet Queen Inc., located at 550 Palwaukee Drive, is asking the city to approve a partial tax exemption for its new location on Chaddick Drive.

The new building will be twice the size of the current building and eventually employ 40 people. Faucet Queen now employs about 20 people. Although Cook County actually

grants tax exemptions, village trustees must give their consent, too. If granted, Faucet Queen would be given

a reduction in their property taxes for the next eight years.

Representatives from Faucet Queen testified at a public hearing regarding the exemption on Aug. 20 and indicated that they might not stay in Wheeling if the exemption is not granted.

The county grants tax-exempt status to businesses in an effort to en-

courage them to locate in the county or, as in the case of Faucet Queen, stay in the county.

There are 25 companies in Wheeling that have been granted tax exemptions since 1986. Ten of these businesses are located in the Palwaukee Business Center. The village has also denied the applications of three companies. Litho-Tronics Inc. on Chaddick Drive and Beatrice Home Specialties on Northgate Parkway were denied in 1987 and

Three J's Industrial Inc. in Traveler's Acres was denied last year.

## The top meeting

Who: The Wheeling Village Board

Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

When: 8 p.m. Monday

# Faucet Queen to seek tax relief

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

8-30-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
Faucet Queens Inc. has become the second business in about as many months to ask Wheeling for property tax relief to finance planned expansion.

And while the village has deferred a decision on the request, it has granted tax breaks in 25 of 28 similar cases since April of 1986.

An attorney for Faucet Queens, Robert Di Leonardi, told the village board earlier this month that the firm would like to double its size

6  
We want to help the village benefit, and we want to benefit

## Robert Di Leonardi

by building a 33,830 square-foot facility in the Palwaukee Business Center, on Hintz Road between Wolf Road and the railroad tracks.

It would sell its current building, at 550 Palwaukee Drive, under the proposal and increase its work force from 20 employees to about

40, Di Leonardi said. Village Manager Craig Anderson has said the relief the company is seeking, is traditionally granted to increase the likelihood of a business remaining, locating or expanding its operations in a Cook County community. Cook County would also have to approve the relief.

Without the tax breaks, Cook County Real Estate Class 6 (b) Property Tax Exemptions, some enterprises might leave the area, Anderson has suggested.

"We want to stay in the Village of Wheeling," Di Leonardi assured the village board.

"We want to help the village benefit, and we want to benefit," he said.

The village board unanimously approved giving another company, Dearborn Wire and Cable Inc., the exemption earlier this month.

A representative of that firm said it hopes to construct a \$1.6 million building on its site at 250 Carpenter Ave., to be shared by three affiliates.

That project is expected to bring 30 new jobs to the village and generate \$48,000 in property taxes for each of eight years.

One of the businesses denied the tax break by Wheeling was a plating operation whose practices raised "real concerns about pollution and health," according to Anderson.

# Traffic light holds

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

8-30-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

Traffic signals probably will not be installed at the busy intersection of Hunting-ton Lane, Dundee Road and Lake Boulevard, on the border of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, until sometime next spring at the earliest, according to Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"I don't think we'll see anything happen for a good while," Anderson said Tuesday.

He had previously told the Wheeling Village Board it was unlikely the signals would be installed before the opening of a new bank with a drive-through planned for the northwest corner of the intersection. The bank is expected to increase traffic in the area.

A representative of the bank has said it may begin operations in March.

Although the Wheeling Village Board approved a plan for the signal installation last week, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which would bear two-thirds of the projected \$90,000 cost

of the project, has not specified when the work might be scheduled, Anderson said.

In addition, the installation still needs the approval of Buffalo Grove. That village, which would contribute \$7,500 to the project, is asking the Cambridge Condominium Homeowners' Association to help pay for the work. The association's members live near the intersection.

No date had been set for further consideration of the issue by Buffalo Grove as of Wednesday.

Anderson said Wheeling residents had expressed a lot of concern that the intersection was unsafe without signals.

He also noted that the project would cost Wheeling virtually nothing because the Lexington Homes development company, which built a condominium subdivision near the intersection, was expected to contribute \$23,500 to the installation.

# If you hunger to live in the northwest suburbs ...

Tribune 9-1-90



Tribune photo by José Moré

Wheeling now boasts some 40 restaurants, ranging from pricey white-tablecloth places such as Le Francais on Milwaukee Avenue (a.k.a. Restaurant Row) to a variety of mid-price choices.

By Wilma Randle

In the village of Wheeling, the stretch of road that once offered weary travelers respite during sojourns between Chicago and Milwaukee has become the city's main artery.

That road, Milwaukee Avenue, which over the years has become known as Restaurant Row because of the plethora of eateries lining it, continues to serve as a central point in the village's development.

In fact, the development along the strip is very much reflective of the per-

## At home in

### Wheeling

sonality of this town of some 28,000 residents, where corporate swells and middle- and working-class regulars have settled.

Along the now-famous road, one finds finds top-rated restaurants such as Bob Chinn's Crab House, Le Francais and Don Roth's sharing space with Hein's Pub, Eagle Auto Parts and Zack's Carpet store.

Located about 25 miles northwest of Chicago's Loop, Wheeling, one of the original suburban bedroom communities, is experiencing a mini-rebirth, sparked in large part by the commercial



Chicago Tribune Map

and residential development taking place in the northwest suburbs.

Stability and affordability have made Wheeling quite popular with home buyers, said Dorothy Lazzarini, an area real estate broker.

"One reason it's popular is that there's a variety of housing available and it's very affordable," she said.

"It's one of the few places in the See Wheeling, pg. 5



Tribune photos by José Moré

Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, says most of the development now taking place in Wheeling is commercial.

## Wheeling

Continued from page 1  
northwest suburbs where you can



really isn't a lot of new residential development going on simply because the land isn't available, said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce.

## Wheeling marketplace

**What**—Four-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath, Colonial  
**Where**—944 Weeping Willow, Ridgefield subdivision  
**Features**—Eight rooms, central air conditioning, fireplace in family room, full basement. Built 1986.  
**List price**—\$206,900



**What**—Three-bedroom, one-bath, ranch  
**Where**—268 E. Dennis, Dunhurst subdivision  
**Features**—Five rooms, remodeled kitchen and bath, new carpeting, new aluminum siding and brick exterior. Built 1958.  
**List price**—\$109,900

**What**—Three-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath, townhouse  
**Where**—1702 Ottawa, Tahoe Village subdivision  
**Features**—Six rooms, new carpeting, finished basement with family room, patio with gas grill. Built 1978.  
**List price**—\$96,900





Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce,

says most of the development now taking place in Wheeling is commercial.

## Wheeling

Continued from page 1

northwest suburbs where you can find starter family homes for around \$100,000, and you're talking about a three-bedroom, one-bath, two-car garage place. In general, for most of the northwest suburban areas you're looking at prices twice that amount."

This makes the market attractive, particularly for first-time home buyers, she said.

Add the village's highly rated school system, recreational offerings such as the Chevy Chase golf course and accessibility, and you come up with one desirable place to live. Popular annual events are the Chevy Chase golf outing and St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church's annual Familyfest community festival.

So houses don't stay on the market very long in Wheeling, Lazzarini noted.

"There have been 343 houses on the market so far this year, and to date 254 have been sold," she said. "The average house stays on the market about 76 days and most have sold within 94 percent of their list price."

"It's really the kind of place



Hackney's, a mid-price establishment, is one of the 40 restaurants in Wheeling.

where one thinks of raising a family," said Katie Early, a former Wheeling resident who now lives in Minneapolis. "Most single people wouldn't think of coming here unless they got a job with a company in this area."

Early, who is single, moved away after college and comes home a few times a year to visit relatives.

Because the area is older, there

really isn't a lot of new residential development going on simply because the land isn't available, said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce.

The biggest multifamily housing boom took place in the early 1970s. In recent years there have been a few developments, but they're aimed at high-income buyers.

Most of the development now taking place is in the commercial area, Pollack said.

In the past year there have been several strip shopping centers constructed, and there are plans on the board for further retail development along Milwaukee Avenue.

"The idea is to add some boutique-type stores and maybe one or two large retail stores, like maybe an F&M discount store as anchors," Pollack noted.

For major shopping excursions, most people leave Wheeling and head to one of the nearby shopping malls. The village is located within bearable driving distance of Randolph, Northbrook Court, Hawthorne and Woodfield.

That's more comfortable than shopping trips were in the mid-19th Century.

Wheeling was settled in the early 1830s by mostly German pioneers who replaced the original native Potawatomi Indians.

Milwaukee Avenue was about a half-day's travel from Chicago to Milwaukee by horse and buggy. In the late 1890s the country's bicycling craze took hold in the village, and races between Chicago and Wheeling became very popular. Wheeling was incorporated in 1894.

For most of its early history, Wheeling was a farming community. And well into the late 1960s the area was a popular spot, particularly among residents from Chicago's North Shore area, for its riding stables.

But in terms of wider fame, it has been the blue-chip eateries such as Le Francais and Don Roth's that has been the city's biggest claim to fame.

Roth was the first to bring a

Built 1986.  
List price—\$206,900



**What**—Three-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath, townhouse  
**Where**—1702 Ottawa, Tahoe Village subdivision  
**Features**—Six rooms, new carpeting, finished basement with family room, patio with gas grill. Built 1978.  
**List price**—\$96,900



**What**—Three-bedroom, one-bath, ranch  
**Where**—268 E. Dennis, Dunhurst subdivision  
**Features**—Five rooms, remodeled kitchen and bath, new carpeting, new aluminum siding and brick exterior. Built 1958.  
**List price**—\$109,900

**Buying It:** An approximation of what it would take to buy the Ottawa home at list price.

Loan type	Down payment	Loan amount	Closing costs	Interest rate	Monthly payment	Qualifying income
Fixed	\$19,380	\$77,520	\$700	10.5%	\$795.36	\$34,000
Adjustable	\$19,380	\$77,520	\$1,862	7.625%	\$634.93	\$27,000

Note: "Monthly payment" includes principal, interest, taxes and property insurance. "Closing costs" include points, application fee, and related charges. Both mortgages are amortized over 30 years. The adjustable-rate loan has a maximum 2 percent annual cap and a 6 percent lifetime cap, based on the Treasury bill index.

Sources: Dorothy Lazzarini, Century 21 Gateway Equities, Buffalo Grove (708-459-8500); Richard Freedkin, R.J. Financial Services Mortgage Corp., Arlington Heights (708-259-8700).

popular Chicago restaurant to Milwaukee Avenue. Wheeling now boasts some 40 restaurants, ranging from pricey white-tablecloth places such as Le Francais to a variety of mid-price choices, including Hackney's and Chicago Bagel & Bialy Deli II.

The flip side of the blue-chip diners is the city's longtime manufacturing base, from which has sprung its core middle- and working-class population.

"Since the 1950s Wheeling has been a popular spot for light manufacturing firms," said Pollack.

Among the companies calling Wheeling home are salad maker Orval Kent Food Co. Inc.; Ekco International, makers of staplers and other office supplies and computer accessories; Qunitel, the fad watchmaker; and H.V.R. Co., maker of Hidden Valley Ranch salad dressing.

Because of the manufacturing bent, the city's economy was mostly blue collar, but in recent years there's been an influx of white-collar workers, most of them attracted to corporate jobs in neighboring Arlington Heights and Northbrook but seeking more affordable housing, Pollack said.

It is also because of manufacturing that Wheeling has evolved into one of the area's most racially diverse suburbs, with a population mix of white, Asian, Hispanic and black residents, as many of these

workers settled close to their jobs.

Jennifer Pollack, a white Wheeling native who will be starting her sophomore year at Michigan State University, said she didn't think the area's racial makeup was a big deal until she went off to college.

"They used to talk about our diversity in high school, but I didn't think much about it. Then when I got to school, so many of my friends had never met a person from this or that background and I'd think, 'God, they were my neighbors.'"

Wheeling has also gained a positive reputation for the quality of its services offered to its elderly residents.

There is Pavilion Senior Center, which offers a variety of services ranging from free blood pressure checks to defensive driving classes. The Pavilion building, Wheeling's only high-rise structure, is also a housing complex for those age 55 and older.

The village also benefits from shared resources and programs with neighbor Buffalo Grove.

For example, since 1959 Wheeling and Buffalo Grove have jointly provided library services through the Indian Trails Public Library system.

The area's Community Consolidated School District No. 21 is made up of nine elementary

schools and two junior high schools. In addition to Wheeling, the district serves students from Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Northbrook, Mt. Prospect and Prospect Heights.

The Wheeling Museum is a popular stop in the area. The building is the site of the city's original village hall.

From that once half-day trip to Chicago, a venture to the Loop can run around a half hour — on a good day. But those good days are getting harder and harder to come by as traffic on the Edens Expressway heading into the city becomes more congested.

And future transportation and traffic issues were among the reasons that Wheeling and neighboring Prospect Heights decided join forces, Jackie Pollack said.

The two cities have long shared concerns and recently jointly purchased the Palwaukee Airport. And together they are monitoring joint concerns as development increases along the Lake-Cook Corridor.

Traffic concerns has been a recurring issue in Wheeling since its early days. One old timer was quoted as saying that two factors added to the congestion: the advent of the automobile and the paving of Milwaukee Avenue.

Maybe that was the paving of Milwaukee Avenue with restaurants.

## Wheeling at a glance

**Population:** 27,529 (1989 estimate). **Change, 1980-89:** +18.3 percent. **Median age:** 33.6 years. **Racial/ethnic mix:** white (non-Hispanic), 87.5 percent; black, 1.6 percent; Hispanic, 6.1 percent; other, 4.8 percent.

**Area:** 8.2 square miles, in Cook and Lake Counties. **Average household income:** \$43,968 (1989 estimate). **Per capita income:** \$28,390 (1987 estimate), 21st of 262 in six-county Chicago area.

**Average resale price of single-family home:** \$115,321 (6 months ended 5/31/90).

### Public schools:

District (no. of schools)	Enrollment	Pupils per teacher	Expenditure per pupil
Wheeling 21 (11)	5,576	20.4	\$4,183
Northwest Twp. 214 (6)	10,518	17.1	\$7,286

Average American College Test scores, Wheeling H.S. 20.3 (78th percentile), Buffalo Grove H.S. 21.4 (93rd percentile).

**Driving distances:** To Loop, 25 miles; to O'Hare International Airport, 10 miles. **Rush-hour commute:** 45 minutes by car; train service from Northbrook Station to Union Station (Milwaukee Road), 42 minutes, \$89.10 for monthly pass.

Sources: Illinois State Board of Education; U.S. Bureau of the Census; Metra; Village of Wheeling.

Tribune photos by José Moré

Wed., 9/5/90

## Wheeling to recycle village office paper

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In keeping with its reputation as a community at the forefront of recycling, the Wheeling village board approved an office paper recycling program for the village hall Tuesday.

"A lot of paper is generated by the village," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "It took us a while to find someone who would take it."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that village hall office staff will start the program sometime in the next few weeks.

"We have to count up how many containers we need and go through a short orientation session," he

said.

Anderson estimated that recycling will reduce the amount of office waste going to landfills by 30 to 40 percent. But he said that documents that are shredded now, such as personnel-related papers, will continue to be shredded and taken to a landfill.

Desktop Recycling Inc. of Wheeling will charge a \$1 start-up fee for each employee who uses the program.

They also will provide desk trays and collection boxes. When the village accumulates more than 10 collection boxes full of paper, Desktop will come and take it away.

In exchange for taking the paper away without cost to the village,

Desktop gets the right to sell the waste paper. After a three-month trial period, 20 percent of the gross sales of the waste paper will be returned to the village.

Desktop will take business forms, manilla folders, copy paper, fax paper and carbonless forms. They will not take newspapers or magazines.

Computer paper will also be recycled, but it will be collected separately.

Trustees suggested that they be given a list of acceptable items and that a collection box be placed in the council chambers.

"I suspect you will see trustees bringing in papers from home," Shultz said. "Other companies do this."

## Few making use of repair grants

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Privacy is a cornerstone of a program aimed at bringing homes into compliance with village building codes, Wheeling Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke said this week.

Klitzke emphasized the privacy element Tuesday to counter an apparent reluctance to take advantage of the program, which has "strict" income eligibility standards, by residents who fear being considered poor by their neighbors.

"They don't want to be stigmatized, or labeled, as low income," he explained.

"But it's done in strict confidentiality," Klitzke said of the Residential Rehabilitation Program, under which owners of single-family

homes may obtain grants or loans to correct plumbing, electrical, heating and roofing deficiencies.

"We're the only ones who know where the address is. Nobody out there knows who they (program applicants) are," he said.

Only about 15 homeowners have participated in the program, funded through federal Community Development Block Grants, since its 1982 inception, according to Klitzke. Those who did have been given grants or loans ranging from "several thousand dollars" to \$25,000.

The amount to be repayed is reduced by 10 percent for each year the recipient lives in the home after being given the financial aid. Consequently, "at the end of 10 years, there is no loan," (Continued on page 24)

## Some families eligible for free home repairs

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Low-income families in the village of Wheeling whose homes need health or safety repairs may be able to get the village to foot the bill.

The village has about \$100,000 available through its residential rehabilitation program to help low-income homeowners make electrical wiring or plumbing repairs to their homes. Replacing a roof or a furnace is also covered by the program.

"Repairs that qualify for the program are ones that are made for health or safety reasons," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

In order to have the village repair their homes, residents must meet income requirements. The village has two sets of income limits: "very low" and "low." Homeowners who meet the "very low" income guidelines will have their homes repaired before homeowners who meet "low" income guidelines.

"If I have two families who apply during the same week, the family with the lower income comes first," said program administrator Stacey Ruben.

To qualify for "very low" income status, one person must make no more than \$15,200 a year; two people, \$17,350; three people, \$19,550; four people, \$21,700; five people, \$23,450; six people,

\$25,150; seven people, \$26,900; and eight or more people, \$28,650.

The "low" income ceiling for one person is \$24,300; two people, \$27,750; three people, \$31,250; four people, \$34,700; five people, \$36,850; six people, \$39,050; seven people, \$41,250; and eight or more people, \$43,400.

After a resident is accepted into the program, an architect hired by the village surveys the home and makes improvement plans. The work is done by a village-approved contractor and inspected by the village's community development staff when it is finished.

The home improvement program is funded by a grant from Cook County. Last year, four homes in were rehabilitated.

## Hearing expected soon on transfer station here

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

A Wheeling Township transfer station would not cause flooding, pollution and traffic congestion, officials of the agency backing the station claimed this week as a hearing on the proposal drew near.

The comments were made as a result of continuing pressure from Save America's Future Environment, a group that opposes the transfer station and a proposed baffle in Bartlett that would be served by the station.

The Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals is expected to consider the proposal this month. Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary Nick Phillips said the ZBA might review the Wheeling Township question either Sept. 5 or Sept. 19.

The Wheeling Township transfer station would be

located just north of the intersection of River and Central roads. Waste from 11 communities, including Wheeling, would be baled there before being shipped to the proposed baffle in Bartlett.

"One of the biggest reasons we're against it is they want to build on a flood plain," said Cathy Lindstrom, a spokeswoman for SAFE. Lindstrom claimed the site for the station is a filled in wetland.

Lindstrom said a tennis court at nearby Oakton Community College collapsed from flooding, and suggested the same thing would happen to a transfer station. The group also said trucks transporting trash into and out of the station would cause congestion.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who chairs the Solid Waste Agency of

Northern Cook County, discounted Lindstrom's contentions this week, as the agency prepared for the County zoning hearing.

She said the agency plans to create two ponds at the site that, together, are nearly twice the size necessary to meet county water retention requirements. Moreover, the agency would build a separate retention basin at the site not even required by the county.

She said no polluted water would flow from the station into the neighboring Des Plaines River.

In addition, according to Schultz, a study has indicated that any traffic increase in the area would be slight. She said the agency was planning road improvements, including an alignment of the station's entrance with that of the Maryville Academy, to ameliorate congestion.

## Comments on two village issues

Wheeling/I would like to comment on two issues recently addressed in the *Wheeling Countryside*.

First, I'm glad the Park District is being aggressive in planning to provide recreational activities in Wheeling such as the proposed water park. If we want our kids to engage in positive supervised activities we need to provide the opportunities for those activities.

Second, I wish Wheeling government officials would not underestimate the irritation caused by jets taking off from Palwaukee Airport at 5:30 or 6 in the morning. If people are not letting them know about how bothersome this is, it may reflect their frustration with the change process or it may be that they are too tired because of a loss of sleep.

Howard J. Lipke

## New management, new publicity

Wheeling/For years a majority of the seniors in the Village of Wheeling could never get any publicity or recognition in the *Countryside*.

New management and bang we are in! Look at it this way. Demographers probably estimate the senior population of Wheeling is about 2,500, plus or minus.

## LETTERS

### Letters Policy

Letters must be signed and have telephone number of writer. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and brevity. Letters deemed libelous or slanderous will not be published. 9-6-90

COUNTRYSIDE

Perhaps 100 of those seniors frequently grace your pages time after time — they are the chosen few who use the Senior Center, the Pavilion. The biggest challenge in their lives is the choice between tuna and melted cheese. The powers that be like it that way. The Pavilion is considered crowded when 70 people show up in a week.

Another little comment.

On the 4th of July, the Pavilion float in the Wheeling parade was a professionally decorated (very posh) float carrying several posed ladies with a placard reading "The beautiful seniors of Wheeling." An elderly gentleman standing beside me on Dundee Road turned to me and said, "Well, I guess that makes us a couple of old crocks, eh?" He made my day, whomever he was.

We may not have clout, but we have kept our sense of humor. Thank you for letting us say a few words.

Patricia R. Walsdorf

## Tag day

The Wheeling Village Board Monday approved a resolution designating Friday, Sept. 14, as a "Tag Day" to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The National Association of Mail Carriers will help conduct the event, during which funds are solicited from residents.

## Majkowski honored

The accomplishments of a former Wheeling fire inspector were recognized as the village board designated yesterday "Edwin J. Majkowski Day."

In a proclamation honoring Majkowski, who retired after 10 years of village service, Village President Sheila Schultz said he "dedicated himself to the life safety and fire prevention philosophies which have maintained the high standard and respect the Wheeling Fire Prevention Bureau has gained during his tenure."

Majkowski was given a standing ovation by the village board, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and other well-wishers as Schultz read the proclamation at the village board meeting Monday.

# Study lists location of Wheeling trees

9-7-90  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to find out where the village needs more trees, Wheeling officials have completed a survey listing each of the 6,004 village-owned trees by species and location.

"We want to plant more trees in high visibility areas and where trees are now lacking," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "As part of that, we wanted to know what trees we have."

The village has set aside \$30,000

in this year's budget for planting about 300 new trees. Last year — the first year of the program — the village used \$100,000 to plant about 100 trees.

New trees have been planted along Dundee Road and around Wheeling High School. The village has also compiled a list of homeowners who have lost a parkway tree in the last five years and is contacting them to see if they want the tree replaced.

The survey also will help the vil-

lage determine what types of trees to purchase in the future to avoid some of the problems trees around the village cause now.

For instance, Anderson said, some types of trees, like the Silver Maple, have roots that tend to seek water and are sometimes responsible for some sewer problems homeowners experience.

"Some people have not wanted their parkway trees replaced because of these problems," he said. The village is a member of the

Suburban Tree Consortium, a group of suburbs that contracts with a nursery to grow the trees they will need three years in the future.

In return for promising to purchase the trees, the nursery gives the village a better price than if it solicited bids.

The survey will be used to determine what type of trees to order.

"We don't want too many of the same type of trees," he said. "For instance, if we had too many Dutch Elms, Dutch Elm disease would take out all the trees."

## Owners may be fined for false alarms

9-11-90  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling business owners and homeowners will have to pay fines for repeated false alarms under a new village ordinance proposed to trustees Monday.

Owners of burglar, fire and robbery alarms will be subject to fines and also will be required to get a permit.

Under the ordinance, alarm owners will be sent warning letters for the first three false alarms. After the fourth false alarm, owners will be fined \$50 per false alarm. After 10, the owner will be required to pay a \$100 fine for each incident.

"Wheeling is one of the few

communities in this area that does not have an alarm ordinance in place," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger. "Many communities have had one since the 1970's."

Haeger said the ordinance is not meant to generate money for the village but to drive down the number of false alarms that police and fire departments respond to. He said that most false alarms are the fault of business owners and homeowners who do not know how their systems work.

"We need to put a stop to this negligence before someone gets hurt," he said. "It becomes more dangerous with banks when police are responding to an armed-robbery call with full intention of con-

fronting one. If we can't get that message across with education, maybe we can get it across with fines."

In the first six months of 1990, the police department responded to 1,036 false alarms, up 14 percent from the first six months of 1989. Haeger said that in June alone three or more companies had 19 false alarms each, and 22 businesses and 12 residents each have had more than 18 false alarms already this year.

"I am appalled at the figures we are seeing here," said Trustee William A. Rogers. "How many times do police cars and fire engines have to go out before you get people to understand the hardship they are causing the village?"

## Motion to drop charges against officer denied

FRI. 9/14/90  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire and Police Commission Thursday denied a motion to dismiss charges stating that officer Robert Pressley violated Wheeling Police Department codes.

Pressley has been charged with violating department codes prohibiting officers from taking breaks within the first two hours of their shifts and taking breaks which exceed 15 minutes.

The charges also state that Pressley went outside village boundaries on at least four occasions while on duty last October and November, also a violation of department policy.

Noel T. Wroblewski, general counsel for the Combined Counties Police Association and Pressley's attorney, asked the commission to drop the charges because he said they do not give specific dates and times for the alleged violations.

"We can't respond to dates they don't know," he said. "They don't know what's going on. It's guesswork and recollection."

The commission denied Wroblewski's motion. John C. Brohier, attorney for the commission, said that the commission felt that the police department had provided a specific enough time frame for the alleged violations.

"The charges are adequate in that they provide specific locations and an approximate time

frame," he said.

Pressley's lawyers hope to prove that he is a victim of "selective prosecution." They said they feel the charges are an attempt to retaliate against him for his controversial history on the force.

Pressley has two lawsuits pending against the village. In 1983 he filed a racial discrimination suit against the village. And in April of this year Pressley filed another suit as a result of a gag order Police Chief Michael Haeger imposed on him. Wroblewski will be given police department records of any other officers who have been reprimanded for the offenses Pressley is charged with since 1988 and will try to prove that he is being treated more harshly.

## Enhanced 911 advisory committee set up

9/12/90 - Wednesday  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

cause the trustees are the board." The village is already collecting a 75-cent monthly fee from residents through Illinois Bell to pay for the new emergency system.

The fees have to be considered a "separate revenue source and are not transferable to the general revenue fund," MacLissac said.

Voters approved the Enhanced 911 system last November. The system automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes last only a few seconds.

person said that a separate committee was not necessary and that the budget could be handled like other department budgets. Although MacLissac said that the 911 budget was not like other items in the village budget because there is not a "department" to make spending recommendations, trustees decided to do away with the finance committee.

Traditionally, the emergency telephone system board is separate from municipalities," MacLissac said. "There is gray area in theory be-

police department, two members from the fire department and the communications center supervisor. "The time constraints associated with the day-to-day running of the system make it difficult for trustees to do it," Fire Chief Keith MacLissac said. "We are going to involve the people who will be using the system in managing it."

Original rules for the board called for a finance committee, made up of three trustees and the city's finance director, to handle the 911 budget. But Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that a separate committee was not necessary and that the budget could be handled like other department budgets.

## Wheeling offices pitch in and recycle paper

9-13-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

Not content to go with the flow, Wheeling hopes to reduce it, at least when it comes to the waste stream.

With aluminum, tin, glass, newspaper and plastic already being recycled in the village, trustees last week approved a program under which a variety of paper used in village offices would be collected for later reuse.

"It's taking one more commodity out of the waste stream," Village Manager Craig Anderson explained Thursday. And since part of that stream may end in a proposed Bartlett balefill, Wheeling has a vested interest in reducing the amount of waste which would be sent

there. "We want it to last as long as we can," Anderson said of the balefill, which is being promoted by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Desktop Recycling, Inc., the Wheeling firm which will operate the new village program, estimates that it would reduce the amount of office waste going from the village to the balefill by at least 30 percent to 40 percent.

Copy, bond, computer, typing, note, carbonless and other paper, as well as

manila folders and business forms, will be collected at desks under the program.

While the village would receive 20 percent of the profit from the recyclable material's gross sales after a three month trial period, Anderson said the actual dollar amount will probably be minimal. "I don't think we'll know what it is until the program starts growing," he added.

"In the big scheme of things, we won't collect tons and tons of paper," Anderson acknowledged.

"But over the course of years, it adds up."

The program's success must really be weighed in terms of attitudes, rather than pounds, Anderson said.

"It makes environmental sense," he said. "If we weren't associated with SWANCC, we might have been doing something on our own anyway."

Village Trustee James Whittington, who proposed the Wheeling plan, offered a similar view.

"We have to raise our consciousness about disposable

items in society," he said Friday. "We can't just continue to produce garbage with no place to put it."

At Wheeling High School, where Whittington is associate principal, wastepaper is put in recycling containers similar to those to be used in the village offices, the result of a program Whittington inaugurated near the end of the last school year.

The high school's program may collect 120 pounds of wastepaper during each of the 38 weeks of school, according to Whittington.

# False alarms ringing up big bucks

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling trustees are considering taking steps to curtail an "appalling" number of false police alarms that have drawn ringing criticism because of their frequency.

In a report to the village board Monday, Police Chief Michael Haeger said only six of 4,598 alarms his department responded to in 1988 and 1989 were valid.

Of the 1,040 alarms at residential, industrial and commercial locations police

answered in the first six months of 1990, only four were bona fide, Haeger said.

About 410 were due to negligence and/or employee error, and officers were unable to determine the cause in an additional 587 alarms, the report noted.

In the same report, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said his department responded to 170 false alarms in 1988, and 346 the following year.

With 250 false alarms occurring in 1990 through Monday, MacIsaac estimated his department would respond to another 80

by the end of the year.

Haeger added that "a very large number of locations" were triggering five or more false alarms each year.

The alarm system, he stressed, is "being abused day in and day out."

Every response to a false fire alarm cost the village about \$500 and a false police alarm costs about \$100, according to MacIsaac and Haeger.

Haeger said in one instance a property owner told responding officers he was just testing the alarm to

set if the department was going to respond.

"It gets even more serious when there's an error at a bank . . . and we're responding as if we may have an armed robbery in progress," Haeger said.

Haeger urged the board to pass an ordinance penalizing the excessive triggering of false alarms.

"It's not your right to expect unlimited response due to your inability to operate equipment," he said.

The chiefs' proposal would impose a \$50 fine

after five offenses, and a \$100 for each false alarm after 10.

Haeger noted that Wheeling is "one of the few" communities in the area without an alarm ordinance.

He emphasized that the ordinance would be regulatory, rather than a revenue producer.

"There's no way you would ever recover your actual costs" through the imposition of fines, he said.

"I'm appalled at these figures," Trustee William Rogers said of the report's

(Continued on page 24)

## Village planned well for growth

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Neither the Village of Wheeling nor Township High School District 214, which includes Wheeling High School, was caught unprepared for the population growth shown in the 1990 census.

The count showed Wheeling had grown to 29,786 residents in 1990, compared to 23,266 in 1980. (Related story page 9)

"There weren't any surprises," Village Manager Craig Anderson said Tuesday.

In fact, according to Anderson, the Wheeling census figure was "within a few hundred" of the tally the Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission made years ago to predict the village's 1990 size, which the village had used as a factor in planning for growth.

"We've kept track of housing units and occupancy permits, so we thought we had a pretty good idea" of population trends," Anderson said. "For the past several years, we knew from service calls, increased traffic and crime statistics where we had to make adjustments, add staff, and review how we do certain things."

The "major" adjustment Wheeling has made to pre-

pare for a larger population is joining with Palatine, Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights in the early 1980s in a commission which brings Lake Michigan water to those communities, according to Anderson.

"Now we have an assured volume of water, and we know what the pressure is going to be, and that the quality is high," he said. "That's important not only for quality of life but for growth."

The village has also invested "considerable time, money and effort" in building roads, sidewalks, and storm and sanitary sewers, Anderson added. "We know they're safe, and can handle the population of Wheeling now and for years to come."

Wheeling has also added staff, including 25 police department employees, mostly officers, since about 1984, Anderson added.

Equipment and vehicles have also been purchased by the village, he said.

District 214 Community Relations Coordinator Lena Gubiotti said Tuesday District 214 relied upon its own count of student populations in "feeder districts," consisting of grammar schools and junior high schools, in its planning.

Projections made a year ago based upon such a tally

(Continued on page 23)

proved to be correct "within one percent," if special education students, who normally are not included in the total, are subtracted. An unofficial count placed the student population at 1,759, according to Gubiotti.

She added that census counts in municipalities do not always coincide with school growth.

"Seventy-five percent of our population does not have school age children,"

she said. "Unless there's something startling ahead that no one's predicting, we're not looking at dramatic increases."

While Wheeling has grown moderately, its neighbor buffalo growth virtually exploded. In 1980, Buffalo Grove, a former agricultural community situated on the edge of a rapidly expanding suburban area, held some 22,230 people, mostly in the southern Cook County sec-

tion of the village.

Preliminary census figures now show Buffalo Grove with 34,550 residents in 1990. A study by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission pegs the population at about 46,017 in the year 2010.

The rapid growth has forced Buffalo Grove to add staff, doubling the size of the police department in the last decade.

statistics. "Every time I see a fire or police vehicle go past, I can almost assume it's (responding to) a false alarm."

The frequent offender "has major problems in his company, and is causing major problems for this village," he added.

Rogers, and Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and James Whittington recommended that the board consider passing an ordinance with even stronger penalties than those proposed by the chiefs.

"If we're going to do it, let's do it with some force," Rogers urged.

Hartman said people that have a dozen or more alarms should really be paying a stiff penalty.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Tuesday that the village staff would probably recommend fines be imposed beginning with the 4th offense, bringing Wheeling in line with seven neighboring municipalities.

MacIsaac said the Woodland Creek apartments, and Addolorata Villa Home for Aged Men and Women, both of which were experiencing problems with their alarm systems, accounted for almost 25 percent of the false alarms his department received in a year. "We're working closely with each, and informing them that's unacceptable, and hoping for a cooperative effort to resolve it," he said.

# Growth forecasts spark area planning debates

9-13-90

By SHELLEY ACOCA

STAFF WRITER

COUNTY SIDE

Over the next two decades, southeastern McHenry County and south central Lake County will be hit with the growth that parts of Cook and DuPage counties became familiar with over the last 20 years.

And the reason for that, according to Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission officials, is business.

"Employment growth, especially in those areas, is the key to it all. I don't know that housing affordability plays a part," said Max Dieber, plan commission director of research services.

The development of Sears Merchandise group in Hoffman Estates is one business that will play a key role in population development, especially in McHenry County and the Hoffman Estates area, Dieber said.

Hoffman Estates' population, for instance, is expected to grow by nearly 27 percent over the next two decades, from its current population of approximately 45,500 to nearly 59,000.

But the spin-off effects of business growth in the Golden Corridor will be much more far reaching than that.

Algonquin, nestled in the far southeastern corner of McHenry County, has been on the grow since 1980. The tiny village will have expanded into a boomtown by 2010, with an estimated population of 20,321, an increase of a whopping 78 percent over preliminary 1990 census figures and a 248 percent increase over 1980 census figures.

Other southeastern

one that's not warranted at this time," Ryan said.

Schaumburg, no stranger to growth, will see its own population peak as the 21st century approaches. According to the Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission figures, Schaumburg's population will increase by nearly one-third to 86,894 over the next two decades.

But Village Manager George Longmeyer says that projection may be on the high side. With little land left for the village to annex and a trend toward zoning remaining residential sites for single family or low density multiple family homes, Schaumburg's actual population will

## 1990 census estimates<sup>1</sup>

Community	1980	1990	2010 <sup>2</sup>
Algonquin	5,576	11,399	20,321
Barrington	9,029	9,369	12,440
Barrington Hills	3,631	3,263	5,942
Buffalo Grove	22,230	34,550	46,017
Cary	6,640	9,636	16,563
Crystal Lake	18,590	23,991	41,781
Hoffman Estates	37,272	45,555	58,590
Lake Zurich	8,225	13,182	19,754
Palatine	32,176	36,166	46,478
Rolling Meadows	20,167	22,210	22,486
Schaumburg	53,305	66,781	86,894
Wauconda	5,688	6,269	10,067
Wheeling	23,266	29,786	40,127

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau preliminary figures

<sup>2</sup>Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission preliminary estimates

McHenry County communities will be similarly effected by the relocation of Sears and other big businesses who have chosen to leave Chicago and move out to the suburbs.

In 1988, the Chicago Area Transportation Study did some 21st century planning of its own with the release of its 2010 transportation plan. The study, a long term plan for future transportation corridors, backed some hotly debated projects, including a Route 53 extension into Lake County and the Fox Valley Freeway.

Later this year, the regional plan commission is expected to release employment projections for 2010, numbers which some say will be even more telling than the population projections.

"The feeling is that those will be even more different than in the past," said Eugene Ryan, deputy director of the Chicago Area Transportation Study.

Ryan predicts that those

likely peak out at about 82,000, Longmeyer said.

With area wide population growth, the major issue for area leaders to grapple with will be traffic, Longmeyer predicted.

"The region is going to have to hunker down and spend some money to address this issue. In the long run, we're going to have to spend a lot more money on the highways and take a lot better look at mass transportation," he said.

Schaumburg leaders are well on their way to investigating mass transportation for the future. Currently, the Regional Transportation Authority is considering

numbers will bring good news and bad news. The positive side, business growth in communities starving for additional commerce and industry, will also have a down side — more traffic on already congested roads.

"It looks like the numbers are going to show that the demand for the extended Route 53 is even stronger than we forecast. It just gives a little more impetus to the project," Ryan said.

In addition, Ryan contends that the employment figures may make the proposed Fox Valley Freeway, planned to extend run from Rt. 55 in Romeoville to the Wisconsin border, an even more viable project.

Turning the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern railway into a commuter route, however, may still remain a question in the minds of CATS officials.

"We have it in our plan as a corridor of the future, but

(Continued on page 23)

Schaumburg as a prime site for a proposed personal rapid transit line, a new form of mass transportation which would place small, computerized cars on tracks between key locations in the village.

Longmeyer warns that Schaumburg, long the fall guy in debates over northwest suburban congestion, will not be able to address the issue of traffic-clogged roads on its own.

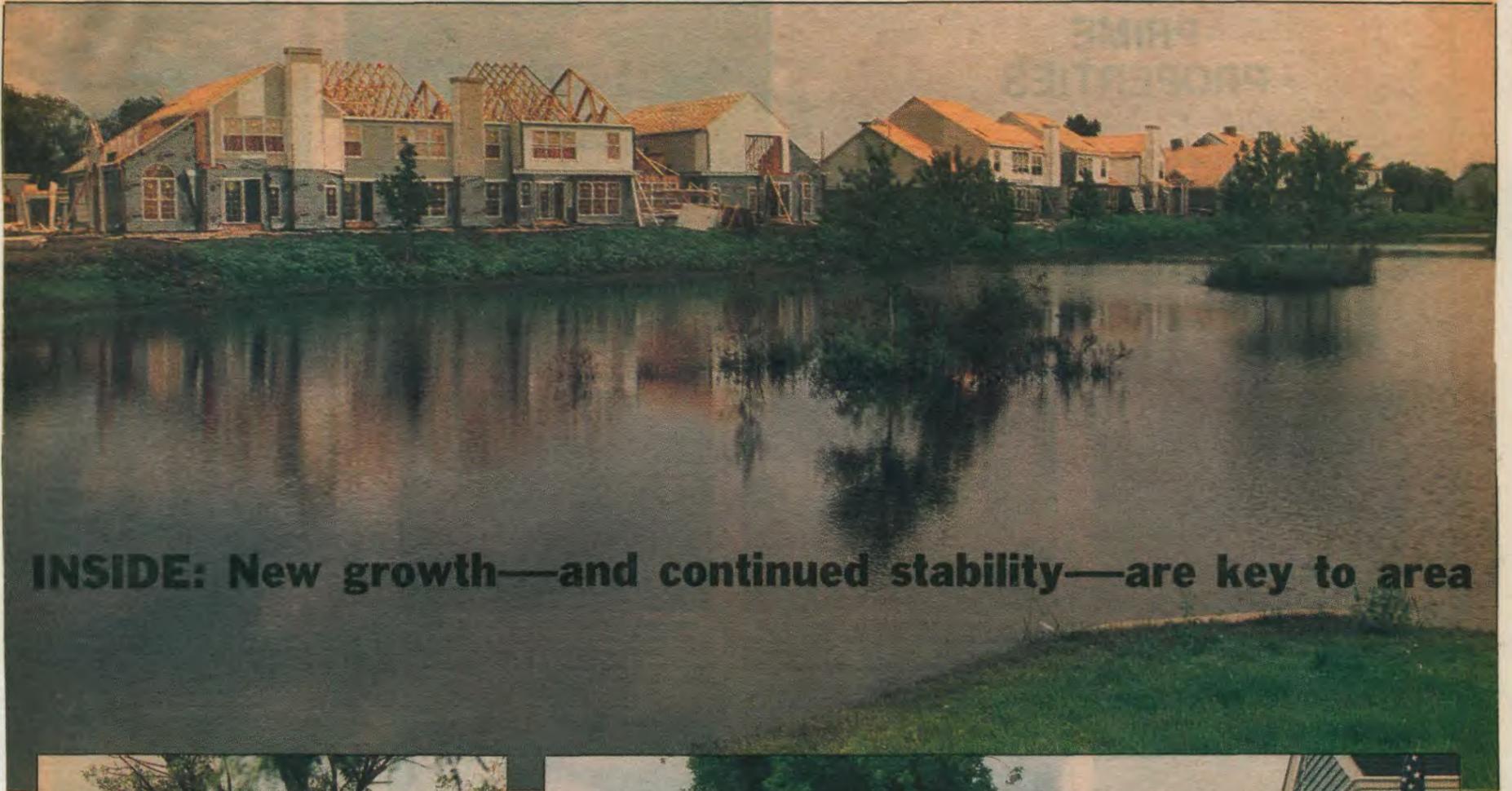
"It's going to take a resetting of the mind-set of the people and a lot of intergovernmental cooperation between the federal government, the county, the state, and the municipalities," he said.

SEPTEMBER  
1990

SPECIAL  
ADVERTISING  
SECTION

# PROFITABLE

Buffalo Grove  Long Grove  Wheeling



**INSIDE:** New growth—and continued stability—are key to area



Wheeling

9-13-90

# Wheeling keeps growth in check

## Industrial development follows different route

By Charles Laughlin

ment Director Mike Klitzke.

The Village of Wheeling has seen the end of its formative residential and commercial growth, with all but a few scattered parcels already annexed and developed.

The next few years will mostly involve refinement of that growth and the completion of the development of the industrial sector, says Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"We are not going to grow a lot more geographically," Anderson says. There are not hundreds of acres which could be annexed, or anything like that."

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz sees the future course of development as "filling in the gaps in order to make the village as well-rounded as possible."

But she notes there are some scattered vacant parcels, mostly located near the center of the oddly shaped village, in an area zoned for light industrial use. South of Hintz Road, where the vacant land is located, Anderson hopes to attract appropriate businesses to add to the village's tax base.

The village has had some recent success in attracting industrial properties. Two companies are currently relocating to Wheeling.

The first company, R.S. Anderson, packages meats for mainly institutional customers. The company is relocating from Chicago and is building a new complex on Hintz Road, just west of Wolfe Road.

The other new arrival is Engis Corp., a company that does finishing work on industrial instrumentation. Engis has relocated from Morton Grove and is also constructing a new facility on Hintz.

Both companies qualified for state 6B tax incentives, which alone did not propel their decision to move to Wheeling.

Location is more the key, says Community Development

"We have good access to Lake Cook Road and the Tollway," Klitzke says. "We are not too far east or too far west."

He says while housing has nearly built out, there has been "consistent industrial growth. About one-half of the industrial area that has been platted, zoned and planned is still available. Hopefully that steady growth will continue."

Anderson says that what little room there is left for residential development the village will try to reserve for single-family detached housing.

Anderson wants to see this type of development to complement the village's broad mix of housing options. He says this type of development would complement the mix of apartment building, condominiums and existing single-family homes.

One goal of having a

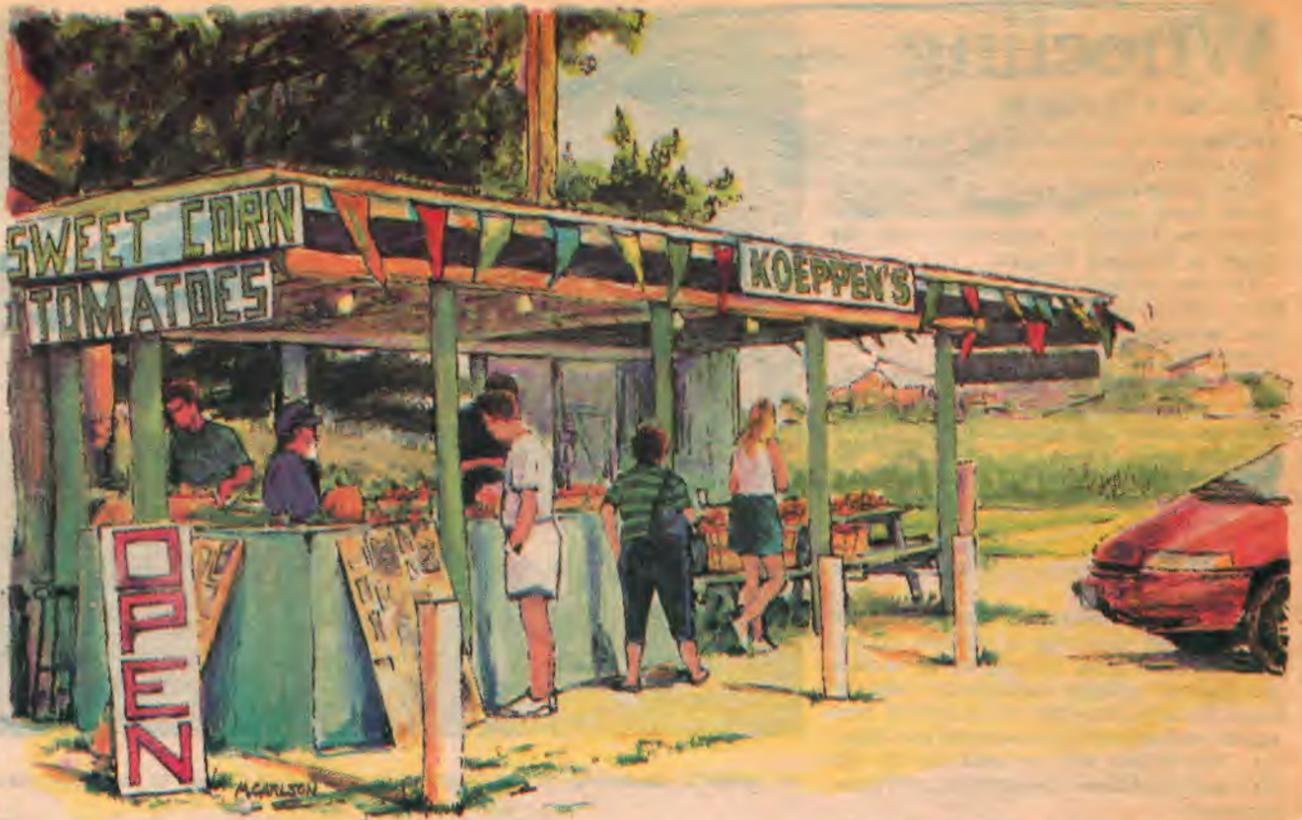


Illustration by Michael Carlson

Confronting the limits of residential and commercial expansion, Wheeling still offers a taste of country charm.

broad residential mix is that when a family wants to move up the ladder in housing, they are able to do that and remain residents of Wheeling.

"People want to stay within the community," he says.

Home prices in Wheeling, according to Anderson, range from \$100,000 for older, generally smaller homes, to \$300,000 price tags on larger, more recently built houses.

Klitzke says there are only scattered sites around the village left for single family residential development. Most of that is of the "infill" variety, sections of 12 to 15 lots in residentially zoned areas.

Wheeling, with a population of 28,300, has a per

capita income of \$14,775. The median age of the village population is 30.2 years, and the average Wheeling resident has 13.8 years of schooling, which would carry them almost through two years of college.

Anderson says Wheeling has "a good mix" in its tax base, enabling the village to avoid a heavy reliance on residential property taxes to support village services.

The village relies on principal taxpayers, in other words businesses which pay more than \$2.5 million in property taxes annually, for 19 percent of its revenues.

The village has an annual budget of \$21 million, Anderson says. The total equalized assessed valuation of village property is

\$398,691,459.

Residents pay property taxes of just under one dollar per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. That rate was recently lowered from \$1.50 for two reasons.

The recent reassessment of village property raised revenues beyond the needs of the village administration, so the rate was reduced. Also, the village brings in about \$800,000 a year from the state income tax surcharge. Anderson says the village may raise taxes if the surcharge is discontinued by the state. In the meantime, the village will favor the revenue source that does not rely on a property tax.

Schultz, who was first elected in 1981, has two priorities for the village: maintenance and redevelopment.

Wheeling hopes to bring more of a focus to its commercial heart by encouraging redevelopment in the center of town. Schultz points to two areas where the village wants to see new projects come in and add luster to areas that have begun to fade.

The first area is a tax increment finance district roughly surrounding the intersection of Dundee and Milwaukee.

The other, a short distance west, is the intersection of Dundee and Wolfe, where an abandoned gas station sits waiting for a project to replace it.

On the commercial development front, Wheeling hopes to bring more of a focus to its commercial heart by encouraging new development in the center of town, roughly the area around the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"As we have grown, we have sort of lost our central

business district," Anderson says, referring to the decentralization often created by growth.

In order to promote downtown development, the village created a tax increment finance district in the center of town which pools all taxes collected in the district to use for condemnation of property and other cost associated with redevelopment.

But a court challenge, currently tied up in the appellate courts by some local commercial property owners who faced condemnation, has put a major downtown shopping center development on hold.

The shopping center would have "incorporated and expanded upon the Sportmart development [at the northwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee]. It would have included another possible anchor and some smaller shops," Klitzke says.

"We are waiting for a decision," Anderson says.

Anderson says the village hopes to use its abundant, and in the case of LeFrancis, world class, restaurants as an attraction to developers with compatible concepts, such as upscale retail.

Schultz notes Wheeling recently completed a five-year road improvement program, and it is now time to assess which village streets that were not included in the last program now need repair.

"There is always something to do," Schultz laments. But her position may soon be abandoned, if Schultz fares well in her bid for a seat on the Cook County Board in the November election. But because Schultz is running as a Democrat in heavily Republican district, she has an

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Photo by Ellen Domke

Community Development Director Mike Klitzke sees the need for Wheeling to attract new businesses, including R.S. Anderson Co., a meat packaging firm.

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uphill battle to win before she moves on to countywide office.

One of the biggest events in Wheeling in recent years was the 1985 acquisition of Palwaukee Airport in conjunction with the village of Prospect Heights.

The two villages took over the airport, which serves mainly light aircraft, to prevent its operation by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Palwaukee had been privately owned by George Priester and his son Charles. But they indicated they would sell the airport, perhaps to developers who intended a different use for the property, Anderson says.

"The FAA wanted to keep it open as a reliever airport," Anderson says. "It looked like it was going to stay open one way or another. The municipalities wanted some control."

Because they operate the airport, the two villages must supervise a number of improvements to bring the airport up to state and federal aviation standards. Anderson notes the improvements, which include runway extensions and improvement and clearing obstructions will be paid for by the FAA and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

One major project resulting from the airport acquisition will be the relocation of the intersection of Wolfe and Hintz roads. The busy intersection has had to make do as a four-way stop because it is so close to the end of a runway that the installation of traffic lights would create an obstruction for aircraft.

By looping the two streets away from the runway in order to make them intersect about 1,000 feet west of the current intersection, the village will finally be able to install traffic signals and ease the



Courtesy of McLennan & Thebault, Inc.

An artist's rendering of the future site of Faucet Queen in the Palwaukee Business Center, an industrial complex in Wheeling.

current rush-hour congestion. The project is expected to be completed within three years, Anderson says.

Village ownership of the airport land has enabled it to take control of property once viewed an eyesore.

"It gives us an opportunity to clean up some of the areas along Milwaukee, to demolish some old buildings and clean up some lots that were being used as dumps," Anderson says. "It is an opportunity to change the character of the area."

Another project that Anderson feels will

add to the quality of life in Wheeling is the addition of a commuter rail stop in the village. Wheeling is presently working with Metra to come up with a way to use Wisconsin Central tracks as a link to the Chicago and Northwestern Line into the city. Wheeling commuter now must drive to nearby Deerfield, Arlington Heights, or Mt. Prospect to catch a train downtown.

"That is costly. They have to pay non-resident rates to park in their lots. It is also not convenient," Anderson says.

The village hopes to work with the

Wheeling Park District to put up a station along the old Wisconsin Central tracks next to Heritage Park. The park district then could use the lot in the evenings, when most commuter lots are empty.

Anderson says the addition of a commuter rail stop would be a key addition to the community. "It would help keep people in the community."

As Wheeling approaches its centennial (on July 31, 1994), the village enters a phase shared by many surrounding older suburbs: contending with life after growth.

SUNTIMES  
9-13-90  
**Firefighting needs demand changes**

By Ann Louise Truschel

"We'll be doubling our manpower in the next five years," says Deputy Chief Joseph Wieser of the Buffalo Grove Fire Department. "We'll be hiring 30 additional fire fighters and adding 20 staff and clerical personnel. We're also building a third station and adding an administration wing to our North Station."

This expansion, which will eventually enlarge the Buffalo Grove Fire Protection District from two districts to four, is a result of the growth in population of the area. Presently the fire department has 36 paid firefighters, 20 volunteers and a staff of 5.

"All of our firefighters are paramedics," adds Wieser. "They're certified through Northwest Community Hospital, and once a month nurses from the hospital come to the stations to provide in-station instruction."

"We have three MICU (Mobile Intensive Care Unit) ambulances equipped with advanced life support equipment; two ambulances are manned 24 hours a day by two paramedics. The third unit is used for back-up."

There is no charge for this paramedic service at the present time, as the community has funded fire department growth with taxes. However, Buffalo Grove is talking about the possibility of charging non-residents to help fund the increasing demand on the fire service.

According to Buffalo Grove Fire Chief Thomas C. Allenspach, the number of calls to the department has been increasing by 10 percent a year for several years.

"Last year we had almost 2,900 calls," states Allenspach. "Sixty percent of those were requests for emergency medical services (EMS)."

The increase in the number of EMS calls was the main reason why the Long Grove Fire Protection District switched this past May from a volunteer department to a contract fire service.

"The contract service provides two fire fighter-paramedics seven days a week, 24 hours a day," explains Long Grove Fire Chief David C. Grupp. "We'll use our volunteers for back-up."

The change from a volunteer service to a paid service was dictated both by economics and the growing demand on the department. "Our calls have been increasing by 10 percent a year for the past three years," states Grupp. "Last year we had about 550

ambulance calls and 130 fire calls. Although the actual number of fires has been reduced, the number of EMS calls has grown."

Grupp says the Long Grove Fire Protection District is going to monitor its needs closely for the next 2-3 years.

"We're going to go a little slow adding people on a full-time basis because we expect the alarm growth (the increase in the number of calls) to stabilize. Part of unincorporated Cook County now receiving fire protection from Long Grove will probably be annexed to Arlington Heights and Palatine. In addition, the amount of available land for building is decreasing, and our commercial area is fairly stable."

Stable growth is also a characteristic of the community of Wheeling.

"Wheeling hasn't changed much in 10 years," says Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac. "We aren't experiencing the big growth that some of the other communities around here are seeing. The fire department has 41 full-time employees and 14 paid on-call (volunteer) fire fighters. Thirty-six of our full-time employees

and two of our volunteers are paramedics. Last year we had 2916 calls; 1956 of them were ambulance calls. Although our ambulance calls have increased 18 percent in the last ten years, that's due mainly to the aging of our population."

While the Wheeling Fire Department doesn't have to expand its services, MacIsaac is making it a priority to improve the services the department already provides with its present manpower. Next month Wheeling will sign an automatic aid agreement with Buffalo Grove.

Says MacIsaac, "With this agreement, fire equipment from either community will be dispatched automatically. We'll be able to provide the best coverage regardless of village boundaries. We want to have fire apparatus within 1½ miles of a fire site. In some of the fringe areas, we exceed that distance by one-quarter to one-half mile. Buffalo Grove fire equipment is actually closer. They would respond in these cases and we'd do the same for them."

Chief MacIsaac also plans to soon formalize a similar agreement with the Village of Mount Prospect.



Thomas C. Allenspach

# Retailing cashes in at right place, right time

SUNTIMES 9-13-90  
By Roger W. Rouland

Both the burgeoning Village of Buffalo Grove and the more mature community of Wheeling are taking steps to improve their local retail economies.

In Wheeling, that path is being marked with attempts to spur redevelopment through a village-assembled shopping area and independent endeavors which will follow suit. While in Buffalo Grove, officials are guiding the steadily progressing commercial climate through a well-established land-use plan.

And in both cases, tax increment financing (TIF) districts are playing a part in local efforts. Wheeling officials are still hopeful they can capitalize on a district tied up in litigation, while in Buffalo Grove, a TIF district and a 17-year-old vacant parcel of land has meant an almost-overnight downtown.

From a commercial development standpoint, Buffalo Grove appears to be in the right place at the right time with the right plan, according to Village Manager William Balling.

"We're in a developing area, and, by and large, [development] has been a reaction to market conditions and zoning patterns," Balling said. "There is only a select number of land areas in the community not specifically designated residential. That in itself has created demand."

And that demand in the last decade has been dramatic, largely due to expanding village limits which have grown from 2,995

to 5,129 acres, and a population that has climbed from 22,000 to an estimated 35,000.

Meanwhile, land dedicated to commercial use and accompanying sales tax dollars to the village have roughly tripled. Today the village boasts 23 shopping centers, either existing or somewhere in the development stage, according to the village planner's office.

"We've seen steady progress in the expansion of the retail shopping community of Buffalo Grove in the last several years," Balling said. "We are starting to get soft good retailers and more service businesses. But we're still without any major department stores, or what I would call white good stores selling major appliances, or high-volume electronics stores. Otherwise the mix is pretty good."

That mix, since the early 1970s, has been guided by Buffalo Grove's master plan, Balling said. It calls for neighborhood shopping areas for residents, rather than major malls which would increase traffic congestion by enticing out-of-town shoppers into the village.

"We've got a cluster plan where we have neighborhood shopping centers rather than strip shopping down major highways," Balling said. "We've tried to identify residential areas and cluster shopping around them."

A welcome addition to that plan is one of the Buffalo Grove's most notable achievements, the Town Center, where the village played a more active role in fostering a development which includes retail, residential and public property components.



Photo by Ellen Domke

Stanley Lieberman, president of the Lieberman Group, was a key player in helping to develop the Town Center, Buffalo Grove's most notable achievement.

That development is the result of a land designation in the early 1970s which earmarked a 55-acre triangular section of land just north of of Lake-Cook Road between Buffalo Grove Road and Rte. 83, as a site for a "town center."

"Seventeen years ago the village found the place they thought would be the center of town geographically," said Stanley Lieberman, president of the Lieberman Group

and one of the key players in developing the Town Center. "As it turned out, it really is the focal point of the community."

Lieberman's efforts were broadened by the assistance of other land development firms, including Melvin Simon & Associates, one the country's largest shopping center developers. But it was the village that made it work, said Lieberman, by

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## Develop

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obtaining approval for a \$7.5 million TIF district, which will help pay off public improvements in the Town Center through increased tax revenues generated from the development itself.

Those improvements, which are now becoming visible, include a public park, bandshell and village green. When completed, the Town Center will include better than 200,000 square feet of ground-level retail space, accompanied by second-story office sites. Space has also been dedicated for the village's first post office.

Meanwhile, the residential sector of the Town Center will include 63 townhouses and 88 condominiums in two mid-rise buildings, encircled by a jogging and hiking path. Occupancy is expected to begin this fall.

"It will be a town within a town," Lieberman said. "Buffalo Grove has always been like a bedroom community, where its people were commuters. Now people will come to the community because its a destination. Buffalo Grove never had a downtown before, now it does."

Wheeling has long had a central business district, located at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. It is there at the northwest corner of the two state highways where officials hope to revitalize, modernize and diversify its retail mix and set in motion new structures which will encourage other area owners to redevelop their property.

Village plans center on acquiring property on Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue to develop an L-shaped shopping center with about a dozen stores, anchored by the existing Sportmart on Dundee Road and another major retailer on Milwaukee Avenue.

"In 1985 Wheeling petitioned for that



Photo by Ellen Domke

The construction of strip malls has been one of the many developments in Wheeling during the last year. This one was completed at Wolf and Dundee roads.

area of the business community to be designated a TIF district," said Village Manager Craig Anderson, "because it is an older community and quite a few of the business are older structures—some not being used or used to their potential—and some in need of renovations. But it's been in court for two years, because of challenges by the owners of property we need to condemn to start redevelopment."

Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the TIF district would offer Wheeling's "downtown" a chance at revital-

ization, and an opportunity to diversify its business mix.

"Wheeling has an older business district because it's an older community, and it's in need of revitalization," Pollack said. "The Milwaukee Avenue corridor is deficient in its retail in what it offers; it is deficient in its variety of businesses."

All the businesses the village needs to condemn to make its plan work are viable, Anderson said. "But that's not to say they could not be relocated and be in the TIF district," he said. "Part of the problem is the property itself, and its structural as-

pects.

"It's not so much the individual businesses, as the fact they are not well-suited for the center of a business district."

If the TIF goes through, Anderson said revenues generated by the new development would go to pay off a TIF bond which would make the new center possible.

But TIF revenues to date have only gone towards legal fees, the purchase of a handful of land parcels, and the demolition of former buildings in the Milwaukee Avenue/Dundee Road area. Wheeling lost the first round of a challenge to its TIF district in a lower court, and is now awaiting a decision from an appellate court on the matter.

And while the village has been waiting for that decision, at least one shopping center has seen improvements, via independent action.

"Lynn Plaza [at Wheeling and Dundee Roads] had an old look of the 50s and 60s, and through a new facade and landscape program it was brought into the 1980s and 1990s," said Denise Kennedy, manager of Travel Wise Ltd., a plaza tenant.

Kennedy said the external improvements were effective in bringing tenants to the older plaza, and fostering compliments from local patrons. She said it could also serve as an example to other shopping centers.

"I think it would be very nice to have a center for shopping in Wheeling [at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue]," Kennedy said. "But I think there is a need in general throughout the town for revitalization, period. If existing shopping centers would do renovations, Wheeling would be better able to attract new business to the community."



Jackie Pollack

# Still building on success

SUNTIMES 9-13-90

## Housing starts hit the roof in suburbs

By Jeffrey Steele

For decades, the northwest suburbs of Chicago have crept outward, as one community after another was sculpted from once-open acreage. With each new generation of homeowners, the need was to venture further north and west. Seemingly overnight, bustling new neighborhoods rose from the leafy orchards, wind-blown prairies and golden wheat fields of yesterday.

Today, that's as true as it's ever been. And nowhere is that fact reflected more clearly than in an examination of housing starts in the three suburban communities of Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, and Long Grove.

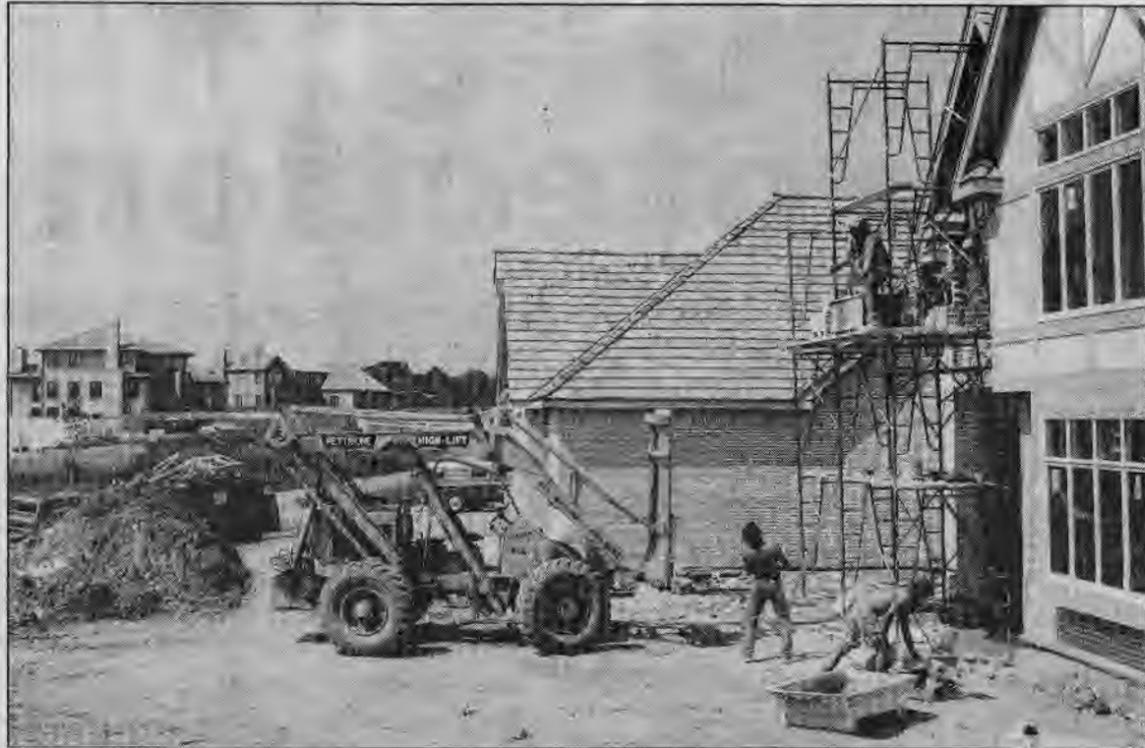
Wheeling is an established, older-line community, where housing stock largely dates from the boom years of the fifties, sixties, and seventies. Within the borders of the community, there remain few parcels of vacant land available for new housing. To the north and the west, Buffalo Grove has been one of the fastest growing of Chicago's suburbs for at least the last six years, but village administrators acknowledge the community has probably seen the most explosive of its growth years.

And still further out, Long Grove, after years of very slow and steady growth, has experienced a surge in new construction over the last half-decade—with the end likely nowhere in sight.

"Ours is a mature suburb," says Stacey Rubin, assistant village planner in Wheeling. "There isn't a lot of vacant land still available in Wheeling for the construction of new developments."

Nonetheless, since 1986, 510 single-family homes, 1,722 units in multi-family housing, and five major multi-family developments have been constructed in the suburb. Recent years have seen the construction of developments such as Polo Run, situated east of Elmhurst Road between Hintz Road and Palatine Road, and Arlington Club, a Lexington Development built on land formerly occupied by a golf course. Another large project, this one currently in the development stages, is Stronggate, where site improvements are just beginning in a development that will someday boast 37 townhouses.

"I'd say that in Wheeling, the big parcels are gone, and what's left is in-fill housing," observes Rubin. "The community will continue to grow, but at a slower pace. Because we currently have an imbalance of multi-family housing, we'll be looking to fill out our single-family housing stock in the coming years."



Photos by Steve Shay

Long Grove (left) has experienced a surge in new construction and Buffalo Grove has been one of the fastest growing of Chicago's suburbs.

In Buffalo Grove, the story is decidedly different. Incorporated in 1958, the village experienced tremendous growth in the 1980s, with occupied housing units rising from about 7,000 to almost 13,000 between 1980 and 1989.

"We've had sustained, high growth for years, and we've been in the top 10 villages in the area in terms of growth for the last six years," comments John Dempsey, associate planner for Buffalo Grove.

The figures bear out his assessment. In 1985, there were 358 new single-family units built in Buffalo Grove, at a value of \$23 million.

Those numbers rose to 419 and \$26.6 million in 1986, 386 and \$33.7 million in 1987, and 562 and \$56.4 million in 1988. Last year, the village reported 495 new single-family units constructed at a value of \$57.8 million.

While there were only 94 multi-family units built in Buffalo Grove in 1989, the figures were much higher in the four previous years, with a high of 894 multi-family units constructed during 1986.

One of the more ambitious projects currently under construction in Buffalo Grove is The Woodlands at the Fiore development.

Rising on the grounds of what was once the Fiore Nursery, the project calls for over 370 single-family homes on lots ranging from 8,750 square feet to one acre. In addition, the developers plan a "mixed-use area" to include 62 duplexes, 36 townhomes, and 252 carriage homes.

Other developments currently underway include the Buffalo Grove Town Center, with 63 townhomes, 92 condominiums, and 180 elderly congregate units; Westchester Estates, with 101 single-family detached homes; Churchill Lane, with 85 single-family detached homes; Manchester Greens, with 180 condominium and 20 townhomes; and Windsor Ridge, with 134 single-family detached homes.

As might be expected, this explosive growth has claimed much of the open land once available in the community. "What's left of the larger parcels is chiefly between Busch Road and Route 22," says Dempsey. "Although there are still a few parcels in unincorporated Buffalo Grove."

Although the area north of Route 83 continues to build out at a rapid pace, Dempsey believes that "Buffalo Grove has seen its most explosive growth. It's likely to slow down considerably in the next 10 years."

In neighboring Long Grove, it seems the housing surge has only just begun. The northwest suburban community, renowned for its quaint shops and restaurants, has historically enjoyed a slow, steady growth, according to Robert Parker Coffin, village planning commissioner. "For a long period of time, there was an average of about 20 new starts a year, up until just recently," he says.

In the latter half of the eighties, however, this pattern underwent a dramatic change. "We doubled the entire previous growth of Long Grove in just the last four years,"

says D.M. "Cal" Doughty, village administrator. "Each of those years saw record or near-record housing starts, with an average of about 150 new homes each year—most of them in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 price range."

A doubling of homes in just four years would bring gigantic problems to many communities, but Doughty says the impact hasn't been felt as strongly in his village. "You have to remember that this tremendous growth covers an area of approximately eighteen square miles," says Doughty. "The impact, in terms of traffic congestion and school crowding, is diminished because of the wide area encompassed. Then there's the quality of the homes. The houses here are going to produce the same number of students and cars as you'd find in other suburbs experiencing unprecedented growth. But the taxes on the homes in Long Grove are going to cover their burden more effectively."

Along with growth has come a distinct shift in the way housing is constructed in the community.

"It used to be that a family bought a lot in Long Grove, hired an architect, and had a house custom built to their specifications," observes Coffin. "Now, builders buy parcels of land for 10 or more homes, construct the houses, and individual buyers don't have the opportunity to obtain that same level of customization."

Nevertheless, Long Grove has attempted to maintain its environmental and aesthetic standards, as well as its value to each individual homeowner, according to Doughty.

"The basic policies have never varied," he says. "We want long-time residents to say, 'I may have more neighbors, but the community hasn't changed. I can still come home to my own little corner of the world.'"



Buffalo Grove village planner Bob Pfeil (left) and associate planner John Dempsey have seen high construction growth for years.

# Goodwill, recycling pick up on good idea

By Jeffrey Steele *SUNTIMES* 9-13-90

Every once in a while there appears an idea so ingenious, yet so simple, that people wonder why no one thought of it years before.

It's nice if the idea is easy to implement. It's even better if it benefits a good cause. And better yet if it helps make people feel good about themselves.

Late last year, representatives of the Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal Company and Goodwill Industries came up with just such an idea: Why not combine curbside pickup of recyclables with the collection of reusable goods by Goodwill?

The result was the Wheeling recycling program, which recently netted the suburb a U.S. City Livability Outstanding Achievement Award, bestowed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors when it convened this past summer in Chicago.

Last fall, Waste Management (the operators of Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal) and Goodwill, noting the willingness of Wheeling residents to embrace the concept of recycling, approached the village's governing body with the idea of curbside collection of reusables.

Says Craig Anderson, village manager of Wheeling, "The Village Board thought it was a good idea, and gave the go-ahead for a six-month pilot program. It was well received by village residents, who found it made giving reusables very convenient."

Deemed a success in its half-year trial, the Wheeling Village Board extended the

program for another year in May.

The genius of the program lies in its utter simplicity.

In addition to regular garbage pickup, the Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal Company dispatches a truck each week into residential Wheeling for curbside collection of paper, plastic, can, and bottle recyclables, which residents load into bright orange plastic bins provided by the village. During the first full week of every month, a Goodwill truck "piggybacks" that truck, collecting reusable household materials. These donations are also "packaged" by Wheeling citizens, who use blue and white plastic bags emblazoned with the Goodwill logo. When one of the bags is picked up, a new Goodwill bag and a receipt are left behind.

City officials report that the new program solves several problems. On one hand, it allows Wheeling residents to contribute to Goodwill without having to search for a drop-box. On the other, it reduces the need for Goodwill drop-boxes. The latter is a blessing, not only because dropping reusables into the boxes tends to damage some goods, but because refuse and other inappropriate items sometimes find their way into the boxes.

"Our residents have really been happy with the convenience of giving reusables to charity without having to find a drop-box," says Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz. "The convenience is the main benefit."

Gary Mayerhofer, management intern in the village manager's office, adds that the



Photo by Steve Shay

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal Company combined curbside pickup of recyclables and reusable goods for Goodwill Industries. Pictured is Mary Ann Crowe.

## Recycle *SUNTIMES* 9-13-90

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new plan "makes it very easy for the residents to donate and very easy for Goodwill to collect."

If the contribution to Goodwill is extremely large or bulky, the organization will make special provisions.

"Obviously, if someone is giving a piano, or a similarly large item, a special pickup would have to be arranged," says Craig Anderson. "But most of the household items contributed by residents can be easily accommodated by the plastic bags Goodwill provides."

Items frequently donated at curbside have included clothing, small appliances, radios, clocks, books, toys, vases, and cookware. And, much to the delight of Goodwill and village officials, many of the goods contributed by Wheeling residents have been of remarkably high quality.

Says Schultz, "In a lot of cases, clothing donated will still be in cleaning bags. Glassware has often been washed, polished and carefully wrapped to prevent breakage. Goodwill officials have found that items can be taken right out of the bags and put on the shelf for resale. We've really been pleased—and surprised—by the response."

In addition to providing convenience for both village residents and Goodwill Industries, the program puts into motion a whole cycle of positive benefits. "It provides goods for people who need them, and creates additional jobs collecting and sorting the items," says Schultz. "Then the profits from the resale of the reusables are used to train people."

While there were concerns voiced at the outset of the program, the potential problems most often cited have failed to materialize. Chief among the worries was that items left at curbside would not be collect-



Photo by Steve Shay

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal Company combined curbside pickup of recyclables and reusable goods for Goodwill Industries. Pictured is Mary Ann Crowe.

ed. Says Mike Zudycki, assistant general manager of Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, "Our company assured Wheeling residents that material would not be left behind, that everything would be picked up. Now that we've demonstrated our commitment, the residents really like the idea of an extra service at no extra cost."

Another fear was that Amvets, Purple Heart, and other charitable organizations would be adversely impacted by the new program. But, says Schultz, those residents who had established a long-time relationship with other agencies have simply continued to contribute to their preferred charities.

"Those who didn't have any pattern of giving to one agency and didn't really know

what to do with their reusables are the people who are taking part," she says.

The U.S. City Livability Outstanding Achievement Award and the media interest the program has spawned have made Wheeling's recycling program something of a model for communities around the country.

"We've been told this is the first program of its kind ever tried," says Schultz. "The award gave us national media attention, and recently I've had requests for information from mayors across the state."

Mayerhofer, who has coordinated the response to queries for more information, says he's heard from communities in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and California.

Neighboring communities are also inter-

ested in studying the Wheeling program's tie-in with Goodwill Industries. In Buffalo Grove, where a curbside collection of recyclable cans and bottles has been underway for two years, expanding the recycling effort has been given a high priority. In July of this year, for example, plastics were targeted for collection for the first time. And now the suburb is studying its neighbor's success with Goodwill.

"We've been monitoring Wheeling's program, because we share the same residential disposal company," says Lee Szymborski, assistant village manager of the suburb. "If it appears to be a program that could work well in Buffalo Grove, we're certainly going to look upon it as a supplement to our existing recycling effort."

Long Grove also has a recycling policy, established six years ago. The village provides each household with two different plastic bins—one for paper, another for cans, glass and bottles. According to D.M. "Cal" Doughty, Long Grove village administrator, the recycling program collects newspapers, magazines, milk jugs, plastic pop bottles, and all junk mail—excluding cellophane windowed envelopes. "Among normal household waste," he says, "the only thing that can't be recycled is wax paper and cardboard. We're going to investigate the Goodwill association in Wheeling," says Doughty. "One thing I've found is that we can all learn from one another. Certainly the haulers we've worked with are learning. They've done a tremendous job."

Back in Wheeling, where a ride through quiet residential streets on collection morning reveals an abundance of bright orange bins sitting side-by-side on the curb with blue and white Goodwill bags, Sheila Schultz isn't surprised by the success of the new venture.

"It's one of those simple ideas that can bring widespread benefits," she says, "not the least of which is that it makes us feel very good."

# Wheeling steps to the head of the classroom

SunTimes 9-13-90  
By James J. Nyka

With a steady enrollment pattern, satisfactory test scores, and a sound financial structure, Wheeling Township School District 21 appears to be pretty much problem-free.

But, like other school systems nationwide, the district still faces a major challenge: How to meet a growing number of commitments to its 5,900 students within the limited time frame of a 6½-hour day.

"Public schools are called upon to do more and more with each passing year, and we're just running out of time," said Superintendent Bud Des Carpentrie, who sees as one solution to the dilemma "a reorientation of instruction" that emphasizes "the presentation of skills and concepts across discipline areas, rather than teaching each subject individually."

Des Carpentrie has shared his concerns with personnel at the district's nine elementary and two junior high schools, and they've responded appropriately.

Said Kristin Knudsen, the second-year principal at Whitman Elementary: "One of our intermediate projects is determining how we can make optimum use of our resources by integrating instruc-

tion in social studies, math, language arts and computers in a way that students will see the connections between these subjects."

In the same manner, faculty members at Cooper Junior High are emphasizing the linkages between science and industrial technology, and encouraging students to view writing as a recursive process rather than as a set of unrelated skills. Consequently, instead of teaching separate units on grammar, spelling and punctuation, instructors now use the students' own writing to diagnose individual strengths and weaknesses.

"The more integrated we are in our approach with any curriculum, the better off we are," said Principal Wendy Billington. "The more we isolate and put things in slots, the more difficulty kids have in seeing the full picture."

Last year, the district extended its curricular innovations well beyond the classroom with the establishment of a Discovery Center for the Sciences at 200 Glendale in Wheeling, the site of the former Hawthorne Elementary School which officials closed in 1980 because of declining enrollments.

"We provide instruction there, as well as staff development programs to help our teachers become more skilled and comfortable

teaching science in their own classrooms," Superintendent Des Carpentrie said. "We've received a lot of support for the center from community businesses and from institutions in the Chicago area. It's just a top-notch program."

Des Carpentrie is equally enthusiastic about the supplemental instruction the district offers outside the regular school day to students who require tutorial assistance in reading or who want to enhance their appreciation of literature.

"Our obligation is to stimulate students to the absolute level of their ability," the superintendent said. "We also are saying to parents that they don't have to seek out a private reading group in order to receive these services."

Junior high students at Cooper also get help through a "pathfinder" program in coping with concerns divorced from the academic arena.

"These kids have a very important hidden curriculum, and this program allows us time to deal with it," Principal Billington said.

The youngsters meet with teachers every other week in small groups to talk about self-esteem, tolerance, honesty and communicating with adults, including parents.



Photo by Brian Fritz

Williams Meyers is director of the Discovery Center for the Sciences, a study site that extends beyond the classroom.

# Police, schools gang up to challenge gang crime

SunTimes 9-13-90  
By Ann Louise Truschel

Although Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haegger admits gangs have had an impact in his town, he also is firm in his belief that his department is "on the forefront of identifying solutions to the gang crime situation. We want to look at reasons why the problem is emerging as rapidly as it is. "Nobody really knows what gives rise to gangs; some people blame a lack of structured activities for kids, others attribute the problem to a lower socio-economic level or multi-family housing complexes. Still others say it's due to a migration from the inner city to the suburbs.



Michael Haegger

"In Wheeling, we have some gangs which are affiliated with Chicago groups, but other gangs are 'home grown.' We first noticed evidence of gangs four or five years ago. We started seeing certain clothing items, gang symbols and graffiti."

Gang members identify each

other with certain hand signals and mark their territories with graffiti. Each gang has its own "uniform" and its own colors — jackets of the same color, hats worn in a specific way, shoe laces of the same color or laced in a certain way.

"We took a reactive posture to the gang problem in the past," Haegger admits. "Now we're going to become proactive. For one thing, we've joined the Gang Crime Task Force of the Multi-jurisdictional Unit."

The Multi-jurisdictional Unit is comprised of seven agencies that have pooled manpower and resources to combat crime that crosses community boundaries. Other members of the unit include police departments in Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Elk Grove Village, and the Cook County Sheriff's Department. The unit's Gang Crime Task Force gathers intelligence on gangs and shares the information with the member communities.

Wheeling has also formed a Citizens Advisory Committee and conducts an annual citizens survey to determine how well the police department meets standards set by the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement

Agencies, which evaluates police departments nationwide.

"This year we took the survey one step further," said Haegger. "We asked our citizens to serve on a committee to identify police department objectives for the 90s. About 60 people volunteered; they came up with a list of 25 items, gangs being one of those items. That list will be reduced to 7-10 goals or objectives and forwarded to the Village Board in time for the September planning and budgeting process.

"We also have an on-going effort to identify strategies to deal with our evolving Hispanic community," Haegger adds. "We get calls from people who do not speak English and we need to better address their concerns."

To facilitate communication with their large Hispanic population, both the police department and the village are seeking to hire minority bi-lingual or Spanish-speaking people at all levels and in all departments.

The Wheeling Police Department is also targeting schools in its effort to stem the influence of gangs. This fall, for the first time, the department will offer DARE, Drug Awareness and Resistance Education, to the schools. The program will be taught to the



Photo by Timothy Boyle

Wheeling police officers Jerome Hermes (left) and Armando Pizzi confer with dean of students Bob Alexander (center) at Wheeling High School.

sixth grade this year and to the fifth grade next year by a Wheeling police officer trained by the Illinois State Police.

"We have a second officer who will complete training shortly and will teach a DARE program geared to behaviorally-disabled and learning-disabled children," says Haegger. "Those kids need instruction just as much as other kids. We hope to get that program off the ground in time for the second semester.

"We've also had a liaison officer in the high school for three years," adds Haegger. "He assists the teaching staff with counseling and guidance and is a resource for kids with disciplinary problems. The

officer works closely with the school on gang-related problems and watches for displays of gang colors or any other visible signs of gang activity."

The department keeps close tabs on known gangs; they know which ones are affiliated with Chicago gangs. They track young affiliates as well as regular gang members.

"We have one female gang, but they're affiliated with a specific male gang," Haegger said. "Most female gang members are affiliates. We know that gangs also recruit younger kids, 11-14 years old, as affiliates, mainly to gain their involvement as full gang members when they get older."

# Where teens find a sympathetic ear

SunTimes

By Sherry Tomback

"Adolescence's doubt," wrote Herman Melville, "is the common doom." With such a pessimistic viewpoint, chances are excellent that the creator of *Moby Dick*, were he alive today, would be "persona non grata" among the committed staff at Omni Youth Services, an organization diligently serving the communities of Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Long Grove. Omni believes that the problems confronted by troubled teens and their parents—indeed their whole families—are a common concern.

Omni, which began more than 16 years ago as an outreach and crisis intervention program, has mushroomed into a full-service counseling agency for youths (those 12-18, specifically) wrestling with everything from alcohol and drug abuse to thoughts of suicide, problems in school, and their parents' impending divorce.

"We have experienced an incredible amount of growth over the past year-and-a-half," said Jacqui Menich, Omni's resource development manager.

One of the most significant changes is the relocation of Omni's administrative offices from 222 E. Dundee Rd. in Wheeling to 1111 Lake Cook Rd., in Buffalo Grove. The move is slated for completion by the end of this month.

"We're moving to a much larger building," noted Menich, "one that will enable us to feature several programs at a site that's more centrally located throughout our service area."



Photo by Brian Fritz

Clinical director Jay Meyer talks to a client at Omni Youth Services, 222 E. Dundee Rd. in Wheeling. Omni serves Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Long Grove.

Aside from being more aesthetically pleasing, the new facility will be fully accessible for the handicapped, and will also feature a viewing observation room—complete with a two-way mirror—especially for staff supervision and training.

Menich added that the Wheeling-based Hidden Valley Ranch Corp. made a significant contribution toward the construction of a "group room" for community education and volunteer services.

On the whole, Omni Youth Services is funded by a variety of sources, said Menich,

including the state, federal, village and township governments, the United Way, school contracts, private gifts, special events and program fees.

"Currently, we're trying to increase private funding by corporations and individuals both, because you can't always count on government funding," she added.

Individual client fees are based on a sliding fee scale; Menich pointed out that no one in need of assistance is ever turned away because of lack of sufficient funds.

"Another big change is the consolidation

## OMNI FACTS

For more information on Omni's programs and services, call 708-541-0190. Omni Youth Services' other offices are located in Arlington Heights, Lake Zurich, Mundelein and Prairie View.

of two of our programs," she added. "The Wheeling and Arlington Heights programs will consolidate into one Wheeling Township area program."

Menich cited the area's changing youth population and greater flexibility in case assignments as the primary reasons for this: "Instead of having two separate programs, with counselors in each, the specialties of these two groups will be combined so we have more choices of who to assign individual cases to," she said.

Menich stressed that the consolidation will not diminish or alter the amount of services in any way. Omni will continue to maintain its Arlington Heights office, as well as the new Buffalo Grove location.

Aside from its new administrative site and program consolidation, Omni is expending a great deal of time and energy toward the enhancement of its programs and services, especially in the area of prevention.

"Omni has received funding from the  
Turn to Page 18

## Wheeling to track hate crimes

"That brought it home," said Hillier.

The Arlington Heights officer was dragged from his van and beaten last July while writing a report, police said.

Other incidents have surfaced in the last year throughout the suburbs.

Last May, three men claiming to be members of a white supremacy group were arrested on ethnic intimidation charges after they allegedly harassed a black school bus driver and sprayed her in the face with a chemical. One of the youths arrested in that incident also was arrested for the alleged assault on the community service officer.

The department defines a bias/hate crime as one that is committed against a person or his property based on ethnicity, race, religion, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation.

Wheeling Patrolman Tim Hillier, who originally approached his department officials with the idea to categorize bias/hate crimes, said he does not know of any Northwest suburban police department that has a similar policy.

It took an assault on a black community service officer in Arlington Heights last summer to convince Hillier that something needed to be done.

To combat what police officials believe is a growing influence of hate crimes in the suburbs, Wheeling Police will receive special training to recognize and deal with bias crimes.

Wheeling's new policy becomes effective today and changes the way that bias crimes are recorded so they can be tracked more easily.

"It used to be that if somebody spray painted a church, it was just logged as criminal damage," said Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes. "Now that type of crime would be logged under bias/hate

## Omni

Continued from Page 3

Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse for three full-time specialists who will serve Wheeling Township, Palatine Township and Elk Grove Township," said Jay Meyer, Omni's clinical director.

"Our main initiative is to provide services at the preventative, or very early intervention level, and, ideally, to operate with the cooperation of significant community members and organizations."

Meyer explained that these individuals and groups will be called "Impactors," who will be called upon to provide training, disseminate information and generally work toward the development of a comprehensive, community-wide, adolescent substance abuse prevention program.

"Alcohol and drug use is often symptomatic of deeper problems," Meyer hastened to point out. "Peer group pressure and dysfunctional family systems are two examples. Our job is to help these kids find alternatives to substance abuse: healthy alternatives that will help them deal with their situations. We try to lead them down other paths to resources that will help them deal with their family or school problems, or even help them clarify their values, if necessary."

Meyer added that simply taking time to figure out what they want to do—and why—is central to kids' emotional well-being.

"You know, a lot of what's happening in the area of prevention isn't just what Omni's doing; often it means joining forces

with others," Meyer said. "It means working with schools to help develop alcohol and drug abuse prevention curriculums, or with the police departments. And it seems that with some kids, no matter what you do, they're going to experience these problems. But what we're trying to do is reduce that number and help people develop healthy lifestyles."

"A vast majority of [teens] say, 'I don't have a problem. I don't know why I'm here and I don't want to be here.' Part of what we consider to be our specialty is getting these resisting kids in for treatment."

Along with prevention services, Omni has greatly expanded its volunteer services program. Currently, there are over 100 volunteers, up from a little over 60 a year-and-a-half ago.

"There are really three major components to our volunteer services program," Meyer explained. Our Youth Advocate Program is similar to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters concept and has been in the works for about 15 years.

"However, we have two very new additions. The Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Program matches kids that have been identified by the federal government to be high risk for alcohol and substance abuse, with trained volunteers who will work with them before they become users."

The third component, the Parent Aide Program, matches adult volunteers with parents who have been found to be abusive or neglectful, through the Department of Children and Family Services.

"For example, what we do here is to hook up the mother with an additional support system," Meyer explained. "Not only will we help her deal with some of the frustrations of being a parent, but we'll teach her some very concrete, basic skills, like home-making, as well. Many times, what happens is people become parents without being prepared. Our volunteers are trained specifically to work with that population."



Jacqui Menich

## Police ready for accreditation inspection

Sat. 9/15/90

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After almost three years of preparation, officials of the Wheeling Police department say they are ready for an on-site inspection that could make them an accredited law-enforcement agency.

Only 175 law-enforcement agencies nationwide have been able to meet the standards for accreditation set by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.

Assessors from the commission will visit the Wheeling police department during the last week of September. They will check to see that 829 standards for accreditation—ranging from the department's policy on affirmative action hiring to its procedures for search and seizure—have been met.

"We are hoping we are ready for them," said J. Michael Hermes, deputy chief of police. "We had a mock on-site assessment in May. A few standards were missing from the books, some weren't as clear as they

could be and we were missing a few proofs of compliance. But, for the most part, we were in pretty good shape."

Hermes said that the department scratched most of its original policies and created new ones to meet the standards set forth by the commission.

Hermes also said that Wheeling residents can expect more consistent service from the police department as a result of the rewrite of police procedures.

In the past, rules and orders would

be issued to all officers, but no formal training was given. Every new procedure has been gone over at shift role call so every officer is sure of the new procedure.

Residents will have a chance to comment on police department standards at a public hearing held with the accreditation team at 8 p.m. Oct. 1 at village hall.

Copies of the new standards book are available for viewing at the police department and at the Indian Trails Public Library, 355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling.

# Wheeling police act on bias crime

*Herald - 9-18-90*  
 Wheeling police, responding to a small but growing blight on the Northwest suburbs, will begin training its officers to recognize and deal with hate crimes.

In addition, the department will maintain separate records of hate/bias crimes. Those are defined as any attack against a person or property that appears to be based on the victim's ethnic identity, race, religion, sexual orientation or on a physical or mental disability.

Those kind of incidents remain relatively isolated in the suburbs. Nonetheless, they occur frequently enough that it's wise for police to track them separately and to make special efforts to combat them.

Two startling bias crimes have shaken Arlington Heights just this year. In May, three men with links or former links to a white supremacy group shouted slurs at an African American school bus driver, and one of the trio sprayed the driver with mace. In July, two men dragged an Arlington Heights community service officer from his van, where he had been writing a report, and beat him. Last year, vandals painted swastikas on the Jacob Duman Jewish Community Center in Buffalo Grove. Someone also made bomb threats against the center.

This is not a problem unique to the suburbs. The incidence of bias crimes appears to be on the rise throughout the country. While there are no national statistics of hate crimes, most groups or agencies that monitor such matters agree that bias attacks are becoming increasingly common.

Last spring, President Bush signed into law the National Hate Crime Statistics Act, which directs the Justice Department to compile a statistical study on bias crimes. The law also established a hot line for reporting such crimes. This is a useful piece of legislation, because it sets up a means of tracing bias crimes and because it sends the message that the federal government intends to fight hate crimes.

But the first line of defense lies in local communities, where elected leaders, civic groups and ordinary citizens can publicize the problem and make it clear that they will not tolerate hate crimes. Wheeling's Police Department, by offering special training and tracking bias crimes separately, serves notice that it takes the problem seriously and intends to deal with it aggressively.

*M.W. 9/14/90*  
 Wheeling planners OK preschool proposal

The Wheeling Plan Commission gave L&L Bright Beginnings Preschool the approval to hold classes in leased space at the Riverside Plaza Shopping Center, 81 S. Milwaukee.

Any time a school wants to hold classes in a building other than a school building, special permission is required.

L&L will be leasing the space until January 1990, when its new building

at the corner of Wolf and Mayer Roads will open.

Some commission members expressed concern about the safety of children being dropped off and picked up at the preschool. School administrators said that parents must park and bring their children into the building.

No children would be crossing the parking lot alone.

## Killer trees

*7-20-90*  
*COUNTRYSIDE*  
 Wheeling/ Trees on parkways and median strips of highways and major thoroughfares are killers. They endanger the lives of persons involved in automobile accidents. Federal and state laws require that highway traffic lights and signs be mounted on posts made of expensive break-away material so they will yield when struck by a moving vehicle. Tree trunks with a diameter of 8 inches or more do not give an inch.

This requires the immediate attention of local, county and state authorities, so we can stop planting trees in hazardous areas and remove the "killer trees" that now threaten life and limb along our major streets and highways.

**Marvin Horcher**  
 Director, Wheeling AARP Chapter

# Officials ponder redistricting referendum

*Summary, 9/16/90*

Wheeling trustees on Monday will consider supporting a November referendum changing the way Cook County commissioners are elected.

Members of the board of commissioners are currently elected from two districts — Chicago and suburban Cook County. Commissioners are elected at large, 10 from the city and seven from the suburbs.

If voters approve the change, it would create 17 new districts with one commissioner elected from each district.

Supporters of the referendum, including the mayors of Barrington, Niles and Skokie, say that electing County Board members from single-member districts would give local government officials more input in running county government.

Supporters of the referendum say that under the current system, most suburban voters do not know who their commissioners are or what their positions are on county health care, law enforcement and highway use.

The new system, if approved, would make district commissioners more accountable to voters because they would be more accessible.

But most important, supporters say, the referendum would give all Cook County residents fair and equal representation on the board.

If the referendum is successful, new districts would be created using the results of the 1990 census. Beginning in 1994, one County Board commissioner would be elected from each district.

**The top meeting**  
**Who:**The Wheeling Village Board  
**Where:**Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road  
**When:**8 p.m. Monday

# Wheeling supports change in county election

*9-19-90*  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have unanimously passed a resolution supporting a November ballot question changing the way Cook County Commissioners are elected.

Members of the board of commissioners are currently elected from two districts — Chicago and suburban Cook County. Commissioners are elected at large, 10 from the city and seven from the suburbs.

"I think this referendum is probably the most significant thing that

we can do to assure the responsiveness and accountability of county board members," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz, a candidate for the Cook County Board in the November election.

If voters approve the change, it would create 17 new districts with one commissioner elected from each district. The new districts would be created using the results of the 1990 census. Beginning in 1994, one county board commissioner would be elected from each district.

Schultz said that she supports the

referendum based on some of the knowledge she has gained while campaigning for the commissioner's job.

"It's obvious that very few of the 2.5 million suburban voters know who their commissioners are," she said. "They don't know who to contact when they have a problem or a question."

Supporters of the change, including the mayors of Barrington, Niles and Skokie, say that electing county board members from single-member districts would give local govern-

ment officials more say in running county government.

But, most important, they say, the change would give all Cook County residents fair and equal representation on the board.

The referendum is binding, meaning that if voters approve the change, the county would be forced to go into single-member districts.

Schultz said that several other communities have already voted to support the change and that more municipalities will consider passing resolutions supporting it this week.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Chamber Week set to begin Sept. 30

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz has proclaimed the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 6, 1990 Chamber of Commerce Week.

Schultz said the week will recognize the Wheeling/P respect Heights Chamber of Commerce for its contributions to the village, including acting as a liaison between business and government.

There are more than 300 local chambers of commerce in the state of Illinois.

### Police department to get new squad car

Waiving competitive bid requirements, trustees voted to purchase a \$13,000 squad car to replace one totaled in an accident late last month.

The 1990 Chevrolet Caprice will be similar to the department's other squad cars and will be outfitted with a radio and other inside equipment from the wrecked squad.

The damaged 1989 Chevrolet Caprice was struck by a drunken driver on Dundee Road, west of Schoenbeck Road, on Aug. 26.

### Larson named to commander post

Police Sgt. Eric Larson has been sworn in to the position of police commander.

Larson, a 15-year veteran of the department, was chosen for the position after a national search.

"We are very proud of our police department," Schultz said after the ceremony. "We are going through the accreditation process now to show the world how good we are and Eric Larson has been involved in that process."

With the appointment of Larson, one commander position re-

mains unfilled.

### AMVETS to hold two raffles

Trustees have approved two requests from AMVETS to hold raffles.

The Phillip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66 will hold the raffles at its headquarters at 700 McHenry Road, Wheeling.

Tickets for the first raffle will be sold Sept. 22 and the winner will be drawn on the same day. Tickets for the second raffle will be sold from Oct. 1 to Nov. 10 and the drawing for the winner will be Nov. 10.

# Pilot proposes runway realignment

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

9-20-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

A former pilot, Lowell Stolerow, is proposing a runway plan for Palwaukee Municipal Airport he says could save between \$40 million and \$60 million.

Village President Sheila Schultz expressed reservations about the plan, but she said Tuesday she would have it scrutinized by engineers. Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr., however, charged that the plan's basic premise had already been deemed unfeasible.

Stolerow's plan would have a runway installed on a line running roughly between the intersections of Wolf and Palatine roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz roads.

It would replace a runway between the intersections of Hintz and Wolf roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road.

The new runway would remove the need for several steps the airport is planning, including realigning the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads, building two bridges over a portion of a drainage ditch, removing trees north of Hintz

near the Plum Creek apartment complex, and purchasing air rights from Plum Creek, Stolerow said.

Those steps would cost the airport about \$93 million, according to estimates from ten yeago, said Stolerow, a Plum Creek resident who operated an airplane leasing business at the airport in the late 1960s.

Stolerow's proposal would instead divert flights over a forest preserve, thereby minimizing noise complaints, he added.

"It would get rid of this continuous pressure from contiguous areas saying, 'Do something,'" he said.

About 75 people attended the village board meeting Monday, during which Stolerow presented his plan. Many individual speakers complained of airport noise, and several spoke in support of Stolerow's proposal.

Schultz said she would forward it to "someone with a better grasp of engineering and aeronautics" than she had.

Wheeling administers the airport with Prospect Heights and a commission of representatives of both municipalities.

"From the village standpoint, we would support a plan that would lessen the environmental impact and be more cost-effective," Schultz said.

But she noted that the airport's plan, currently under review by the Federal Aviation Administration, had been closely scrutinized before being sent to that agency by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

"It's difficult to say whether this would be accepted," she said of Stolerow's proposal.

Stewart, meanwhile, said the airport's own plan had already taken the substance of Stolerow's proposal into consideration, and rejected it.

The cost of purchasing land may have weighed into that decision, according to Stewart. "You're talking about a huge tract of land," he emphasized.

"I would question his figures," Stewart added, referring to the savings Stolerow said his plan would produce.

Stolerow, however, said consultants rejected the concept his plan is based upon because they wanted to justify their own proposals.

"No consultants is going to say, 'I made a mistake; you paid me and I did a lousy job,'" he said.

## Schultz's chances boosted?

9-20-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Village Manager Sheila Schultz, who is seeking a seat as a suburban commissioner of Cook County, believes growing support for single-member county districts may indirectly boost her candidacy.

Schultz, joined by five fellow Democrats seeking similar posts and Richard Phelan, Democratic candidate for Cook County Board President, said she would encourage voters to approve a switch from the current at-large districts in a binding referendum in November.

Schultz said the current current arrangement of electing all 17 commissioners at large to represent the entire county often makes them not as directly accessible to their constituents, particularly those in the suburbs.

While the change to single-member districts would not take place until 1994, if implemented at all, Schultz feels her support of the move might win her votes.

"If I'm considered somebody who feels strongly about accountable, responsible representation, then people might make that connection" to her candidacy, Schultz said Tuesday.

The Northwest Municipal Conference, an advocacy group for suburban municipalities, passed a resolution

(Continued on page 22)

## Schultz

endorsing single-member districts last week. The Wheeling Village Board took similar action Monday. A group of mayors from Lincolnwood, Burbank, Barrington, Niles, Westchester, Skokie and Calumet City, has also been formed to support the plan.

Schultz said she has been lobbying municipalities to back the change. She said she has spoken to a lot of mayors, including those at the recent Illinois Municipal League Conference.

"Many of them are putting it on their agenda," she

said. Despite concerns about partisanship, backing for the referendum is increasing, according to Schultz. "I found some who had reservations as to the political division of it, but even those who see that as a factor also see the issue as one of basic representation," she explained. "So I'm seeing definite support."

According to Phelan, nonpartisan organizations, including the League of Women Voters, support the referendum effort.

## Police ordered to hand over info

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

9-20-90  
COUNTRYSIDE

The Wheeling Police Department has been ordered to give attorneys for officer Robert Pressley whatever documents it may have pertaining to breaks allegedly taken by other officers outside village limits. Taking such breaks would violate department regulations. Police Chief Michael Haeger has charged that Pressley took too many breaks while on duty, at least some of which were outside the permissible area, and that he lied when questioned about the alleged activity. Pressley has long been a controversial officer in the village. He filed a civil suit over seven years ago claiming his Fourteenth Amendment equal protection rights were violated in 1983, when the chief allegedly "retaliated" for the officer's successful challenge to a 1982 suspension.

Haeger had suspended Pressley for allegedly breaking department rules of truthfulness in relation to a citizen's complaint that he'd engaged in sexual relations with a woman in a van, parked outside The Original Granny's Restaurant, at 831 W. Dundee Road. Following the board's reversal of that suspension, according to Pressley, he was unfairly disciplined. His attorneys have contended Pressley, who is black, was punished more severely than white officers who had committed more serious offenses. In addition, the suit contends Haeger failed to intervene when fellow officers harassed Pressley with racial epithets and cartoons. According to Alan Friedman, Pressley's attorney, the village board refused to approve an agreement which could have resolved those issues last year. Haeger filed new charges, regarding the alleged break violations, this summer.

Pressley's attorneys requested the order for the documents at a hearing before the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on Sept. 13. They contend the material will demonstrate that other officers have engaged in conduct similar to that which Pressley has been charged with, without being disciplined. Haeger's attorney, Steve Culliton, had argued unsuccessfully against the order, maintaining that Pressley had not been disciplined by the board on the charges. The commission directed the department to produce by Sept. 27 the material, which would cover activity since October 1988. Friedman said the order also gave him the right to copy a videotape made by police, allegedly showing officers purchasing items in a Speedway convenience store a fraction of a mile outside the village limits, where Pressley is alleged to have taken his improper breaks. Friedman also said a security employee at the Speedway had complained about the presence of other officers in the establishment.

No one should need reminding of what happened to the boy who cried wolf.

## Pull plug on alarms <sup>9-20-90</sup>

**T**he Wheeling police and fire departments have been plagued during the past two years by a staggering number of false alarms from residential, industrial and commercial properties. The Village Board should stop this undue strain on the village's emergency response equipment by immediately establishing fines for repeat false alarms.

Between 1988 and 1989, the Police Department responded to 4,598 alarms, only six of which were valid, according to a report prepared by Police Chief Michael Haeger. Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said his department responded to 170 false alarms in 1988, and 346 in 1989.

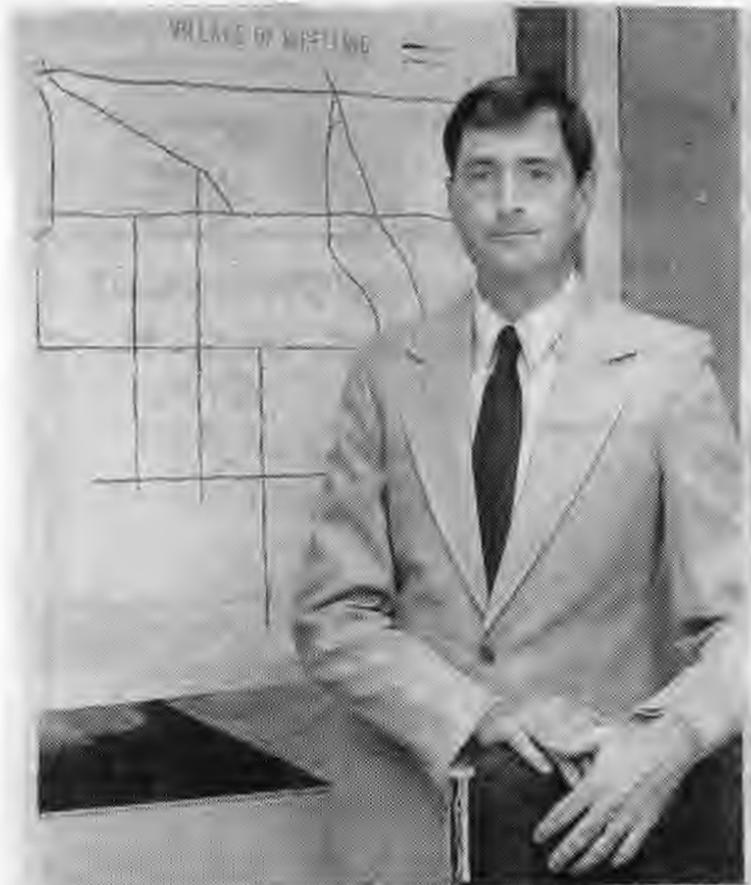
The alarm system has been so abused that many alarm owners have developed a blasé attitude about false calls. According to Chief Haeger, one property owner told officers he pulled his alarm to test how fast police would respond. A large number of locations trigger five or more false alarms a year, he said.

The resulting chaos is costly. Every false fire alarm rings up about a \$500 cost, while false police alarms rob the village of about \$100, according to the chiefs. And the damage goes deeper than dollars. When officers can expect almost every call to be a false alarm, it weakens their edge in responding to a real emergency. No one should need reminding of what happened to the boy who cried wolf.

Most of Wheeling's neighbors have alarm ordinances. Northbrook fines homeowners or businesses \$55 upon the third false police alarm or \$110 after two false fire alarms, and has an alarm control commission to hear appeals.

If Wheeling trustees heed the advice of Chief Haeger and adopt a similar measure, fining alarm owners at least \$50 after three false alarms and \$100 after 10, it should restore order and respect for the village's alarm network, prompting businesses and residents to fix faulty alarms and guard against accidental triggering.

The board should act before the whole village discovers the hard way what it's like to cry wolf too many times.



Kathy Tray/Pioneer Press

Wheeling engineer Richard Glenz will find himself immersed in a water project as one of his first tasks for the village. Glenz assumed his duties last month.

## Engineer dives into water plans <sup>COUNTRYSIDE 9-20-90</sup>

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

New Village Engineer Richard G. Glenz will get his feet wet helping plan a major water project in Wheeling.

The widening of Milwaukee Avenue, private development projects and public improvements will also be among the initial responsibilities of Glenz, who assumed his duties Aug. 29, Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke said last week.

A former director of engineering services in Lee County, Fla., village engineer and public works director in Villa Park, and employee of a private engineering consultant, Glenz said his diverse background would help him see various viewpoints in discussions of village projects.

"I work well with people," he emphasized.

Glenz earned a bachelor of science and engineering degree at the University of Illinois, Chicago in 1975, and attended the Northwest Traffic Institute in 1977. He noted that he had prepared engineering plans in Wheeling for a private consultant in the 1970s.

"I'm very happy with the community," he added.

Glenz is also a member of the American Public Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the national and Illinois chapters of the Society of

Professional Engineers. His coming to the village would lessen the engineering responsibilities of Klitzke, a former Wheeling Village Engineer, Klitzke and Glenz agreed.

Those duties had become Klitzke's in May, when the most recent village engineer, Jim Edgmond, accepted a similar post in Sullivan, Mo.

"Fortunately, since I was the village engineer before, I could do that activity along with my other ones, but you can't do that forever," Klitzke said.

"I hope to ease the burden on him," Glenz added.

The water project would create a diversionary channel aimed at reducing flooding in the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which runs through a low, flat area in the Meadowbrook Subdivision near Heritage Park, according to Klitzke.

Glenz will work with the federal Soil Conservation Service in helping plan and design the federally funded project, for which preliminary engineering work is already underway, Klitzke said.

He added that it may be 18 months to two years before the project actually begins.

The widening of Milwaukee Avenue will be done between Palatine and Lake Cook Roads under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Transportation, according to Klitzke.

## Palwaukee Airport hearing set for Oct. 4 <sup>Churo 9/20/90</sup>

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

People wanting to voice their opinions or ask questions about Palwaukee Municipal Airport's new layout plan can do so at a public hearing Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse in Wheeling.

The airport staff, attorney and engineers will be on hand to answer questions about the recently finished environmental impact study on moving the Wheeling drainage ditch and the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Officials from the Illinois Department and Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration also will be at the hearing.

The relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads will be spread over two years, mainly to stretch the cost of construction. Once the necessary land has been acquired, Hintz Road will be moved in 1992 to Arc North and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection.

The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Marquardt Drive and go west, slicing the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the west.

Airport officials say the relocation is needed because the airport's longest runway ends too close to the intersection.

If the roads are not moved, the 5,200-foot runway would have to be shortened to meet FAA standards for a "clear zone" at the end

of the runway.

Many of the corporate jets, which generate much of the revenue needed to operate the airport, could not use a shorter runway.

The relocation has met with resistance from airport neighbors who say that Hintz Road will end up barely 250 feet from their homes. There also is concern about the number of trees that will be destroyed by the road relocation. Residents say the trees are noise buffers and that if they come down, noise from planes taking off and landing will become unbearable.

The hearing will run from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the ballroom of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

Monday 9/24/90  
**Company abandons Wheeling dump site**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

After two failed attempts at submitting an application for a license to build a hazardous waste storage site in Wheeling, Safety-Kleen Corp. of Elgin has decided not to move to Wheeling after all.

Although Safety-Kleen purchased the land it was hoping to build the storage on, officials of the Elgin company have notified village officials that they are no longer interested in building the center in the village.

Safety-Kleen wanted to close its Arlington Heights storage center and move its operation to a 10-acre site on the south side of Hintz road, near Glenn Avenue.

Instead, the company has decided to relocate its Elgin operations to south suburban Dolton, and move the Arlington Heights operation to its Elgin location.

Because the Elgin site already has all the necessary permits, it will be easier to move the Arlington Heights center there, said Ellen J. Jurczak, environmental permits manager for Safety-Kleen.

Safety-Kleen withdrew its first application because it was missing a date on a form used to advise residents of meetings. The second application was withdrawn after an error was made in mailing public hearing notices to residents near the proposed site.

Although company officials indicated that they would file a third

application, they never did. To residents near the proposed site, the company's decision comes as good news.

"I am happy they backed out," said Robert Brower, owner of the Circle M Day Camp, which is adjacent to the proposed site. "It is good for the village, too."

Brower said that he believes the number of residents who attended the last public hearing and expressed concern about the proposed site may have influenced Safety-Kleen's decision.

"They said it would be more expeditious to relocate to Elgin," he said. "I assume that means that they didn't want to go through our hearing process and up against residents."

**TCI starting cable system changeover**

By JANET HALLMAN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Within a week, TCI of Illinois will begin contacting Arlington Heights customers about switching to a single-cable system.

Village trustees last month approved switching to the system, which will drop the number of available cable channels from 120 to 60. Arlington Heights was the first community in the Northwest Municipal Cable Council — comprising Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling — to approve the franchise amendments for the change.

TCI already has started to install signal descrambling devices on the cable lines and soon will begin contacting its 12,000 Arlington Heights customers about the new system, said Dave Briggs, TCI marketing manager.

"In the next 10 days or so, we're going to be switching over their upper channels onto the new system," he said. "We'll be explaining to people what we'll be doing to switch over."

TCI representatives later will visit each customer's house to remove the old converter boxes and replace them with new ones to accommodate the single-cable system, Briggs said. In some cases, customers will not need the new boxes, he said.

"It's going to totally depend on what equipment they have in the home," he said. "I think we probably will have a high percentage of people that will need boxes."

In addition, TCI almost has completed a new signal processing center in Mount Prospect, which will be used for Arlington Heights customers. The new center is needed with the conversion to a single-cable system, Briggs said, and similar centers already exist in Schaumburg and Streamwood.

TCI officials say the new system will result in a better picture and better service. As of Sept. 1, TCI lowered its monthly rates in Arlington Heights and Hanover Park to \$17.45.

**Applications sought for patrol officer post**

Applicants are being screened for one patrol officer opening on the Wheeling Police Department.

The recent promotion of Sgt. Eric Larson to commander means that there will be another opening in the

near future. Polygraph results for eight candidates have been received. After results of the psychological testing are complete, the candidates will be interviewed by police department officials.

**Police officers receive letters of praise**

The Wheeling Police Department has received several letters complimenting its police officers.

Officers Patrick Wessman and Thomas Lorenz and Detective Robert McDonald were praised for their

assistance to robbery victims.

Officers Edward Theriault, Larry Parks, Kenneth Sheffler, Brian Jacobson and Tony Cinquegrani were complimented for their search efforts for a Wheeling toddler.

**Firefighter test dates scheduled**

The Wheeling Fire Department has set Oct. 17, 18, 20 and 27 as tentative dates for its fall firefighter testing.

The department has one vacancy now and is in the process of screening three candidates to fill that vacancy.

**Neighbors suggest ideas for Palwaukee plan**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Amid growing concern about Palwaukee Municipal Airport's latest layout plan, one airport neighbor has suggested an alternate plan that he said would cost millions less and pacify many disgruntled residents.

Airport neighbors are concerned that the plan place roads too close to their homes and destroys many area trees.

Lowell Stolerow, president of the Plum Grove Condominium Association, has presented a plan that would close the airport's longest runway, now running from the northwest corner of the airport to the southeast

edge, and build a new one that would run from the northeast corner to the southwest corner.

Under the current airport layout plan, the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads will be moved west by 1994 to create a clear zone at the end of the runway. Under Federal Aviation Administration standards, the airport's main runway ends too close to the intersection.

Stolerow said that building a new runway would mean that Wolf and Hintz roads would not have to be moved and that the airport would not have to build two bridges to accommodate the new road locations.

He also said that the noise from

airplanes taking off of the new runway would be dissipated over the Cook County Forest Preserve to the east or a large industrial area southwest of Palatine road.

But airport officials say that Stolerow's plan has already been considered and rejected.

A new runway going the direction that Stolerow has suggested would not have enough clear space to meet current FAA regulations, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

He also said that the plan would send air traffic over Prospect Heights.

"The noise would simply impact a different set of people," he said. "Prospect Heights owns half this airport and I doubt they would go for this plan."

But Prospect Heights 5th Ward Alderman Carey L. Chickerno said anyone on the Wheeling village board or the Prospect Heights city council who lets noise interfere with their judgment on the feasibility of Stolerow's plan should not hold elected office.

"It is absurd to say I would be opposed to the plan because more planes would come over Prospect Heights," he said. "I would look at it from the standpoint of whether it is feasible or not."

**70 apply for Wheeling assistant manager**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling has received about 70 resumes from people interested in the position of assistant village manager.

The position has been vacant since David Kowal left in early August to become assistant village manager of Northbrook. Wheeling paid Kowal \$35,788 a year.

The village advertised the job opening in three publications that are widely read by city managers and others in public service: International City Management Association Newsletter, The Illinois City Manager Association Newsletter and Illinois Municipal League Magazine. The application deadline was Sept. 15.

"We received applications from all ends of the earth...well, almost," City Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "We got a few from Europe, but most are from the continental United States. Of course, a lot are from Illinois."

Anderson said that he has put together a committee consisting of himself, his secretary, Village Attorney James A. Rhodes, Finance Director Robert W. Fralkowski and the secretary to the assistant village manager to narrow the list of 70 down to between six and 12 candidates.

Anderson hopes that task will be complete in the next few days and that interviews will be scheduled for the second week in October.

Nelson said that most of the responsibilities of the assistant village manager are related to employees, including hiring, firing and disciplining, when necessary. The assistant village manager also assists the fire and police commission with recruitment and labor negotiations.

Since Kowal left, the assistant manager's duties have been spread among Anderson, other department heads and Kowal's secretary.

# Palwaukee officials refuse to raise their pay

9/27/90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners have denied themselves a raise for the second time in nine months.

Commissioner William A. Rogers of Wheeling asked other commissioners to pass a resolution that would increase their stipend from \$75 to \$125 a month. The resolution would require the approval of Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen since the two communities own the airport.

But several commissioners said they felt that it was inappropriate to

give themselves a raise.

"I find when you are talking about what municipalities are going to do, you are talking about them as third person," Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno, of Prospect Heights, told Rogers. "But as trustee and a commissioner, you wear two hats. I will not in any way, shape or form vote myself a raise."

"If the council and Village Board feel our efforts are worthy of greater stipend, it should come down from them, not up from us," he added.

The commission is made up of four residents from each municipality. Three of Wheeling's appointees

are also village trustees: Anthony Altieri Jr., Elizabeth L. Hartman and Rogers. Chickerno is the only Prospect Heights commissioner who serves on the City Council.

Other commissioners felt that the timing for increasing the stipend was poor.

"I am frustrated at what our professional people, lawyers and engineers, get paid to sit in on these meetings," said Commissioner Nicholas Helmer, of Prospect Heights. "But I feel it is inappropriate at this time to increase stipends."

Commissioner Dan Quiery of Prospect Heights said that rejecting the increase would be a small finan-

cial saving for the airport but an important leadership move.

"Until we can move on the airport improvements, we are trying to minimize costs," he said.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said that he "would be out of line to comment too much" on the stipend, but he did say that he felt commissioners were not being compensated for the amount of time and responsibility they have assumed.

The commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Commissioners also hold several committee meetings during the month.

## EDITORIALS

### Bring recycling to workplace

Herald - 9-27-90

Many suburban residents are getting used to recycling at home, but it stops there. It's time to bring this healthy practice into the workplace.

It may not occur to many employees to cut down on waste at work. Yet enormous quantities of paper are generated in most offices, and it, too, goes in landfills. *Garbage* magazine figures indicate that paper accounts for more than one-third of the waste found in landfills. To keep the number of landfills to a minimum, citizens must reduce waste wherever they encounter it.

While it may take the idea some time to catch on in private businesses, local governments can lead the way by recycling in their offices. Wheeling, Streamwood and Schaumburg are starting programs to recycle the office paper used in their village halls and other municipal buildings. Arlington Heights already does so, and Elk Grove Village and Park Ridge are looking into the possibility.

DuPage County towns, however, are way ahead in this game. About 20 municipalities recycle their office paper, including Bartlett, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Warrenville, Wheaton and Wood Dale.

As a side benefit, there may be some money in these reams of paper. According to Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc., which will handle Streamwood's program, the market for used office paper pays about \$80 a ton. That's not a lot, but how many programs can a municipality start that generate good will and don't cost anything?

Businesses, too, are finding it's good public relations to recycle. By promoting themselves as caring about the environment, they are also getting across the message that they care about their employees and their customers.

Whether a company recycles or not, there are other simple measures they can take to reduce waste — and money. Marjorie Lamb lists some in *Two Minutes a Day to a Greener Planet*.

■ Photocopy or print on both sides of each sheet of paper. If your photocopier is not equipped to do this automatically, feed the paper, upside down, back into the machine's paper tray.

■ Before making copies to distribute to staff, determine how many you really need.

■ Put a box for "ruined" copies next to your photocopier. This paper still has one good, clean side that can be used for copying internal documents.

■ Or, cut these used-on-one-side sheets in halves or quarters and staple them to make note pads. If the company finds it no longer has to spend money on note pads, tell your boss so.

■ Reuse corrugated cardboard boxes, or return them, flattened, to the shipper. They can also be recycled.

■ And lastly, bring your own ceramic coffee cup to work, rather than using plastic foam or paper cups.

### Decision stalls on balefill site

9/27/90

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A decision on the future of the proposed balefill near Bartlett is delayed — again — while proponents of the project provide more details about their selection of the site, officials said.

"We are asking SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) for some additional information on its alternatives analysis," said Army Corps of Engineers spokeswoman Evelyn Schiele.

A decision by the corps on whether to proceed with the balefill already has been delayed a month. The corps sought more information from the Illinois Geological Survey about the risk of ground water contamination. An announcement is expected some time this fall, Schiele said.

The corps must issue the last permit needed by SWANCC for the construction of the proposed 142-acre high-tech landfill at Gifford and West Bartlett roads.

SWANCC is a group of 26 communities from the North and Northwest suburbs that have worked for nearly five years to secure approval for the balefill.

SWANCC officials said an alternatives analysis found the balefill to be the "best site."

But opponents of the project — who have long said that SWANCC chose the Bartlett site first and subsequently identified, and eliminated, alternatives without an overall site selection process — heralded the announcement.

### Warm or cold, riders to set off on Sunday

Rain or shine, they're riding on Sunday!

The Annual Wheeling Bike-A-Thon, sponsored by the Wheeling Senior Citizen Commission and Wheeling Wheelmen Bicycle Club, will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The 10-mile route will begin and end at the west side of Wheeling High School, 900 S. Elmhurst Road in Wheeling.

Bicyclists of all ages and their families and friends are invited to join the fun in this 8th Annual Bike-A-Thon. You may ride only one lap, or as many as you can. The course, which runs between Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights, is clearly marked and maps will be provided. A bike repair service and refreshments also will be offered. T-shirts will be given to the first 100 cyclists to register, and all participants are eligible for door prizes, which include: gift certificates, meals at local restaurants, car washes, oil changes, hair cuts, toys, and more.

For more information, call Phyllis Harmon at 537-1268 or Barbara Hansen at 459-260 or 272-3791.

### Recognition dinner

Horizons Children's Center will hold a Recognition Dinner at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Gusto Italiano, 345 W. Northwest Hwy. in Palatine. The dinner will honor those individuals, community, and corporate organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the Children's Center. For further information, call 459-1617. 9/27/90

### Political rally

A Rally for Village President Sheila Schultz will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday at Hoyne Savings & Loan, 699 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling. Sheila is running for

Lisa Schab  
Wheeling



county board commissioner in the Nov. 6 election. Anyone interested in supporting her campaign is invited to attend. Posters and bumper stickers will be available. For more information, call Janet D'Argo at 537-2929.

### Addolorata Villa

Residents of Addolorata Villa were honored recently by a visit from Bishop Raphael Fliss of Ladysmith, Wis., who presided over the dedication of the villa's new 100-unit apartment complex for retired seniors. One-hundred and fifty people attended the dedication ceremony, open house, and tour of the facility. Addolorata Villa, located at 555 McHenry Road in Wheeling, was established in 1942. It is run by the Servants of Mary Sisters and offers living and social facilities for senior citizens. Congratulations to the Villa on their new addition.

### New teachers

Welcome new Wheeling High School teachers Diana Burns and Afiredo Velasco, English as a Second Language program; Susan Liljeberg, dance; and Carol Rumpel, science.

Wheeling High School students have recently been part of a Northwest Suburban High School District 214 effort to raise monies for the victims of the tornado that leveled homes and a high school in Plainfield, last month. Money has been collected at football games. Donations may be made by calling the school at 537-6500.

# Safety-Kleen drops waste storage plans

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Herald 9-27-90*  
Safety-Kleen Corporation has decided not to build a controversial waste storage facility in Wheeling, a decision that was unaffected by public sentiment against the plan, according to a company spokeswoman.

One of the proposal's leading opponents, however, believes those objections may have been the key factor.

The company, which recycles motor oil, engine coolant, dry cleaning fluid and cleansing solvents, had hoped to install 15 storage tanks, each with a capacity of 20,000 gallons, for the material on a 10-acre site on Hintz Road east of Wheeling Road. The complex would have replaced a facility in Arlington Heights scheduled to be closed.

Over 100 persons packed the village hall last October during a four hour plan commission hearing on the proposal, with many speakers voicing pointed objections on environmental grounds.

In a brief letter sent to Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke earlier this month, Ellen Jurczak, Safety-Kleen's environmental permits manager, said the firm had decided it would be "more expeditious and efficient" to construct the facility in Elgin.

The letter made no mention of any opposition to the Wheeling plan.

Asked if the objections swayed her firm's thinking, Jurczak replied, "Not really. If the Elgin property had not been available, we would have proceeded" to locate the tanks in Wheeling.

But Bob Brower, whose Circle M Day Camp on Hintz Road is near the proposed location, wrote other opponents that the large turnout at the hearings made the difference.

For now, we can relax about this issue.

Bob Brower

"I believe it was the large crowd and the concern we expressed at the last hearing which helped Safety-Kleen change its position," he said.

He added that the company evidently abandoned the proposal "rather than fight Wheeling citizens and many members of the business community and face long delays in the approval of their plans."

"For now, we can relax about this issue," Brower added.

Jurczak said the company's decision was final.

Safety-Kleen sought permission from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the village for construction of the tanks last summer. At the time, the village hired an independent environmental engineer and a real estate appraiser to gather information on the proposal.

At early hearings, trustees and neighbors raised questions about the facility after they learned that an underground leak at the Arlington Heights facility had caused ground contamination into a residential area of Buffalo Grove just north of the facility.

The Arlington Heights leak caused the company to remove the contamination from the soils while building a cement wall 10 feet into the ground separating the underground tanks and Buffalo Grove property.

But Safety-Kleen officials argued contamination at the Wheeling site would have been unlikely, and noted the facility's safety measures would have surpassed state requirements.

Unlike at the Arlington Heights facility, underground tanks planned for Wheeling would have been protected by double-lined walls. The 12 above ground tanks would have been protected from flood damage while cement retention areas would minimize potential leaks from spills during the transferring of fluids by trucks.

## Police try for accreditation

A lot of work has gone into the Wheeling Police Department's drive for accreditation. Police say it has resulted in better service for residents.

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Herald 9-27-90*  
The Wheeling Police Department hopes to become one of only 13 departments in the state to earn accreditation by a national organization, Chief Michael Haeger said Tuesday.

The distinction would acknowledge the improving quality of services the Wheeling force provides, according to Haeger.

The agency which would confer that recognition, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Services, Inc., is expected to begin examining the department's policies, procedures, management, operations and support services Saturday.

Benefits of accreditation include community cooperation, understanding and a positive relationship with neighboring agencies, according to Hermes.

The department is encouraging the community to comment on the standards at a public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Wheeling Village Hall. Copies are on file at the police station and the Indian Trails Public Library. Citizens may also make their feelings known by call-

ing 459-2640 on Oct. 1 and 2 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

day, Haeger said. The Wheeling force would have to meet 791 standards in those areas, in order to be accredited.

Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes, who has been coordinating the department's accreditation efforts, said the standards would govern how police dealt with everything from pursuits to disasters like airplane crashes.

Haeger said that while a typical Wheeling resident may not care if the department is accredited, the process has produced better service for all residents.

"The level and quality of service has gone up since we began participating," Haeger said. The accreditation process began in September of 1987.

Hermes said the process had been difficult.

"We started over. . . started from scratch," he told the village board recently. "We went standard by standard."

(Continued on page 19)

ing 459-2640 on Oct. 1 and 2 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

"If somebody has something to bring to the attention of the (accreditation) assessors, it can be positive or negative, and it will be reflected in their report," Haeger said.

The commission is expected to act on Wheeling's accreditation request in November, according to Haeger.

While accreditation remains in effect for five

## Veterans seek to donate vests

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Herald 9-27-90*  
Although a veterans' group hopes to donate bulletproof vests to the Wheeling Police Department, Chief Michael Haeger said he hasn't determined whether the vests are actually needed for his officers.

The department has been

Robert Hettinger, a spokesman for Philip Carpenter AMVET Post 66 in Wheeling, the organization that wants to make the donation, called the vests now being worn by some officers "outmoded and outdated."

Newer vests are lighter and more effective, he claimed Monday.

"I wore a flak jacket in Korea, and it was a heavy son of a gun," he recalled. "Now the weight's cut down a lot."

Hettinger said vests are becoming increasingly important because of the greater potential for violent crime in the area.

"We do have gangs here,"

reviewing the condition of the vests, but the process is complicated because there are not many guidelines for judging suitability, Haeger said.

"We haven't arrived at any conclusions, yet, because there's a lot of discussion nationally on when vests deteriorate to the point of being unsafe," he explained.

he said. "And drugs are infiltrating the area. We've got to face it."

As an elevator repairman, Hettinger said he often works in Chicago housing projects. "Chicago officers have been hit at point blank range and it (the vest) saved their lives."

His group's donations would "help us protect those who serve and protect us," he said.

Hettinger said his organization and the Illinois AMVET Service Foundation had each donated \$500 toward the vest purchases. The local chapter has also asked the village for permission to sell white clovers to

raise more money for the vests. The sales would take place on Nov. 1 through Nov. 4, in honor of a Wheeling police officer who was slain during an attempted burglary about four years ago.

The group would also like to collect and sell recyclable cans, with sale proceeds going for the vests.

The organization's initial goal would be to donate 29 vests, at an estimated cost of between \$480 and \$500 each, according to Hettinger. Because Wheeling paramedics have been menaced by gun-wielding patients recently, he said the group also hopes to donate four similar vests for their use.

(Continued on page 19)

# Noise complaints likely at local airport hearing

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

Herald 9-27-90

Residents concerned over what they consider excessively loud airplanes are expected to make some noise of their own at a hearing on a Palwaukee Municipal Airport expansion plan next week.

The proposal is being reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration. The proceedings, scheduled for 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Park Grand Ballroom on Oct. 4, have been called to address environmental impacts of the plan, But Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said such hearings can often become forums for airing issues not specifically included in the agenda.

And indeed area resident Bruce Portnoy said Tuesday he would ask that an airport assistant manager be named to field late night complaints about excessively loud planes that keep people awake in the neighborhood, which he charged operate between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"Now when you call, you get a tape machine," Portnoy said.

Michael Berman, a spokesman for a Harmony Village group opposing the expansion, said planes were literally rattling windows near his home.

"They're coming in extremely low, and taking off and landing at all hours of the day and night," he charged. "If they took a decibel test on my patio, they'd find it definitely exceeds the standards."

He said he would ask airport officials to provide written proof that planes are complying with noise regulations. He added he might commission an independent study of the issue.

"They're expecting to

bring in heavier and bigger planes," he said. "Bigger planes mean a bigger potential for accidents, and noise and air pollution.

Berman also expressed concern about reports that the facility's control tower was unmanned after midnight.

"It's all run out of O'Hare (International Airport) after that," he said. "When I hear about near collisions at O'Hare, I wonder how they're going to keep track of flights over here. . . We want tougher restrictions to preserve our property values and

far west as Elmhurst Road.

In planning to expand Palwaukee Airport, Sunde charged, the facility's officials "are trying to make the community compatible with the airport, when they should be making the airport compatible with the community."

Sunde said realigning the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads would bring flight patterns dangerously close to Holmes Junior High School.

"God forbid there should be a disaster," he said. "And Foxboro (apartment complex) will be right under it. It's unbelievable what they're doing."

Sunde said his views are shared by 60 to 70 percent of Prospect Heights residents.

Portnoy, meanwhile attributed the noisy flights to "a few disrespectful pilots." He said the problem has largely been ignored by the Palwaukee Airport Pilots' Association.

He also disputed a prediction by the group's spokesman, Barry Axelrod, that large numbers of pilots would take their business to other airports if the Palwaukee facility were not allowed to expand. Palwaukee pilots he's spoken too, Portnoy said, have told him the facility would be preferable to its competitors in Waukegan and Kenosha, Wisc., even without expansion because of its proximity to Chicago.

Axelrod disagreed. "There's a big push by both those airports to lure business from Palwaukee," he said Monday. "They've lengthened the airports, and they're putting in hangars. Several major corporations, and several of my friends, have pulled out."

Because of such defections, the number of planes using the facility has dropped from about 600 to approximately 450, he said.

The future for the communities of Prospect Heights and Wheeling looks kind of bleak

Warren Sunde

our way of life."

A similar theme was sounded by Prospect Heights Alderman Warren Sunde, who last week said the airport planned to accommodate 30,000 additional flights in five years, and 60,000 more in 10 years.

"It means the future for the communities of Prospect Heights and Wheeling looks kind of bleak," he said. "The noise is bad now for some areas. With added flights, it will be even worse there, and it will spread into others, as

# Rival airport plan grounded

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

A runway plan for Palwaukee Municipal Airport, proposed by a former pilot to minimize noise, appears unlikely to get off the ground.

Prospect Heights Alderman Warren Sunde said Friday neither he, fellow council members nor Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer could be expected to support the proposal, presented by Wheeling resident Lowell Stolerow to the Wheeling Village Board last week.

Both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which administer the airport through a commission of representatives from each two communities, would have to approve the plan, which calls for installing a runway on a line running roughly between the intersections of Wolf and Palatine roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz road.

Stolerow envisions the new runway replac-

ing one extending between the intersections of Hintz and Wolf Roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road.

Stolerow claims his plan would save between \$40 million and \$60 million by eliminating the need for several expansion measures the airport is now planning, including realigning the intersection of Hintz and Wolf Roads, building two bridges over a portion of a drainage ditch, removing trees north of Hintz near the Plum Creek apartment complex, and purchasing air rights from Plum Creek.

While it would divert flights over a forest preserve, thereby lowering the noise levels of flights above Wheeling, it would increase air traffic over Prospect Heights.

The Prospect Heights City Council backs the projects already being considered by the airport, according to Sunde.

# Crowd backs Wheeling police accreditation

By BOYD BOORR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-2-90

More than 15 people gave their support to the Wheeling Police Department's quest for national accreditation at a public hearing on Monday.

Assessors from the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. of Fairfax, Va., are inspecting the police department this week. They are checking to see that 829 standards for accreditation — ranging from the department's policy on affirmative action hiring to its procedures for search and seizure — have been met.

Residents, trustees, business owners and representatives from neighboring law enforcement agencies spoke to the professionalism of the department. "Accreditation will affirm that we have an ongoing commitment to providing our residents with service in a professional, sensitive, competent manner," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "The painstaking and thorough self-examination has been very important to the village."

Only 175 law-enforcement agencies nationwide have been able to meet the standards for accreditation set by the commission. More than 100 agencies in Illinois, including the Chicago Police Department, are working toward accreditation.

The assessors will remain in

Wheeling until Thursday night. They will finish checking the department files and ride with police officers, interviewing them about department procedure.

People wishing to comment on the police department's performance by phone may call 459-2640 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. today and speak with an assessor.

Deputy Chief Lacey King of Staunton, Va., leader of the assessment team, said two calls have been received so far.

He said that one of them was very positive, and while the other caller expressed some concerns about the department he also said that "the police department was doing a good job."

# Road relocation draws sparks from public

By BOYD BOORR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-5-90

Reaction to the realignment of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads was mixed Thursday at a public hearing held at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse in Wheeling.

While most of the more than 65 people who spoke at the hearing were against the relocation, several people — including citizens of Wheeling and Prospect Heights — supported the plan.

Under the plan, Hintz Road would be moved to the north and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection.

The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Margardt Drive and just west, slicing the Wolf Run Es-

lates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate left, Palwaukee Municipal Airport neighbors are concerned that the plan places the roads too close to their homes and destroys many area trees.

Plum Creek condominium resident Steve Wohlgemuth said that if the plan goes forward, his balcony will be right next to the road.

"I will go from having a beautiful view in a very serene area, to looking at a road," he said.

"Now I go home and it's calm and peaceful. What the airport is planning to do will destroy this."

Airport officials say that the road relocation is needed because the airport's longest runway ends too close to the intersection.

Another Plum Creek resident, Scott Rosenbhal, said that moving the intersection to within 50 feet of the condominium entrance will create too much traffic noise.

"I am for safety at the airport," he said.

"But not at the expense of increased traffic. They are moving the road too close."

However, Bruce L. Jacobson, consulting engineer for the environmental impact study of the relocation, said that a noise reduction would occur if the roads are moved.

"Hintz Road is moving closer to the condominiums," he said. "Wolf is the dominant traffic carrier and it moves farther away."

# Wheeling brings out big guns for hearing

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
The Wheeling police force brought its backers out in force Monday in an effort to earn national accreditation.

Law enforcement, civic, municipal, school and judicial officials, as well as private citizens, testified for an hour and a half to the professionalism and compassion they said was regularly displayed by Wheeling police officers and management personnel.

Among the approximately 20 speakers were George Nicosia, of the Cook County Sheriff's Department, Circuit Court Judge Howard Fink, and police chiefs from Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect and Palos Heights.

10-4-90  
Also backing accreditation were Village President Sheila Schultz, Village Manager Craig Anderson, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and Trustee Judy Abruscato, speaking as a representative of the Wheeling Lioness Club.

Four assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Services, Inc., took their testimony at a public hearing at the Village Hall as part of a wide-ranging evaluation of the Wheeling department's policies, procedures, management, operations and support services.

The commission is expected to act on Wheeling's accreditation request in November, according to Chief Michael Haeger.

Nicosia told the assessors that Wheeling police have always been there to lend assistance to his force in situations ranging from traffic offenses to vice and gambling cases.

Fink cited the honest, objective, and straightforward testimony of Wheeling officers in his Rolling Meadows courtroom.

"They're obviously disciplined and well prepared," he said.

Wheeling High School Associate Principal James Whittington, who is also a village trustee, said Wheeling police have exhibited compassion and sincerity for individuals and their families.

(Continued on page 22)

Along similar lines, Holmes Junior High School Principal Avrum Poster said, "I find them to be . . . much like the educators I work with . . . with the same sense of compassion."

"They reach out and touch kids and their families," he said, recalling a case in which a girl had been brutalized and kidnapped and another involving a runaway who did not speak English. He repeatedly praised police for focusing on remedial action, which he said was far more effective with children than punitive measures.

MacIsaac noted that timely action by police in disarming a man who had pulled a gun on paramedics "turned a very deadly situation into a positive result."

Linda Dawson, widow of Officer Ken Dawson, who was killed in the line of duty in 1985, said Wheeling officers had offered her and her family extraordinary support, including a contribution of over \$9,000, since her husband's death.

"It's five years later and they're my friends," she added.

# Weather key to bank's opening

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
When Household Bank officials were seeking permission to build a branch in Wheeling, a couple village trustees, concerned about traffic congestion, gave them a little heat.

Now the officials hope cold weather problems don't delay their plans to construct the facility at Dundee Road and Huntington with a six-lane drive-through.

Normally, the building would be finished within 120 to 150 days of its Oct. 2 ground breaking, Richard Lucas, vice-president and property manager, said Thursday.

"But that schedule might be extended if we have two feet of snow on the ground in December," he said.

Another official said the branch's services would reflect a family orientation.

"We aim our products and services there, rather than at corporations and big businesses," Bank Division President Charles Colip said.

According to Colip, Wheel-

ing has a high concentration of 25 to 55-year-old residents, with household incomes in the \$30,000 to \$60,000 range, making it a "model family community" to benefit from an increase in consumer accounts.

After her vote for approval broke a two to two Village Board tie on the construction plan in August, Village President Sheila Schultz had said she supported the bank in part because its non-commercial emphasis would serve a need in the village.

Trustees James Whittington and Elizabeth Hartmann had voted against the proposal, after questioning Lucas on the likelihood that vehicles entering and leaving the bank would create traffic problems.

Lucas maintained Thursday that a traffic signal he said is planned for Huntington and Dundee will "address any questions about anybody getting in and out."

With separate entrances and exits for the bank and drive-through, according to Lucas, the 6,200 square foot facility will generate nondisruptive, easy traffic patterns.

# Police look at hate rule

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
The Wheeling Police Department has instituted a policy aimed at reducing crimes motivated by bigotry.

Drafted to bring the department's procedures more closely in line with a state law awaiting Gov. James Thompson's signature, the policy specifies procedures officers must follow when investigating illegal activities aimed at members of ethnic, racial, or religious groups, as well as homosexuals and people with mental or physical disabilities.

Such "bias/hate crimes," as the policy calls them, "traumatize a community," Commander Eric Larson noted Friday. "But when they're handled properly, it can make the community stronger. We want to reaffirm that these things will

(Continued on page 19)

on page 5

"The whole spirit behind it is to generate sensitivity, particularly of police officers," Officer Tim Hillyer, who proposed the policy, said Friday.

Under the procedures, which went into effect Sept. 15, police must report bias/hate crimes immediately to watch supervisors, who may add patrols to affected areas.

Officers will also encourage owners of vandalized property to restore it quickly.

Physical evidence of such vandalism, like defaced religious symbols, burned crosses or graffiti, will be collected by evidence technicians.

In addition, investigators may seek assistance from, and exchange intelligence information with, other law enforcement agencies in serious cases.

Officers will also make follow-up visits to victims,

and apprise community leaders of progress in investigations.

Hillyer, who consulted the Chicago Anti-Defamation League in devising the policy, said that while he was not aware of any bias/hate crimes being committed in Wheeling, very disturbing activity of that type had recently occurred in nearby Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove.

Much of his motivation, according to Hillyer, 50, comes from historical patterns.

"I was only a child during the Holocaust, but I've done extensive reading about it," he explained. "I've never been able to understand why people victimize other people simply for what they are. . . It's been a continuing source of bewilderment to me my whole life long; the whole issue of bigotry."

"I can't help but believe, and I don't want to be pessimistic, that with the economic situation we're in now, we may have more of this (bias/hate crime activity) and not less. Forewarned is forearmed."

He added that as far as the department could determine, the Wheeling policy was the first of its kind in the state.

Larson said the department was proud that the procedures were initiated by a patrol officer, rather than a member of the force's management.

Under the proposed state law, Hillyer said, some offenses like battery could be prosecuted both as a battery and a bias/hate crime, with the latter, in some cases, constituting a felony.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Monday the village may consider creating an ordinance similar to the state legislation, or a resolution emphasizing its support for the police policy.

# FAA has final say on Palwaukee expansion

By DONNIE BLOTT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-6-90  
Although many people speaking against a plan to move the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads believe it is a done deal, the Federal Aviation Administration still has the final word.

"The FAA will read through all the testimony and then they will decide if there is a significant environmental impact," said Bruce L. Jacobson, head of the engineering team that conducted the environmental assessment. "If the impact is not significant, then the project will go into the next stage."

The next stage, he said, is for Palwaukee Municipal Airport to acquire the property needed to align the intersection. Jacobson said that testimony from the hearing and all written testimony will be compiled into one report. Engineers will then go through the report and answer any questions raised regarding the realignment.

Airport officials say the realignment, which would move the intersection further west of the airport, is needed because the longest runway ends too close to the intersection.

While people spoke at the hearing about issues ranging from airport noise to the rumored addition of 10 hangars at the airport, Jacobson said that only testimony about the environmental issues studied for the road realignment will be considered by the FAA.

"There are more than 30 issues that we took into consideration," Jacobson said. "Area flood plains, wetlands and noise are the main ones. We dealt only with the road issue. It is unrelated to the noise from planes coming out of the airport."

Written testimony is being accepted until Nov. 18. It should be sent to Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc., 2750 W. Washington St., Springfield, Ill.

"It will take a couple of months for us to get the testimony and our response put together with the study and sent to the FAA," he said. "We should know by February or March if the FAA approves the plan."

# Pilot looks to lawmakers

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

*Courtesy*  
Former pilot Lowell Stolerow hopes to generate legislative support for his plan to minimize noise at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

And the Plum Creek resident is disputing a contention by airport officials that the proposal is essentially the same as one rejected years ago as being unfeasible.

Stolerow's plan calls for the installation of a runway on a line running roughly between the intersections of Wolf and Palatine roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road. The new runway would replace one extending

between the intersections of Hintz and Wolf roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine road.

Stolerow claims his proposal would save between \$40 million and \$60 million by eliminating the need for several expansion measures the airport plans to implement, including realigning the intersection of Hintz and Wolf, building two bridges over a portion of a drainage ditch, removing trees north of Hintz near the Plum Creek apartment complex, and purchasing air rights from Plum Creek.

While it would divert flights over a forest preserve and an industrial area,

thereby lowering the noise levels of flights above Wheeling, it would increase air traffic over Prospect Heights, according to Stolerow.

Both communities, which administer the airport through a commission, would have to approve the plan, an occurrence Prospect Heights Alderman Warren Sunde has said is very unlikely.

Stolerow has conceded it will be hard to persuade Prospect Heights to accept the plan. In fact, he said Monday, "it would be an exercise in futility to look to the villages for relief."

He added, however, that he hoped to initiate a letter (Continued on page 21)

Continued from page 8

writing campaign aimed at encouraging U.S. Sens. Paul Simon and Alan Dixon, both Democrats, U.S. Rep. John Porter, the 10th district Republican, and state Rep. Grace Mary Stern, a Democrat from Glenview, to back his plan.

Stolerow added that he hoped to present his proposal at a public hearing on the environmental impact of the airport's expansion plan, scheduled from 2 p.m. through 8 p.m. today at the Chevy Chase Park Grand Ballroom.

## Centennial looking for volunteers

*Courtesy*  
The Wheeling 1994 Centennial Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 in the Village Hall council chambers, according to Village Trustee Elizabeth Hartman, a member of the group.

Hartman said the committee is seeking volunteers to work on the centennial project, the motto for which is "Glancing Back...Looking Ahead."

Persons interested in obtaining more information on the centennial may call Hartman at 537-2644.

# Brunswick bowling alley proposal revised

*10-7-90*  
Wheeling trustees will consider plans by Brunswick Corp. to build a bowling alley on Milwaukee Avenue when it meets Tuesday.

The proposed 38,065-square-foot building, which would be built just north of Mayer Avenue, would have 40 bowling lanes, a billiard room, lounge bar, snack bar, kitchen and lounge. There would also be a pro shop, game room, multipurpose room and an area for bleachers.

Trustees will consider a plan that is slightly different from the one ap-

proved by the village Plan Commission last month. The new plan reduces the number of game machines to four and sets the closing time for the billiard room at midnight.

The village also will request that Brunswick provide security at the bowling center during peak times without being asked by the Wheeling police and fire departments to do so. Plans call for 242 parking spaces, with space reserved for another 15 cars. Parking would be located in

front of the building, which would be set back from Milwaukee Avenue. The proposed center would have one entrance on Milwaukee Avenue. There would be one lane for cars coming into the bowling alley and two lanes for cars exiting onto Milwaukee Avenue.

By installing automatic pinsetters and state-of-the-art computerized scoring at the proposed center, it would be equipped to host national professional bowling tournaments. The center would be open from 9

to noon on Sunday, 9 to 1:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 to 2 a.m. on weekends.

### The top meeting

Who: The Wheeling Village Board  
Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 225 W. Dundee Road  
When: 8 p.m. Tuesday

# Wheeling planner maps out village's future

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Get one thing straight. Mark Janeck, Wheeling's new village planner, is no dreamer.

"Planners have been hit for dreaming too much and not understanding the development process," Janeck said. "It is my job to suggest changes for the village that are possible."

Janeck, who received a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin at Madison this year, was chosen from about 20 applicants for the position. The job became available last February, when Bob Sullivan left the village to take a job in Orland Park.

This is Janeck's first foray into public service.

"I wanted to understand the nature of development from the public sector angle," he said.

And he already has done a lot of homework, wasting no time in getting to know the village and its development issues, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

"He has learned the community pretty well already," Anderson said. "He has a good understanding of the development and redevelopment issues the community is facing."

Before coming to Wheeling, Janeck ran his own land planning consulting firm in Baltimore, Md., for five years.

As Wheeling's village planner, Janeck says he faces a different set of challenges than village planners of less developed municipalities.

"Wheeling is landlocked," he said. "The village is going to look the way it does now for a long time."



Village Planner Mark Janeck studies plans for the revamping of Milwaukee Avenue.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

But Janeck said he is working on forming a new perspective for the village's future — when he believes redevelopment will become a hot issue — by revising the village's five-year land-use plan.

The five-year plan is a vision of what the village would look like if it were developed exactly as village

officials would like. A revised plan should be finished in five months. But the plan, Janeck says, can only go as far as community development and private developers can take it.

"In a village like Wheeling, where most of the structures are 40 to 50 years old, redevelopment is more important than development," he

said. "Market pressure is going to be put on Wheeling for redevelopment."

Unlike surrounding communities, Wheeling has a good amount of affordable housing that it should try to preserve, Janeck says.

"The village should have an interest in keeping its housing affordable," he says.

# Wheeling police brace for Halloween mischief

10-11-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
While the specter of treatment tampering hasn't haunted Wheeling Halloweens in recent memory, minor vandalism has been enough to spook some residents, according to Wheeling Police Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop.

Police are encouraging Halloween activities that discourage kids from acting like

demons, she said, largely because pranks aren't always that harmless.

Even the instances of toilet paper tossed into trees, pumpkins smashed on sidewalks, eggs cracked against house siding and soap smeared across windows can cause great inconvenience for victims, especially the elderly, Kobishop pointed out.

"Vandalism is a mean thing to do because it

involves peoples' time to clean up," she observed. "Seniors may not have people who can clean up the messes for them. It rips my heart apart to think of a granny or grandpa trying to get toilet paper out of trees."

And the devilment can be costly in a literal sense, because it requires police attention.

"We do have to send officers out to investigate, more (Continued on page 16)

# Builder plans 39 homes

10-11-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
The Wheeling Village Board Monday gave preliminary approval to a plan to build 39 single-family homes on a site west of Wolf Road, between Meadow Lane and Mayer Avenue.

"If weather cooperates, we could move dirt this year," said Ira Frank, a representative of developer Joseph Freed and Associates. Foundations for the homes could be in place by next spring, he said.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the project would meet a need for single family homes in Wheeling.

The development would be called Picardy Place. Anderson said the plan, which would have 55 trees, would be preferable to others which had been discussed, including a proposal for multi-family townhomes.

Frank said a wetland portion of the site is not a true wetland with standing water.

Nevertheless, he said, property owners would be allowed to mow the grass on the wetland but not to otherwise improve it.

The development site is bordered on two sides by undeveloped residential zones, on another by single family homes, and on the fourth by "a moderately busy roadway" adjacent to properties zoned for industrial and business use, according to village staff.

Wolf Road and Sixth Street would enter into the subdivision.

Village Planner Mark Janeck told the village plan commission that traffic generated by the homes would, which would not have a detrimental impact on Wolf Road. The homes would sell for between \$175,00 and \$200,000.

In granting preliminary approval, the board agreed to change the property's zoning from an industrial and older type of residential classification.

often than not after the acts are committed when the odds of catching someone are slim and next to none," Kobishop said. "That's officers and cars that could be concentrating on other matters. It's tax dollars going down the drain."

Plans are already being made to increase the police presence in the village during Halloween's witching hours.

"We will have extra patrols, in unmarked, marked and semi-marked cars," Kobishop said. "We can't have too many eyes and ears out there."

She said she'd like to see the kids forego the tricks and treat themselves to produc-

tive activities, like joining in the annual Halloween Walk at the Shadow Bend subdivision on Milwaukee Avenue or the Park District's Spook Trail at Childerly Park.

Kobishop said parents should forbid children from entering any stranger's home or vehicle, and should instruct them to refrain from eating any treats that haven't been examined by their mothers or fathers. Parents should cut and wash fruit, and discard any unwrapped items.

If the safety of particular kinds of goodies is questionable, police can get answers from a Halloween Candy Hotline, established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Arlington, Va.

# Ball rolling for bowling alley

10-11-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
Wheeling residents could be bowling with the champs - or at least watching them firsthand - under a proposal the Village Board is expected to consider.

Leiserv Inc., a Brunswick Corporation company, has asked the board for permission to construct a 38,065 square foot bowling center, which could be the site of professional bowling tour matches and national tournaments, at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The proposal, originally on the agenda for the Monday's board meeting, was rescheduled at the request of Leiserv for another, as yet undetermined, meeting.

The center would include 40 lanes, a billiard room, liquor bar, snack bar, kitchen, lounge, food service area, pro shop, multi-purpose rooms and bleacher area.

The village plan commission recommended approval of the proposal, on the condition that Leiserv install a fence along the south side of the site, and plan for a left turn lane on Milwaukee

Avenue to accommodate vehicles entering the grounds.

According to projections based upon use of a similar center in Palatine, the Wheeling facility would increase northbound Milwaukee Avenue traffic by just 4 percent, and southbound traffic by 8 percent during peak evening travel hours. Recreational vehicles would be allowed to park in designated areas on the grounds during tournament play.

The center could "serve as an anchor for redevelopment" of the north end of an area commonly called the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor, according to village staff.

"If all goes well, and according to plan, it could be a prestigious kind of construction for Wheeling," Village Planner Mark Janeck said Tuesday.

In a report to the village board, Village Manager Craig Anderson also supported the plan. He added that village approval would be contingent upon the center providing security during peak hours of activity.

# Wheeling gives Wolf Road development a green light

By BONNIE BROTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board gave the go-ahead Monday to developers wanting to build a residential subdivision along Wolf Road.

Joseph Freed and Associates, of Wheeling, wants to build 39 homes on the 14-acre site, between Meadow Lane and Mayer Avenue.

Trustees approved changing the zoning on the land from industrial to residential so developers could move ahead with their plans to build homes ranging in price from \$175,000 to \$200,000.

Changing the zoning was in keeping with the village's current five-year comprehensive plan, a blueprint of what officials would like the village to look like, said Craig G. Anderson, village manager.

"We are really excited about this," Anderson said. "And obviously, from the trustees' vote, they are too. It is much more desirable than some of the other uses we have discussed for this site."

Lot sizes in the subdivision, called Picardy Place, will be around 7,000 square feet.

But four of the lots on the western edge of the development will be larger because they contain wetland registered on the National Wetland

Inventory. However, this land must be kept in its current state.

The proposed houses have full-size basements, fully equipped kitchens with microwave ovens, and colonial doors.

Freed and Associates hopes to begin building the houses next April, said Ira Frank, development director for the company.

He said that if all goes well the first model home will be open in May and construction would be completed on all homes by next August.

Access to the subdivision will be from entrances along Wolf Road and Sixth Street.

Daytime parking along the subdivision's cul-de-sacs will be permitted, unlike along other cul-de-sacs within the village.

However, following village ordinance, overnight parking will be prohibited.

Sat, Oct. 13, 1990

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Jeffery Ave. bridge to be repaired

Wheeling trustees have agreed to spend \$21,000 for repairs to the Jeffery Avenue bridge.

Village officials said that R&W Clark of Chicago was the only company interested in doing the patch work because many contractors are not interested in doing bridge repairs at this time of year. But village engineers checked their references and found them to be qualified to work on the bridge, which runs over the Wheeling drainage ditch just west of Wolf Road.

Work on the bridge, including repair of expansion joints, concrete beams, surface cracks and curb line pavement cracks, is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

The repairs are expected to take about one week. Although the bridge will remain open through most of the repairs, it will be closed for two days during the final stages, village officials said.

Bowling alley vote delayed until Monday

The village board did not get to vote on an expected proposal from Leiserv, Inc. to build a bowling alley at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a Leiserv representative called him Monday and

asked that his company's proposal be pulled from Monday's agenda and rescheduled for Monday's board meeting. No reason was given for the change, Anderson said.

Village takes on maintenance tasks

Trustees voted to take over responsibility for running and maintaining village roads and utilities at two new housing developments located in the village.

Village inspectors have certified that water, sewer, storm sewers, streets, sidewalks and street lighting are in good working order at Kingsport Village North subdivision and Arlington Club apartments and condominiums. Kingsport Village is on the east side of Schoenbeck Road, north of Hintz Road. The Arlington Club apartments and condominiums are east of Buffalo Grove Road and north of Dundee Road.

An agreement for the village to take over maintenance of roads and sidewalks built in new subdivisions is usually part of any agreement between the village and developers, said Robert D. Gray, Jr., director of operations and maintenance for the village. The developers put in the sidewalks, streets, sewers and lighting and maintain them for the first year. If there are no major problems, the village takes over after a year.

Manager search narrows

10-11-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The list of potential successors to former Assistant Village Manager David Kowal has been narrowed down to six candidates, who were expected to be interviewed this week, Village Manager Craig Anderson said Thursday.

Whoever succeeds Kowal, however, will probably not assume his new duties before the middle of November, Anderson added.

"We hope after the interviewing is done, we'll have a good idea of whom we want to hire," he said. "Ideally, I'd like to have someone here yesterday. It's a key posi-

tion."

Kowal resigned in August to accept a Northbrook post similar to the one he held in Wheeling.

Anderson said the village's cable franchise will probably be one of the first topics the new assistant will help review.

The cable question concerns a request by Telecommunication Inc. of Illinois to modify its 15-year franchise agreement with Wheeling, which expires in 1996, to allow a switch from a two cable to one cable system.

"We have some concerns about that," Anderson said. "The purpose of a dual system was to provide extra capacity, and redundancy in

the event of outages."

Before the village will consider accepting the change, "we have to be assured of better reliability with single cable, and better response to complaints and outages," he said.

As a condition for approving the switch, he said, the village may seek a guarantee that rates would not be increased for a specified period of time.

TCI General Manager Kelvin Fee said Thursday his company was likely to meet village concerns on the issue, and might propose a rate reduction of \$2.50 per month if the change is approved.

He added that TCI is seeking similar franchise modification. (Continued on page 16)

cations in other communities it serves, largely because of financial considerations.

"It's costing us more to maintain a second cable," he explained.

Those second cables have proved to be unnecessary because the demand for channels anticipated in the early 1980s has not materialized, according to Fee.

Besides the cable issue, the new assistant will also serve as a staff liaison, and

be involved in the village's recycling and refuse collection efforts, Anderson said, as well as helping prepare the budget and recruiting new employees.

He said village projects have not suffered while Kowal's old spot has gone unfilled.

"It's just meant everybody's been working longer and harder," he explained. "Everybody's been pitching in to get the job done."

Airport plans in holding pattern

Although the hearing was ostensibly on a road realignment, residents blasted Palwaukee Airport on a number of other complaints.

10-11-90

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Noise, safety, financial and pollution problems would result from a proposed Palwaukee Municipal Airport expansion plan, opponents of the proposal charged Thursday at a public hearing.

The session was technically called to assess the environmental impact of a plan to relocate the intersection of Hintz and Wolf

roads to a point about 750 feet west of its present position.

But speaker after speaker used the hearing to denounce the airport's overall plans, which also include building two bridges over a portion of a drainage ditch, removing trees north of Hintz Road near the Plum Creek apartment complex, and purchasing air rights from Plum Creek.

Many were afraid the airport's plans would lower their property values or destroy the serenity of their neighborhood.

"The present plan is going to trap us into the area," said Florence Pearlman, a resident of the Plum Creek apartment complex. "We will not be able to get out of or into the complex.

It's hazardous."

"When you get home, you feel the rest of the world is away from you," agreed Plum Creek resident Steve Wohlgmeth. "What they're planning to do will destroy everything Plum Creek is about."

The manager of a nearby apartment complex told the hearing panel he was concerned the project would make it more difficult to lease apartments in his building.

"Drive-by traffic is our best rental source," said James D. Meyerchick, manager of the Foxboro Apartments. "Nothing is as disturbing as being awakened by a jet screeching overhead."

"We have planes flying over our heads you could

probably hit with a baseball," said Thomas Jozsi, 1040 Carol Ave. "There's also the threat of accidents with increased air traffic."

Michael Berman, a member of the Harmony Village Town Home Association's board of directors, said vibrations caused by planes frequenting Palwaukee literally rattle windows in the area, and questioned airport officials as to whether they had considered alternative proposals like one proposed by former pilot Lowell Stolerow.

Stolerow's plan would include an alternate runway alignment that he says would save between \$40 million and \$60 million and divert flights over the forest

(Continued on page 13)

preserve. While lowering noise levels in Wheeling, the alternate plan would increase air traffic over Prospect Heights.

Wheeling has said it would study his plan, but Prospect Heights has opposed it. The two villages administer the airport through an intergovernmental commission.

A few of the speakers did address the actual road realignment proposal itself. Wheeling Trustee William Rogers, in a written statement, urged that the reloca-

tion be done in a way that does not ultimately increase traffic noise.

Rogers strongly suggested no property be destroyed as a result of road work, and objected to road barriers and the removal of trees. He asked that reconstruction of Wolf Road from Camp McDonald Road to Milwaukee Avenue be done concurrent with the intersection relocation.

But still other concerns focused more on airport operations than the road realignment or expansion

fears.

Bruce Portnoy, a member of the Wheeling Board of Health who testified as a private citizen, faulted the airport for failing to staff the control tower during late night hours, saying it was indicative of an "absentee management style."

He asked that the FAA require the facility to have a night operations manager. He also said the noise level at the airport was not being monitored to determine whether or not it was unhealthy.

Barry Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots' Association, disputed the idea that the airport's runway realignment plan was geared toward expansion.

"Nothing could be farther from the truth," Axelrod said. He said the plan is concerned with safety, efficiency and bringing Palwaukee in conformity with standards and guidelines necessary to receive federal and state aid.

The intersection reloca-

tion, according to Axelrod, will enhance safety by ensuring that a particular runway remains at a length necessary for proper landings and takeoffs. He contended that virtually no additional airplane noise would result from the relocation.

Axelrod noted that his group had instituted a "Good Neighbor Policy" in January, encouraging members to voluntarily reduce aircraft noise. He said car noise would be unlikely to increase.

# Wheeling-Mount Prospect fire pact on table

Wheeling trustees will consider entering into a second cooperative agreement with a neighboring fire department when it meets Monday.

Village officials are asking trustees to approve an agreement with the Mount Prospect Fire Department that is similar to the one it approved with Buffalo Grove in August.

The mutual aid agreement would allow the fire departments to assist each other in fire calls near the bor-

ders of the towns. It would go into effect as soon as both municipalities have approved the agreement.

Under the agreement, calls in areas of Wheeling that are closer to Mount Prospect would be answered by Mount Prospect firefighters and Wheeling firefighters would answer some Mount Prospect calls.

Back-up trucks would continue to assist each other on calls that one single department cannot handle alone. They would be immediately

dispatched when requested. Now, firefighters respond to calls, assess the situation and then request back-ups, which may cause delays.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the agreement represents the formalization of a handshake agreement that the two governments have had for more than 10 years.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac has said that these agreements will diminish the need for

more fire stations because the village will be able to use the services of neighboring communities.

## The top meeting

**Who:** The Wheeling Village Board

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 E. Dundee Road

**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

## Wheeling panel OK restaurant expansion

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission approved expansion plans for a Mexican restaurant Thursday.

The owner of Taqueria Alamo in Center Plaza, on the northwest corner of Wolf and Dundee roads, wants to double the size of the restaurant, adding a sit-down eating area that would serve up to 21 people.

The restaurant, which opened in May, offers only carryout service of tacos, burritos and other Mexican specialties.

In recommending approval of the expansion to the commission, Village Planner Mark Janeck said that there has been no increase in

traffic problems since the restaurant opened. Some neighbors have complained about customers littering the area with food packaging.

Restaurant owner Oralia M. Lumbraz said that customers have been eating the food in the lawn near the parking lot and papers have been blown away by the wind. She said that making inside seating available to her customers would eliminate the litter.

Some commissioners were concerned that increased business might cause a parking problem in the plaza. But Janeck said that the village required the owner of the plaza to put in 56 spaces when the plaza was built, and he installed 75. Although the restaurant, with

seating, would be required to provide additional parking spaces, there will still be some extra parking available.

Lumbraz also pointed out that a large number of her customers walk over from the Wolf Run Apartments next door and do not need parking.

If the village board approves the expansion, Lumbraz will take over the vacant storefront next door, leaving one vacancy in the 12-store plaza.

The restaurant now serves food daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Although Lumbraz will stay open on Fridays and Saturdays until 10 p.m. if she expands, she said that she did not expect the seating area to increase her business.

## Signs look good in accreditation

After many long months of preparation, the Wheeling Police Department is waiting to hear word on its accreditation request.

10-11-90

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
The head of the team which will initially evaluate the Wheeling Police Department's request for national accreditation said this week the force had met all the standards necessary for that recognition.

He stressed, however, that the final decision will not be his, but the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Services.

"Our function is to report to the commission," said Deputy Chief Lacy King, of the Staunton, Va., police department.

In his three years of helping assess accreditation requests, however, he said he has never witnessed the commission turn down a department that has met all the standards, which govern policies, procedures, management, operations and support services.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said Tuesday the department had met significantly more of the standards than required.

The evaluation team, which visited the village for several days in late September and early October, is expected to make its decision in November, following a hearing in Minneapolis that Wheeling police representatives will attend.

"They'll know if they've got it when they come out of that meeting," King said of the Wheeling officials.

He also spoke highly of the effort the Wheeling force made in seeking accreditation.

"I found the cooperation of all members of the Wheeling Police Department to be outstanding," he said. "They allowed us access to anything we requested. They were knowledgeable of their policies and procedures."

Police Chief Michael Haeger called the attempt at earning accreditation "a display of teamwork made with sincerity in caring about the department and the community."

King said he was also impressed with the support from village officials. Village President Sheila Schultz, Village Manager Craig Anderson, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and Trustee Judy Abruscato, speaking as a representative of the Wheeling Lioness Club, testified in favor of granting accreditation at a public hearing at the village hall.

Trustee James Whittington, the associate principal of Wheeling High School, also spoke on behalf of the department.

"I and the other team members found Wheeling to be a very clean community," King said. "That's an indicator of some good code enforcement."

"We certainly feel we have provided the basis for them to vote favorably," said O'Rourke.

The Wheeling force would be one of only 13 in the state to achieve that status, according to Haeger.

## Wheeling levy would hike property taxes

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling property owners can expect the portion of taxes they pay to the village to go up 24 percent next year if a proposed \$6.2 million levy is passed in November.

Trustees set the levy amount Monday night after learning that the village needed the additional money because of the uncertain future of the state's income tax surcharge. The village has received \$800,000 from the surcharge, set to expire June 30, 1991, this year.

"Last year we were able to reduce the levy because of the surcharge," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "So people

were paying less in property tax and more in income tax. This time they may end up paying more in property tax and less in income tax."

Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said that the village could abate part of the tax later in the year if the income tax surcharge is extended.

"You can reduce taxes later," he said. "But you can't raise them. It is prudent to say that the surcharge is not going to be extended and plan for that."

If the levy is passed, the tax rate will go up to \$1.16 per \$100 of assessed home value. But it will still be lower than the 1988 rate of \$1.50. The levy rate is now 96 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

At a rate of \$1.16, a Wheeling homeowner living in the average-priced house of \$100,280 would pay about \$278.42 in property taxes to the village.

The unknown future of the surcharge is only one of the reasons trustees are looking to a higher levy. Fialkowski said that the village's general fund needs will increase significantly next year, due partly to "natural growth in personnel expenditures."

The general fund is used mainly to pay for police and fire department services, administrative services of the village board, finance and community development.

Taxpayers are invited to a public hearing on Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. to address the levy.

## Wheeling pledges funds for ComEd study

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees have pledged financial support to a study that will research the relationship between the Northwest suburbs and Commonwealth Edison.

The Northwest Municipal Conference has asked its members to contribute to a \$150,000 study that will end in a model for franchise agreements between Commonwealth Edison and local municipalities. The agreement would serve to improve ComEd's quality of service and ensure that communities get the best financial deal possible from the utility company.

The cost for the study will be divided among all municipalities who wish to participate. Anderson said that he expects Wheeling's contribution to be about \$4,400.

Under Wheeling's power agreement, which expires in 2009, Commonwealth Edison provides free electric service to village buildings in exchange for an exclusive right to provide electricity for its residents.

"The free electricity is limited to municipal buildings," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Anderson also said that although the village has not had problems with Commonwealth Edison's service, he knows that surrounding communities, such as Arlington Heights, have.

But he said that he believes that the village should participate in the study "in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation."

"We should participate in the study so that we can find ways to make the service better," he said. "It could also help with renegotiation of our franchise agreement with Commonwealth Edison."

More than 17 communities, including Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village and Mount Prospect, have pledged support.

Anderson said that the Northwest Municipal Conference became interested in the study when it learned that the city of Chicago receives a percentage of the utility company's profits as part of its franchise agreement.

# Koeppen Farm nearing last harvest

Thurs., Oct. 18, 1990

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When the Koeppen Farm vegetable stand closes for the season shortly after Halloween, it could mark the end of an era for the family that has farmed the land for more than 75 years.

The stand, at 327 W. Dundee Road, has opened every July since 1929 with an array of mouth-watering summer vegetables — tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers and zucchini — that make summer a good-eating season for people all over the Northwest suburbs.

But 15-year-old Greg Koeppen, proprietor of the vegetable stand for the last three years, said that sweet corn, one of the most difficult vegetables to grow, is the vegetable that keeps customers coming back.

"You only get one or two ears per stalk, if you're lucky," Koeppen said. "Sometimes you don't get any."

He said that people have packed up his sweet corn and shipped it to Minnesota, California and Hawaii. Local companies also buy dozens of ears for company picnics.

"We have some regular customers from Wisconsin and a lot from Chicago," he said.

The farmstand and the field that supplies the vegetables are sandwiched between Wheeling Village Hall and Wickes Furniture on Dundee Road. Across the street, traffic moves steadily in and out of the Wheeling Post Office. Bright-colored flags hung around the frame of the farmstand catch the eyes of passing motorists.

"We really enjoy having the farm right next to village hall," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.



Greg Koeppen bags sweet corn at the Koeppen farm stand on Dundee Road. Sweet corn is the stand's most popular item, attracting customers from as far away as Hawaii.

Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

"You can look out the window and see the corn growing or walk over and get fresh vegetables. It is kind of a mark of distinction for the village."

Over the years, the Koeppen family has warily eyed the development around them, knowing that sooner or later, they would be forced to move off the land they have called home for nearly a quarter of a century.

The family's fears were realized last June when the Wheeling Park District purchased the last bit of the

farm from Wickes.

Ultimately, the park district plans to demolish the stand and the house and barn behind it to build an outdoor aquatic area and a community recreational center.

The park district purchased the land for \$1 million. Officials say plans for the land include a pool and a community recreation center. But no plans will be finalized until after a park planner that will be hired by the district later this year makes recommendations for all of the dis-

trict's property.

The park district paid for the land by using \$300,000 of a \$570,000 loan taken out last year and financing the remaining \$700,000 through a new four-year loan. Park officials estimate they will pay \$75,000 in interest over four years.

The recreation center would include a multi-purpose gymnasium, running track, meeting rooms for community groups and classrooms.

See FARM on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

for the district's pre-school program, which now operate out of the Community Church at Chamber Park. The center would also house all park district administrative offices, now located at Chevy Chase Clubhouse on Milwaukee Avenue, north of Lake-Cook Road.

But officials are still uncertain as to when construction will begin and, in turn, when the Koeppen farm will be demolished.

"We don't know yet how things will progress," park district Manager Karop Bavougin said. "The farmstand could be around next year, or it could not."

Uncertainty is not new to the Koeppen family. Although they have farmed the land, which once stretched along Dundee Road from Wolf Road on the east to the railroad tracks just west of Wickes Furniture for 75 years, they have never owned it.

Four generations of Koeppens

have watched the farm dwindle from 115 acres to the 18.5 acres bought by the park district.

Koeppen's grandparents, Andrew and Erna Koeppen, are the last Koeppens to live in the farmhouse. Greg and his family live in Wheeling.

"My grandpa was born in the bedroom he sleeps in now," Koeppen said.

When Andrew Koeppen took over farming the land from his father in the early 1950s, the farm was still a full-fledged operation, with chickens, cows and horses. But as the land was slowly sold off, farm operations were scaled back until only the vegetable stand remained.

It seemed only natural for Greg to take over running the farmstand when he got old enough. He had been spending time at the stand since he was three years old.

"Some of our regular customers have watched me grow up," he said. "They know me by name. I enjoy talking with them."

Koeppen does not receive an hour-

ly wage for selling vegetables.

"I do it for fun," he said. "It is something to do during the summer. I'm probably not your typical 15-year-old boy. I am a farmer and a suburbanite."

Although Koeppen's farming days, at least on this farm, are soon to be over, his memories of the farmstand that he is very proud of will live on.

"It is a real family business," he said. "Everything is grown here, picked here and sold here."

Koeppen said he hopes his family will buy farm land elsewhere so that he can continue to farm. His family has known for years that their days along Dundee Road were numbered.

"We knew it would be sold sometime," he said. "Every year, we wonder if it is our last. I don't think it has hit me yet. When it goes, I will be really upset."

"But," he added, "I'm happy it was the park district that bought it. I'm happy that the land will be turned into a park and not more offices."

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### 10/17/90 Development director to join Rotary Club

Trustees voted to spend \$800 so that Community Development Director Michael Klitzke can join the Wheeling Rotary Club.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the Rotary has expressed an interest in having someone from the village join the group and that scheduling conflicts prevent him from attending the meetings.

"Mike is the ideal person for this," Anderson said. "Rotary members are typically business people interested in the business and economic life of the village and Mike is the

best person to answer those questions."

### Heritage Park bridge to be replaced

Village officials agreed to split the \$68,000 cost of replacing the Heritage Park service bridge with the Wheeling Park District.

The bridge, built in the early 1900s, crosses the Wheeling Drainage Ditch behind the Heritage Park Recreation Center. It is used by pedestrians and by village and park district vehicles.

Gale Construction of Lemont will install the new metal bridge in two

parts in about two months. The company will tear down the existing structure after the new one is up and working.

### Fire department agreement formalized

Wheeling trustees have authorized the fire department to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Mount Prospect Fire Department.

Under the agreement, the two departments will assist each other with fire calls near the borders of the towns. Wheeling firefighters will cover the area of Mount Prospect that is bordered by Camp McDonald

Road on the south, Old Willow Road on the north, Wolf Road on the east and Milwaukee Avenue on the east.

In return, Mount Prospect firefighters will respond to Wheeling calls in the area of the village that is bordered by Old Willow Road on the south, Palatine Road on the north, the Wisconsin Central Ry. tracks on the west and Milwaukee Avenue on the east.

The agreement formalizes a handshake agreement that the two governments have had for more than 10 years.

Mount Prospect officials are expected to vote on the agreement next week.

# Tax bills could soar 20 percent

Taxpayers, prepare to open those pocketbooks. Wheeling's 1990 levy could increase taxpayer bills by about 20 percent.

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

10-18-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
Anticipating a likely loss of state revenue, Wheeling officials are proposing a 1990 tax levy which could raise the average taxpayer's bill about 20 percent over last year's.

There could, however, also be several tax abatements under the plan.

Director of Finance Robert Fialkowski said Monday that while the levy had been reduced last year, thanks to a state income tax surcharge that brought additional monies to the village, "this year is quite a different story."

Officials are proposing a \$6.2 million 1990 levy, an increase of \$1.8 million from the \$4.4 million levy last year. Abatements could lower

the 1990 levy to \$5.5 million, though, according to staff documents.

The final tax levy, with abatement, would be 23.99 percent higher than last year's, Fialkowski said.

Assuming a three percent increase in equalized assessed valuation, the tax rate would rise to \$1.16 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation from about 97 cents.

"This is still substantially below the tax rates in the years prior to 1989," according to Fialkowski.

The temporary state tax surcharge is expected to expire on June 3 of next year.

With the surcharge's renewal in jeopardy, Fialkowski said the village should seek revenue to compensate for the potential loss through a higher tax levy.

"If, in the spring, the village's portion of the tax (surcharge) is extended, we could review the levy to determine if an abatement would be possible," Fialkowski wrote in a report to the village

board.

In addition, Fialkowski said Monday, expenses have increased significantly, and are expected to outpace the growth in revenues from the sales tax, village fees and other income sources.

Personnel costs, particularly in the police department, have risen appreciably, and there has been a "general increase in the cost of business," he noted.

Fialkowski also recommended that the village abate some taxes levied to retire general obligation bonds, and pay debts.

If the surcharge is extended, according to Fialkowski, the village should also consider eliminating a requirement that residents purchase vehicle stickers.

A public hearing on the issue will be held Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Fialkowski added that the village's diversified tax base might help it during a widely predicted national economic downturn. "There's no one big generator which, if it goes away, (leaves us) in trouble," he said of Wheeling businesses.

## Wheeling joins in power play

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

10-18-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
Wheeling has plugged into an effort to give suburbs greater control over their electric service.

The Village Board voted unanimously Monday to join in the Northwest Municipal Conference Franchise Research Project, a wide-ranging venture which might ultimately result in a model ordinance governing how Commonwealth Edison supplies electric power to all its suburban customers.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Wheeling would benefit by participation in the project even though the village's franchise with Edison does not expire until 2009. The project is expected to focus on the quality of electrical service, the duration, provision and advantages of current franchise agreements with the power company, and the adaptability of those covenants to technological changes.

Anderson said a primary concern of the village is preserving its right to exercise authority over right-of-ways used by the utility

under the franchise.

Wheeling receives free electrical service in its municipal buildings in return for granting the company use of those right-of-ways, Anderson said. Edison placed a value of \$80,000 on that free service for 1988, he said.

He added that Inverness was unable to satisfactorily renegotiate its franchise with the utility and is currently paying for electricity at its village hall.

An NWMC report says the project will examine ways to renegotiate existing agreements, and "judge what alternative options might be available," including shorter contract lengths.

The 50 year length of most Edison franchises "not only fails to recognize the complexity of the issues involved, but it gives away the rights of future (village) boards to seek a more favorable or equitable situation," the report says.

Wheeling's participation in the project will be offered "in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation," rather than as a reaction to the quality of Edison service in the village, Anderson said.

## Wheeling files suit over county sign ruling

10/23/90  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board has filed a lawsuit against the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals in an effort to prevent another billboard from going up along Dundee Road.

The suit claims the zoning board did not follow its own rules in granting the request of Royal Outdoor Advertising Company of Chicago to put up a sign that is slightly larger than county regulations permit. Royal Outdoor Advertising wants to put the sign up just north of Dundee Road on property owned by the Wisconsin Central Railroad. Even though the land is surrounded by Wheeling it is in un-

incorporated Cook County.

The railroad's property, approximately 100 feet on either side of the tracks, has never been annexed into the village.

"Only this portion, north of Dundee Road, is unannexed," said James Lucansky, attorney for the village. "It ends up with the village not being able to affect what goes on there."

Village officials have several concerns about locating a billboard in that spot, including the fact another billboard is already in place less than 2,000 feet from where Royal wants to place their sign.

The county zoning board gave Royal permission to increase the width of their sign to 36 feet, from

35 feet. This will increase the sign's size to 756 square feet from 627 square feet.

Lucansky said Royal needed to prove its compliance with eight different standards set by Cook County in order for normal regulations to be waived. These standards included proving that increasing the size of the sign would not adversely affect the property's value or create a problem for neighboring property owners.

"Facts supporting these findings must be introduced," he said. "The board said that they complied but they didn't say how, shortcutting the regular process."

Cook County officials were unaware Tuesday the lawsuit had been filed and would not comment

## Bowling alley delay

10-18-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE  
The firm that has proposed a multi-featured bowling facility in Wheeling is buying time to work out the details of purchasing the necessary property, company officials said this week.

Leiserv Inc. plans to build a 38,065 square foot center including a billiard room, liquor bar, kitchen, pro shop and multipurpose rooms at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave. It would be a potential host for professional bowling tour matches and national tournaments.

The Village Board intended to consider the plan last week, but postponed action at the request of Leiserv, a Brunswick Corporation company.

"We just need the legal

people to fine tune the contract" with the owners of the site, said Hank Harris, Leiserv's vice-president of service operations. "We're still in negotiations and we need to iron out some things."

Harris said the delay did not mean the project was in jeopardy.

"We haven't stopped working on it," he said. "We're all set on the design."

But Harris said Leiserv and the village still needed to discuss some elements of the plan, such as hours of operation. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village might ask the billiard room to close by midnight.

"I don't know that that's a big issue," though, he said.

Anderson said Leiserv could have the entire question put back on the agenda whenever they are ready.



Bill Oakes/Pioneer Press

## Red Ribbon

Shawn Aberman, an 8th grader at Holmes Jr. High, posts a sign on Dundee Road for Red Ribbon week, commemorating the murder of a federal drug agent in Mexico.

# Mutual aid pact brings fire help

After recently approving a mutual aid pact with one neighbor, the Wheeling Fire department has signed another with Mount Prospect and is considering Northbrook.

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

A mutual assistance agreement which has been adopted by Wheeling and Mount Prospect will expand the area within the village in which Mount Prospect firefighters will come to the aid of their Wheeling colleagues.

The pact formalizes an arrangement that has actually been in effect for over a decade, and expands the territory covered, according to Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

Under the pact, approved unanimously by the Wheeling Village Board earlier this month and by Mount Prospect last week, the Wheeling department could ask the Mount Prospect department for help answering calls in an area bounded by Old Willow Road on the south, Palatine Road on the

north, the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks on the west, and Milwaukee Avenue and River Road on the east.

Business areas south of Palatine Road and between Wolf Road and the railroad tracks were not part of the previous "handshake" agreement between the villages, MacIsaac explained.

For its part, Wheeling would respond if asked to calls in Mount Prospect bounded by Camp McDonald Road on the south, Old Willow Road on the north, Wolf Road on the west, and Milwaukee Avenue and River Road on the east.

The two departments will train with each other four times each year.

Either community could terminate the assistance arrangement 60 days after notifying the other in writing of its intention to do so.

A similar, formal pact with Buffalo Grove has been in effect for about a month.

MacIsaac also said Wheeling is considering entering into a mutual aid agreement with Northbrook, "contingent upon their building an additional (fire department) building so that it's not just helping them."

# 911 fee prompts inquiries

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Illinois Bell's telephones have been ringing a little more frequently recently, as Wheeling residents call to ask why they've been paying 75 cents a month since March for an enhanced 911 emergency system that has yet to be implemented.

"Collecting money in advance is necessary to purchase and install the special equipment needed," explained Peggy Bremner, community relations manager for the company.

Village Manager Craig Anderson added that accumulating a data base for the system is necessary, and has contributed to a "substantial cost." The system is expected to be operational by July of next year.

Bremner said her company had received "many" inquiries on the issue. She said equipping the network, installing circuits and developing a master street address guide are all time consuming operations.

The latter task, in particular, is "most critical," she said. "Maps, election guides, tax records and census files are used to build the master guide."

Street and address data from municipalities, the telephone company and the post office must be compared for accuracy and differences investigated and resolved, she said.

(Continued on page 13)

"In a state like Illinois, which contains more than 2,500 emergency service agencies, including 750 police departments, 1,300 fire departments and 600 ambulance services, coordination is a major undertaking," she said.

Illinois Bell has evidently been hit with the brunt of questions about the 911 fees. According to Anderson, no more than two people have complained to the village about the monthly charge.

Anderson said he feels most residents are not upset about the charge. He noted that voters approved the installation of the system, with its monthly charge, by nearly a three to one margin in an April 1989 referendum.

"Rather than raising property taxes, or something of that nature, which theoretically we could do, we felt the way to do it was through the surcharge," he explained.

That surcharge will ultimately buy a technology which will allow the police department to determine the name, address and telephone number of anyone placing emergency calls.

"This allows the dispatcher to locate the caller if the caller cannot talk or hangs up before giving the address," Bremner explained.

# Alderman seeks FAA plan review

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Prospect Heights Alderman Warren Sunde has asked the Federal Aviation Administration to determine whether a controversial Palwaukee Municipal Airport expansion plan would create environmental and safety problems.

In a letter to the agency obtained by Pioneer Press, Sunde said the expansion

## AIRPORT

plan would cause planes to fly closer to the Foxboro Apartments and Holmes Junior High School in Wheeling.

"This cannot be tolerated," Sunde, a longtime opponent of the proposal, said Tuesday. "The loss of even one valuable life is more important than money saved by disregarding other, safer plans."

The proposal would also attract more planes to Palwaukee, thereby increasing the frequency of flights and the level of airport noise in

the area, according to Sunde. Moreover, he maintained, because a proposed hangar for corporate aircraft would accommodate jets, rather than propeller planes, "the whole character of this airport will be changed."

"I ask that this project be delayed until the entire environmental impact of increased flight operations, and change of propeller to jet mix... (is) examined and assessed," Sunde said. "In the meantime, I would request a closer examination of safer and less noisy alternatives."

Those might include either a reduction in runway length or an alternative runway reconfiguration listed in an environmental impact study, according to Sunde.

FAA spokeswoman Jerri Horst, meanwhile, said her agency had not received Sunde's letter. She said it might have been forwarded to an airport consultant, who was expected to ultimately send it and other pertinent material to the FAA for

(Continued on page 13)

Sunde has opposed one alternative runway alignment, proposed by former pilot Lowell Stolerow, on the grounds that it would send more planes over Mount Prospect.

Under Stolerow's plan, a runway would be installed on a line running roughly between the intersection of Wolf and Palatine roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road. The new runway would replace one extending between the intersections of Hintz and Wolf roads, and Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road.

Stolerow contends his plan would save between \$40 million and \$60 million by eliminating the need for several expansion measures the airport hopes to implement, including the realignment of the intersections of Hintz and Wolf roads, building of two bridges over a portion of a drainage ditch, removal of trees north of Hintz near the Plum Creek apartment complex, and purchase of air rights from Plum Creek.

## Drop-off sites

Several area service stations are volunteering to be collection sites for do-it-yourselfers to drop off the oil they have drained from their cars. Up to 5 gallons of oil, in capped containers, will be accepted. Improper disposal damages the environment because of the release of petroleum hydrocarbons.



Felicia McGurran / Pioneer Press

# Local stations to recycle oil

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

Dumping used engine oil down sewers or into the ground is far from slick, officials from Wheeling and The Amoco Corporation agree.

Several northwest suburban Amoco stations have decided to join a program to recycle used engine oil, as the Middle East crisis continues to drive up fuel prices and turn the country's attention to its own fuel resources.

According to Amoco Area Advisor Howard Miller, 160 of the corporation's full-service facilities in the greater Chicago metropolitan area began collecting motor oil from residents last month, with the combined goal of turning the used oil into useful products and stemming the improper dumping of motor oil into the environment.

Two stations in Wheeling, two in Schaumburg and one in Wauconda have joined in the voluntary program, Miller said.

"It's going to mean extra work for them, but they see

it as doing their part," he said.

Oil brought in by do-it-yourself oil changers is collected, then shipped to Amoco's refinery in Whiting, Ind., where it is used to fuel the plant's furnaces. But Amoco officials are hoping to soon be able to recycle the oil into other fuel products.

"Researchers are working feverishly to see if it can be reprocessed into other petroleum products," Miller said.

In Wheeling, up to five gallons of oil at a time may be taken, in capped containers, to Dundee-Wolf Amoco, and Gene's Standard, at Elmhurst and Hintz roads.

Doing his part is actually costing Bob Boho, owner of Dundee-Wolf Amoco. Because much of the old oil left with him is contaminated, he must have it hauled away at his own expense, Boho said Friday.

Boho, actually, had been recycling oil at the station before the Amoco program's inception. "My reason then was the same as it is now," he explained. "If I don't accept it, who is going to?"

"It's an inconvenience, but everybody's got to do the best he can to protect the environment."

(Continued on page 24)



## Oil Continued from page 8

### Home oil change

About two-thirds of the 600 million gallons of motor oil drained from crankcases each year in the United States is drained by amateur "do-it-yourselfers," according to Miller. Almost 240 million gallons is improperly dumped, sometimes into landfills.

"They throw it in gallon jugs and hope it gets picked up," he said. Such improper disposal damages the environment because of petroleum hydrocarbons.

Consequently, the village of Wheeling has come out in support of the program wholeheartedly.

"Motor oil is a pollutant," Village Manager Craig Anderson stressed last week. "We don't want it in either the storm sewers or the sanitary sewers. It's a health hazard."

"It's good a company has taken it upon itself to make sites available" for oil disposal, he said.

Village President Sheila Schultz agreed. "It will probably prevent some oil from being dumped down sewers," she told village trustees recently.

Schultz added that over the past several years, many residents had asked the village where they could appro-

priately dispose of motor oil.

But because of a scarcity of such locations, "we didn't have much information to give them," Anderson said.

### Evolving program

Miller said Amoco's effort has nothing to do with the negative publicity oil companies have received of late because of the current rise in fuel prices.

"This program started in April in central Illinois and clearly preceded all that," he said. "It has not just come to our recognition that environmental issues are important."

"It's been evolving. We've been aware of the need to be concerned," he added.

Miller also stressed that his company expects to realize no financial gain from the venture. About 2,500 gallons of oil have been collected so far in the area. "If it were on a profit and loss basis, Amoco would not be in this," he said.

"It's the right thing to do. Americans have no idea of the impact improper dumping creates."

Amoco is also offering the recycling service in St. Louis, southern Illinois and Lake County, Indiana, and may expand it. "Consumer reaction has been extremely positive," Miller said.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling fire pact talks go to arbitrator

10-27-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Last-ditch efforts by the village of Wheeling and its firefighters to reach a contract agreement have failed, leaving both sides to prepare for their first meeting Monday with an arbitrator.

Although the two sides agreed in August to enter into arbitration, they have continued to negotiate on the more than 24 unresolved issues still facing them in hopes of avoiding the measure.

But final proposals by both sides have been unsuccessful, and the one thing they seem to agree on is that time has run out.

"We haven't got time for a lot of discussion," said Bart Burns, pres-

ident of the firefighters union.

"But if they have any new ideas, we will consider them."

The village, however, will wait and present its case to the arbitrator.

"Nothing is beyond the realm of possibility," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "But as far as I am concerned, we are going to arbitration. If nothing else, time is running short."

Anderson said that most of the talks conducted over the past several weeks have been "off the record," meaning that neither party can be held to what they have offered.

"If an agreement had been reached, great," he said. "But neither party is obligated to what

they said in those meetings now."

Firefighters have been working without a contract since 1986, when they sought to include lieutenants in their union.

Wheeling refused to negotiate with the lieutenants, but the Illinois Supreme Court decided in the firefighters' favor last April.

Both sides are preparing final proposals to be submitted to arbitrator Lamont Stallworth. Stallworth is a professor of industrial relations at Loyola University and has settled contract disputes for 15 years.

He will choose the village's or the firefighters' final offer on any economic issue, but he may fashion his own awards on any issue unrelated to money.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### 'Miraculous' turn gives firefighters new pact

10-31-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A "miraculous" turn around in contract talks between the village of Wheeling and its firefighters has resulted in a tentative contract — a feat both sides considered next to impossible only a few days ago.

The agreement, which is expected to be ratified by firefighters Friday and village trustees on Monday, brings to an end discussions on all but one of the more than 30 issues that the two groups have debated for about five years.

"If you would have asked me last Friday morning if there was light at the end of the tunnel, I would have said no," Wheeling

Fire Chief Keith MacIssac said. "It looked really bleak, but by late Friday, we had an agreement. It happened really quickly."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that MacIssac and Bart Burns, president of the firefighters union, were willing to sit down with Village Attorney James A. Rhodes one more time late Friday. It was then that an agreement was finally reached. The two sides were scheduled to meet with a federal arbitrator Monday.

"I was surprised myself that it worked out," Anderson said. "I was sure that we were going to arbitration, but instead we have an agreement that both sides are willing to live with."

Informal talks between MacIs-

sacs and Burns began shortly after both sides agreed in late July to enter into arbitration. They brought their attorneys back into the discussions and by early October, agreement had been reached on 19 items.

The one unresolved issue revolves around control over changing work hours. MacIssac said that the village wants to be able to change shifts and then negotiate with the firefighters about the effects the change would have on topics such as holiday and vacation pay.

But Burns said that the firefighters believe that shift changes should be negotiated from the beginning.

# Transfer station foes to meet with officials

By VICKI SPEER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-31-90  
A citizens group seeking to block a regional garbage transfer station proposed near Des Plaines will try to persuade state officials today to lobby against the project.

The group, calling itself River First, has called a public meeting for Tuesday to discuss the station in hopes of showing county board members the extent of resident opposition to the project.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the headquarters of the Des Plaines chapter of the Izaak Walton League, 1841 River Road.

"If they don't want to hold a public hearing, we'll hold a public hearing, and hopefully it will get

back to them," said River First President Thomas Remsing, of unincorporated Wheeling Township.

River First has been in the forefront of furious opposition to a proposal by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County to build the \$9 million station on 49 acres northeast of River and Central roads in unincorporated Wheeling Township. SWANCC represents 26 north and northwest suburbs, including Des Plaines.

Garbage from 13 communities would be compacted and baled at the station, which is considered critical to SWANCC's plan to build a controversial baffle in unincorporated Hanover Township.

Cook County board members will consider the waste agency's request for zoning Nov. 19.

Opponents of the project, including the city of Des Plaines, have sought to persuade county commissioners either to deny that request or require another public hearing on the project. They argue the project would aggravate the area's flooding problems.

Fearing such efforts will fail, members of River First, composed of residents of Des Plaines, Mount Prospect and unincorporated Wheeling Township, hope to enlist the support of Gregory W. Baise, candidate for state treasurer, and state Rep. Penny Pullen.

SWANCC Executive Director William F. Abolt said the waste agency is willing to address residents' concerns. "Maybe this forum will give us an opportunity to do that. I don't know."

# Drill to burn cottages

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

11-1-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
The Wheeling Fire Department and officials at the Addolorata Villa Home for Aged Men and Women have a hot idea for disposing of four cottages at the facility: setting them ablaze.

An earlier proposal to donate one cottage to the Wheeling Historical Society went up in smoke two weeks ago after the Wheeling Park District, with which the society is affiliated, determined that it lacked the time and money necessary to move the structure to Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road.

The wooden cottages, most built in 1910 as part of the Childerley Home for Widows and Orphans, will be burned as part of a training exercise for firefighters, according to Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and Sister Pat Ferguson, administrative assistant at the Villa.

All eight one-story structures have to be destroyed to make room for new apartments, and, possibly, new cottages at the Villa, 555 McHenry Road.

MacIsaac said he cannot disclose when the drill will take place because part of the training exercise will involve testing firefighters' preparedness.

Sister Ferguson, however, emphasized that the procedure won't create an actual conflagration.

"It's not going to be a fire everyone's going to be standing on McHenry Road

looking at," she said. "Ninety percent of people won't know anyone is in there."

The historical society wanted one of the cottages to add to a "historical village" planned for Chamber Park, the present site of the Wheeling Historical Museum, Sicks Carriage House, and original Community Presbyterian Church.

But moving the cottages would have involved paying telephone, electric and cable companies to modify their wiring to allow the cottage to be transported underneath at certain locations, society spokesman Robert McIntyre said. The operation could have cost up to \$90,000.

Officials at the villa, operated by the Servite Sisters, ultimately withdrew their donation offer, according to park district director Karop Bavougian.

The historic society is still searching for a "suitable house from early Wheeling to round out the historical village," according to McIntyre.

He said the group has its eye on several structures that could potentially fulfill that function.

One is the Schneider House on north Milwaukee Avenue, built by Reinhold Schneider, Wheeling's first village clerk, McIntyre said. Another is the Kuffer House on south Milwaukee Avenue, where Birk's Supreme Beer was once bottled, and sold to local restaurants. Also possibilities are the Pieper House and Arnold House on south Milwaukee.

# Fire talks reach tentative accord

It has been a long time coming, but Wheeling firefighters have reached a tentative agreement with the village.

COUNTRYSIDE

By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

11-1-90  
The village and the union representing its firefighters have reached a tentative agreement on a contract after almost four years of sporadic negotiations.

The pact still leaves unresolved the manner in which work hours will be set, an issue both sides consider extremely important.

That question could be decided by an arbitrator if a compromise can't be reached by Nov. 28, according to Bart Burns, President of the Wheeling Firefighters' Association, and Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

The entire contract package, in fact, had been scheduled for arbitration Monday, but those sessions were canceled when the tentative arrangement was reached.

The agreement must still be ratified by the membership of the union and the village board before it becomes official. Neither Burns nor MacIsaac would comment at length on its specific provisions.

## Vacation days

Burns did say, however, that the pact covered approximately 30 issues, including grievance procedures and the scheduling of vacation days and holidays.

In addition, it would require that layoffs affect personnel "primarily by seniority and rank," he said.

He said the agreement provides that binding arbitration be used to resolve certain labor issues, a requirement that had not specifically been in force during contract talks. The village would have to negotiate any changes that impact working conditions.

For example, he said, if the department chose to

implement a physical fitness requirement, the union would have the right to bargain over what the standards would be.

Burns said MacIsaac's intervention in the negotiations as a negotiator and mediator was crucial to reaching the tentative arrangement.

"I really attribute the almost miraculous turnaround to Chief MacIsaac," he said. "There was a lack of understanding on both sides" prior to that, he said.

MacIsaac minimized his importance in the proceedings.

## Board review

"I don't view my presence as a turning point so much as my being able to get the appropriate parties in the same place and at the same time and discuss the issues," he said.

"Basically, I didn't accept the status quo," he added. MacIsaac became chief after the negotiations had begun. "I came in with an open mind, not historical practices and all the little personalities that are involved."

"It's an agreement both sides can live with," he said of the pact, which was expected to be voted on by the union membership Friday.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the contract, which would cover 38 firefighters, firefighter-paramedics, lieutenants and lieutenant-paramedics, would probably be reviewed by the Village Board Monday if the firefighters approve it.

Burns, meanwhile, said the work hours issue "boils down to legal and philosophical differences." The village, according to Burns, "wants the right to change hours without bargaining."

MacIsaac characterized it somewhat differently. He said the union insisted on a guarantee that firefighters would continue to work under the present shift system, which gives them 24 hours on duty, and 48 hours off.

# Palwaukee progress pleasing to manager

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

11-1-90  
COUNTRYSIDE  
Palwaukee Municipal Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said Tuesday he is pleased with the progress to date on the facility's expansion program.

"We'd like to do better," Stewart added. "But we've done better than we could realistically be expected to do."

That has included purchasing, or beginning condemnation proceedings against, all but one of the properties the airport determined several

years ago it would need to grow geographic, according to Stewart.

The airport has not been able to make purchase offers for land it later deemed necessary for expansion, however, according to Stewart. That's because being granted Federal Airport Improvement Program funding is contingent upon governmental acceptance of an environmental assessment of the purchase's impact.

"We are negotiating with the state on what the scope of the environmental assessment will be," Stewart said

Monday, at a joint meeting of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, the Wheeling Village Board and the Prospect Heights City Council held at the Ramada Inn in Northbrook.

In general, the assessment would determine the environmental impact of a proposed redesign of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads, which airport officials say will enhance runway safety.

"We're not real land hungry," Stewart said. "Any airport would like to have a great deal of land."

"But we know we have

limits placed upon us by the surrounding communities. We're not going to move into residential areas of Wheeling... or jump over Palatine Road."

Palatine Road forms one of the geographical borders of the facility, along with Milwaukee Avenue, and Hintz and Wolf roads. Stewart also noted that condemnation proceedings can be lengthy, with attorneys for property owners typically asking for delays.

"Tactically, they ask the judge for extensions," he explained. "Because his case load is so horrendous, he always allows it. This goes on

for two or three years." Stewart appeared to partly sympathize with owners of property the facility seeks to acquire.

"If everyone accepted our first proposal, and said, 'We'll sell, we'd meet our schedule,' he said. "But we can't realistically expect them to do that."

On another issue, Stewart said the airport planned to demolish 31 hangars, which he termed "eyesores," and hoped to paint 39 which will remain standing for at least five years. The latter would ultimately be replaced with new hangars.

# Wheeling mulls extending liquor license

11-6-90

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees have asked village staff to look into granting a two-year liquor license extension to Hein's Pub, 141 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The license, permitting restaurant and bar use, was set to expire Dec. 14.

Although village staff had agreed to permit packaged liquor sales to continue, shopping center owner Howard Kagay said a packaged liquor business would not survive in that location.

Craig Anderson, village manager, recommended to trustees that they let the liquor license and a special use permit expire forcing

the restaurant to close its doors because the restaurant, and the shopping center it is in, are not in compliance with village requirements for parking spaces.

But Kagay, owner of the shopping center at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., said that he would go bankrupt if the restaurant closed and asked trustees to consider the extension so that he could attempt to purchase the property directly north of the shopping center for additional parking.

Kagay said that he has been trying to lease the restaurant space for the past year and has had no takers.

"Faced with a boarded up building now or one two years from

now with the chance that something might happen in between, I am willing to take the chance," Trustee James Whittington said.

The property is being studied by the Illinois Department of Transportation for the widening of Milwaukee Avenue, Kagay said, making it difficult to rent.

"I can't sit down with a tenant now and tell him what is going to happen," Kagay said. "I need help until IDOT's plans are finalized."

"It is to the benefit of the village to help investors and developers because it helps the town," he added. "Sometimes you need to give a developer a break."

Village staff will bring finalized documents to the Nov. 19 village board meeting for a vote.

# Wheeling, firefighters approve 3-year pact

11-7-90

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have unanimously ratified an agreement with village firefighters, bringing four years of contract talks to an end.

The agreement includes new provisions for holiday pay, a retroactive wage package and a clause that enables the village to keep most of its management rights. The package also brings health insurance coverage for firefighters up to par with other village employees. Firefighters have been paying a portion of their standard health insurance, but under the agreement, the full tab will be paid by the village. Any village employee wishing to join a health maintenance organization must pay a portion of the costs.

"In terms of significance for the village, the preservation of the management rights clause was probably most important," Craig G. Anderson, village manager, said. "We still have an opportunity to provide guidance and direction."

The agreement was ratified by the firefighters union Friday. "A majority of the membership

ratified the contract," Bart Burns, president of the firefighters union, said.

The contract will become effective Thursday and run through April 30, 1993. It brings to an end discussion on all but one of the more than 30 issues that have separated the two groups, almost sending them to an arbitrator last week.

Burns said that Fire Chief Keith MacIssac was instrumental in negotiating the agreement.

"I want to give him credit," Burns said. "He really helped both sides to see the other sides' position more clearly."

The one unresolved issue revolves around control over changing work hours. MacIssac said that the village wants to be able to change work schedules and then negotiate with the firefighters about the effects the changes would have on benefits such as holiday and vacation pay.

Burns said that firefighters believe shift changes should be negotiated from the beginning.

Both sides will continue to negotiate on the issue and have agreed to see an arbitrator in late November if an agreement cannot be reached.

# Schultz: Single district's OK tops failed board bid

11-8-90

BY BETH WILSON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Confronted by her first political defeat in five elections, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said Wednesday she is disappointed to lose the race for Cook County Board, but views the passage of a single-district referendum as a more important victory.

"It (the referendum) has more impact on improving county government than any single race," said Schultz.

Unofficial vote totals show Schultz placed 10th, with 239,238 votes, in the race for seven suburban spots on the county board. She trailed Republican winner Allan C. Carr, who finished 7th, by about 20,000 votes.

The referendum's passage will allow voters to elect board members by district and effectively abolishes the at-large voting system. While suburban Republican board members were against the switch, Schultz, a Democrat, said the change will cause candidates to become more accountable for their actions. It may force county board hopefuls to discuss issues and campaign against each other instead of campaigning amid a 14-candidate field, Schultz said.

Consequently, she added, the system could rectify voter apathy and ignorance regarding the county board race — a problem that Schultz struggled with during her campaign.

"Suburbanites do not understand county government," she said. Nor do many know who their county board commissioners are or recognize their power, she added.



Sheila H. Schultz

Because of that, it was difficult for candidates to focus on specific issues, she said.

"There were no real forums," she said. "The exposure is just not there."

Schultz, who has won three elections for Wheeling Village President and one for village trustee, said she ran to improve the county board's accountability, comprehensive planning and its accessibility to the public.

Schultz said she has not decided if she will run for the office again.

"My political future is my political present," Schultz said, noting that she is content to hold her offices as Wheeling village president, president of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and vice president of the Illinois Municipal League among other positions.

"There's certainly enough to do," she said.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### President proclaims education week

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz has proclaimed Nov. 11-17 National Education Week in the village.

In presenting the certificate to Trustee James Whittington, associate principal at Wheeling High School, Schultz urged citizens to visit their schools, most of which will hold open house festivities in celebration of the week.

"So many of us don't have children in the school system anymore," she said. "This is the perfect opportunity for us to visit the schools."

### Restaurant gets OK for seating

Trustees approved plans for a Mexican restaurant, Taqueria Alamo, to add a seating section to its take-out service.

The restaurant, in Center Plaza on the northwest corner of Wolf and Dundee Roads, will add seating for up to 21 people. Village officials are hoping that customers, who have been forced to eat outside in the past, will take advantage of the seating. Some neighbors have complained about customers littering the area with food packaging.

### More vacation added to perks

Trustees voted to change the

vacation schedule for the assistant village manager, village attorney and department heads so that they are able to accumulate up to three weeks of vacation in their first year of employment with the village.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson, who has recently searched for a new fire chief and a new assistant village manager, said that he found the village's two-week vacation policy was not in line with the vacation benefits offered by most municipalities.

### Village to sue state revenue office

The village will join with 27 other municipalities in a lawsuit against the director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The suit challenges the right of the department to ignore the state's funding formula and distribute less sales tax to municipalities than required by state law.

Robert Fialkowski, village finance manager, estimated that Wheeling lost more than \$47,000 in the most recent sales tax allocation because of the way the distribution is figured.

Wheeling will kick in no more than \$5,000 to participate in the suit. Other municipalities who have joined the action include Elmhurst, Niles, Oak Park and Elgin.

## POLICE REPORT

# Police report calm Halloween

COUNTRYSIDE 11-8-90

While there were several incidents of minor vandalism over Halloween, the holiday was relatively tranquil, according to Wheeling Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop.

"This was an extremely mild Halloween," she said Tuesday. "There just wasn't a lot of goofiness going on."

"The turnout was unbelievable," Kobishop said of the event. "We're looking at ways to do it next year, maybe with a larger facility."

Kobishop also credited the annual Halloween parade in the Shadow Bend subdivision on Milwaukee Avenue, where candy was distributed the

It have no chips

Halloween night murder in Inverness.

# Increasing awareness of suburban gang activity

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Money and an unprepared, easy-to-prey-upon public are two of the main reasons that gangs are moving to the Northwest suburbs.

That explanation and advice on how to cope with the suburban gang presence was part of a "Gang Awareness Night" held by the Multi-Jurisdictional Gang Crimes Task Force Friday in Rolling Meadows.

More than 600 gang members have passed through the northwest suburbs in the past year, according to task force statistics. Cook County Sheriff's police figures place the number closer to 1,000. By passing through, police mean gang members that have been stopped for criminal activity in the area.

Currently, no clear number exists for how many gang members (known on the street as bangers or gang-bangers) live in this area.

The year-old task force is made up of police officers from Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Des Plaines, Prospect Heights, Wheeling and the Cook County Sheriff's office.

In an effort to reach out for public support and educate people about the growth of gangs in the area, the task force held the "Gang Awareness Night" Friday at the Cook County Courthouse in Rolling Meadows. More than 100 people attended.

"All efforts should be made to get rid of the gangs now before they get any larger," Mt. Prospect resident Michael Wexler said just prior to the meeting. "It isn't just enough to be aware of them. This is the time to see that they are eliminated from our communities."

A Palatine resident who attended the meeting and declined to give her name, said parents in the area should be concerned about the gang issue, but keep it in perspective.

"I can hardly believe what's going on around here," she said. "I don't think we need to panic and start moving out, but we have to do something about it."

## Gang crimes

Gangs are committing burglaries, selling drugs and recruiting new members in the suburbs. In some instances, police said they are finding gang members breaking into cars with shopping lists for specific types of radios, cassette players and other items commonly found

11-8-90  
in cars. Police said gang members can take advantage of suburbanites who are not as "street smart" as people living in the city.

In addition to the traditional male gangs, police said female gangs, like "little sister" organizations for gangs, also exist. The females often are used to carry weapons and drugs for their male counterparts, police said, because if they are stopped by a male police officer, no body search is allowed to take place.

Police officials likened the gang problem to an early stage of cancer that will only get worse if left untreated.

"This shouldn't be viewed as over dramatizing the situation," said Louis Sbarboro, a deputy sheriff with Cook

Local kids who are loners join the gangs. Kids become gang members to be tough.

Kevin O'Connell

County. "The problem is in the community. We, by becoming aware, can help our children make intelligent decisions."

## Become involved

Captain Robert Sturlini, a task force member from the Des Plaines Police Department, told the audience that police need help in fighting gangs. "It is everybody's problem. You have to become involved in your community. We're not going to let them intimidate us."

The existence of gangs, their social hierarchy and their dressing habits were highlighted by the gang task force at the meeting which was run by Detective Kevin O'Connell, a task force member from the Des Plaines Police Department.

While the police discussed close to a dozen gang names and the symbols used in their graffiti, they asked that this information be kept out of the newspaper because it tends to glorify the gang members and give them publicity which they crave.

O'Connell explained that the gangs aren't formed

among racial or ethnic lines. They are composed of kids who generally are under-achievers who have low self-esteem and want attention.

"Local kids who are loners join the gangs," O'Connell explained. "Kids become gang members to be tough."

Many of the alleged gang members are just "copycats," according to Sergeant Patrick McGee of the Cook County Sheriff's police gang crimes unit, which formed last month.

Local kids, in an effort to be "cool," will copy graffiti or flash gang symbols they have learned. This type of mimicry has led to shootings and even death in Chicago. The police warn that this isn't a game and children should never attempt to flash a gang symbol.

Gangs migrated to the suburbs along with the general population shift to this area. The northwest suburbs offer gang members avenues to money, drugs and new members, police explained.

However, they said that steps are being taken to curb gang growth and activity.

Police detectives from 28 municipalities meet monthly to share information about gang activity. Besides the Multi-Jurisdictional Gang Crimes Task Force, the county police department has formed a gang crimes unit.

That unit has 15 members and Sergeant Dennis Baker said the county police department is looking to double the size of the gang crimes staff.

In addition to gang crime units and regional meetings, police also are beginning to computerize gang information. By keeping records about gang activity, the police said they can track where the gangs are heading and who is involved with which gangs.

Parents can get involved with fighting gangs through the establishment of community-based task forces or school-based groups, police said. Mothers Against Gangs, a national group which has been in the Chicago area since 1987, is an educational group which works on keeping kids out of gangs.

# At last! Sides settle in talks

11-8-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The Village and the firefighters' union have finally reached an agreement, over four years in the making, that will give firefighters retroactive pay increases of 5 percent back to 1988.

And while neither side seems able to pinpoint why the process took so long, both are now anticipating smoother working and bargaining relationships.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and Wheeling Firefighters' Association President Bart Burns agreed Tuesday that the agreement, ratified by the union membership Friday and by the Village board Monday, did not produce dramatic changes.

The contract, in effect, calls for retroactive pay increases of 5 percent for

there's a clear mechanism for people suffering from career burnout."

"Things are better identified in the agreement than they were before," Burns said. For example, while the prior arrangement merely called for scheduling to be done in accordance with department policies and procedures, the new agreement is much more specific, he explained.

"And there is a clearer understanding of what the procedures are for layoffs," he added.

## Fair, not perfect

Both the village and union representatives called the agreement fair, but imperfect.

"It's a preservation of management rights, but I don't think you can put it in a win or lose category," MacIsaac said. "We worked out a fair number of compromises."

"It preserves our rights under the labor relations act, for us and the village, and it's something we can live with," Burns said.

Many of the contracts provisions merely formalize non-written practices already in effect, making it somewhat mysterious why the present agreement took

the years 1988 through 1990, and a 5.5 percent boost in 1991.

It also institutes a grievance procedure, maintains the authority of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, and restricts the number of times employees can trade shifts with one another to 18 times per year. Previously, firefighters could trade shifts an unlimited number of times.

The contract allows firefighters who find paramedic duties becoming too stressful to abandon those roles without throwing out their careers.

"We would prefer everybody be a paramedic," he explained. "But on the human side, being a paramedic is not for everybody. Years and years of seeing people in pain and suffering can weigh heavily. Now

(Continued on page 22)

four years to reach.

"There was a lack of understanding on some parts, and, perhaps, not a full understanding of the issues," said MacIsaac, who became chief well after the talks had begun. "Perhaps sometimes, there was a little lack of trust, and a combination of personalities.

"But I can't put my finger on anything and say that's why it took so long, or that's what made the change," he added. "There were times when emotions ran high, but also days when communication was clear and concise."

MacIsaac and Burns agreed that the intense nature of the talks may have paved the way for improved communication.

"I hope we covered so much ground that we understand each other better," MacIsaac said. "I'm very hopeful we won't have to go through this again. We can get down to being a real fire department and healing some wounds."

"There was a lot of disharmony, but now we're looking forward," Burns concurred. "I hope it never happens again. We've got a good relationship with the chief, and I'm optimistic."

# Panel finds cop guilty of leaving village

Tri. Nov. 9, 1990

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire and Police Commission found police officer Robert Pressley guilty of leaving the village while on duty to drink coffee at a nearby service station.

Pressley also was found guilty late Thursday of not responding truthfully when confronted about his activities and of violating performance standards for field training officers. Pressley's attorneys, Noel T. Wroblewski and Alan M. Freedman, argued that the officer is a victim of "selective prosecution." They said the charges are an attempt to retaliate against him for his controversial history on the force.

Three other police officers have been disciplined for leaving village limits during their shifts, but Pressley is the only one to be brought before the fire and police commission.

Pressley said that going to the Speedway gas station on Milwaukee Avenue, two-tenths of a mile outside village limits, is common practice.

"Myself and other officers went to Speedway," he said. "It was an accepted practice. We met there and had coffee."

John Schampine, former Speedway employee, testified in Pressley's defense that during the year he worked at the gas station, four or five different Wheeling police officers came into the station.

Police department attorney Stephen Culliton said that four or five officers out of the more than 60 on the force do not make it a common practice.

Pressley has two lawsuits pending against the village. In 1983, he filed a racial discrimination suit. And in April of this year, he filed another suit as a result of a gag order imposed on him by Police Chief Michael Haeger.

Pressley's attorneys said they have not yet decided if they will appeal Thursday's decision.

"We did the best we could for now," Freedman said.

Police and fire commission members were deliberating the penalty early this morning.

## BRIEFS

### Liquor review

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
The Village Board Monday directed its staff to study the possibility of renewing a liquor license for a Wheeling pub after a property owner said its closing would bankrupt him.

The license for Hein's Pub, 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., had been scheduled to expire on Dec. 14.

Village Manager Craig Anderson supported letting the license expiration, largely because he said the pub does not provide adequate parking.

But Howard Kagay, who owns the shopping center in which the facility operates, said closing the pub would create an insurmountable financial strain on his business. "I'm asking for a two year stay of execution," he told board members.

### Christmas chips

Wheeling officials plan to have village crews pick up discarded Christmas trees after the holidays and grind them into wood chips.

The chips would be sent to a nursery, thereby diverting the trees from landfills, Village Manager Craig Anderson told the board Monday.

Anderson said Buffalo Grove collected and con-

verted over 1,700 trees to chips last year.

### Dine in

Taqueria Alamo Restaurant, 56 to 58 N. Wolf Road, may add a sit-down dining facility to its carry-out operation, under a proposal approved by the village board.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the project would not cause significant traffic increases in the area.

"It might discourage people from eating outside and, perhaps, littering," Anderson added.

### Tax back

Wheeling will join some 20 municipalities in suing the Illinois Department of Revenue for allegedly failing to return the proper amount of state sales tax revenue to local governments.

Manager Craig Anderson said the village would probably spend no more than \$5,000 in the effort. Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said Wheeling had received only about \$99,900 out of the approximately \$147,000 the state should have sent it.

"It is expected that if the department continues its present course, these discrepancies will continue in the future," Fialkowski said.

## Wheeling hires assistant village manager

*Mon., Nov. 13, 1990 - Herald*

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling has hired a new assistant village manager, effective Jan. 2.

Joani L. Beaudry, assistant town manager in Essex, Vt., will replace David Kowal, who left the village in early August to become assistant village manager in Northbrook.

Beaudry, 29, was chosen from more than 70 people who applied for the position.

"She stood out as someone who has experience which is well rounded," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "She hasn't been cubbyholed into just one area as many assistant city managers

have been."

The village will pay Beaudry \$45,000 a year. Many of her responsibilities will be employee-related, Anderson said. She will hire, fire and discipline, when necessary, village staff members.

She also will help the fire and police commission with recruitment and labor negotiations.

One of Beaudry's first big responsibilities will be drafting a new cable franchise agreement for the village.

Beaudry has worked in Essex since receiving her master's degree in public administration from Northeastern University in Boston. She has been interim town manager for the past five months and now that the town has hired a new manager, she said, it is time for her to move on.

"I'm looking forward to new challenges," Beaudry said. "But I don't leave without mixed feelings."

Beaudry visited Wheeling at her own expense before her interview with Anderson last month.

"This was a big move and I wanted to make sure," she said. "What impressed me most about the village was its diversity."

"The housing stock is diversified, there is a diversified industrial and commercial base and the residents are culturally diversified."

Beaudry is a native of Minnesota and says she is looking forward to living closer to her family.

## Garbage haulers request 5% price hike

*Sun., Nov. 11, 1990 - Herald*

Wheeling trustees meet with representatives from Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal Monday to hear why the waste management company wants to raise its rates for garbage pickup by 5 percent for next year.

Trustees also will receive an update on the village's garbage and yard waste pickup, recycling and Goodwill programs.

Wheeling residents pay \$10.98 for garbage removal and an extra \$1.95 for pick up of recyclables, including newspaper, glass, aluminum, tin and plastics. A 5 percent increase would bring the monthly fee to \$11.53 per month. Rates for recyclables would remain the same.

Representatives of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal have told the village that they need the rate increase because of rising landfill charges and increased labor and equipment costs.

Village officials also want to re-evaluate the summer lawn waste pickup program. A new state law making it illegal to dump yard waste in landfills forced the village to reduce garbage pickup to once a week from twice a week so that yard waste could be picked up separately.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village will look at how many people used the program to see whether it should offer it again next summer. The village received several complaints about the reduction of regular garbage removal service.

Trustees also will discuss the possibility of starting a recycling program in multi-unit housing developments in the village.

**The top meeting**  
Who: The Wheeling Village Board  
Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road  
When: 8 p.m. Monday

## Wheeling cop suspended 20 days for taking trips outside of village

*Sat., Nov. 10, 1990*  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire and Police Commission has suspended police Officer Robert Pressley for 20 days without pay after finding him guilty of leaving the village during coffee breaks.

Pressley also was found guilty of lying when confronted about his activities and of violating performance standards for policemen who train rookie officers.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who sought a 30-day suspension for Pressley, said he is satisfied with the punishment.

"It is my job to file charges," he said. "The commission handles things from there. I made a recommendation — all it was was a recommendation — and I abide by their ruling."

Pressley, who has two lawsuits pending against the village, would not comment on the decision or the punishment. His attorney, Alan M. Freedman, said they are "dis-

appointed" with the decision. They have not decided whether to appeal.

Pressley is the fourth officer to be disciplined for making trips to the Speedway service station, just north of Lake-Cook Road on Milwaukee Avenue and two-tenths of a mile outside Wheeling's limits. Police department policy prohibits officers from leaving village limits while on duty.

Two officers received a letter of reprimand and the third was given a one-day suspension without pay. Pressley received a more severe punishment, commissioners said, because he initially lied about his actions and set a poor example for a rookie officer riding with him.

"It's not comparing apples to apples," Edward Main, chairman of the fire and police commission, said. "We are comparing a 12-year veteran to a one-year recruit, and the younger officer told the truth when approached. Pressley did not."

Pressley maintained that he was not intentionally dishonest about his trips to the service station.

## Jeffery Avenue bridge will close for repairs

*Sat., Nov. 10, 1990*  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists will be forced to take a longer route into the Meadowbrook West Subdivision in Wheeling this weekend while the Jeffery Avenue bridge is closed for repairs.

The bridge will be closed through Sunday while workers repair the concrete deck beams underneath the bridge surface. During this time, the emergency access road to the subdivision, at the southwest corner of Manchester Drive and Sunset Lane, will be open.

On other days throughout the repairs, which are expected to take at



Daily Herald Map

least one week, one lane of the bridge will be closed between 7 a.m.

and 5 p.m.

R&W Clark Company of Chicago will be paid \$21,000 to repair the bridge's expansion joints, surface cracks and curb line pavement cracks.

Village trustees awarded the job to R&W Clark last month after learning that it was the only company interested in doing the patch work. Most companies do not do bridge repairs at this time of year.

Village engineers checked the company's references and found them to be qualified to work on the bridge, which runs over the Wheeling drainage ditch just west of Wolf

Road.

In deciding to proceed with the repairs, village officials said that the bridge, built in the 1970s, would have to be replaced in four or five years if the beam repairs were not made this year.

Surface cracks also needed to be sealed to keep salt and moisture from seeping into the bridge's concrete, Robert D. Gray, Jr., director of maintenance and operations for the village, said.

Weather conditions have already delayed the project, which was originally scheduled to begin at the end of October.

## Leave trash times alone

*COUNTRYSIDE 11-14-90*  
**A**lmost a year has passed since the second garbage pickup day was reassigned for yard waste pickup to accommodate the law banning yard waste from landfills.

Many reasons exist for retaining the present once-a-week garbage pickup schedule. First and foremost, that is what many residents seem to prefer. Much of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling shares a common scavenger service. A survey conducted by officials in neighboring Buffalo Grove last February showed that 3,472 residents wanted to cut back to once-a-week pickups while only 626 residents desired to retain twice-a-week haulings and pay extra for yard waste pickup.

As surveys go, participation was high. The message was clear and convincing.

Those Wheeling residents who have complained say they are being swamped under a flood of refuse that draws flies and rodents and creates a stench that renders their garages unliveable. They claim they have just too much garbage for once-a-week pickup.

But this is the '90s, folks. And the environmental crisis is real. We have to start learning how to manage our garbage or we will be swimming under a sea of refuse.

Wheeling has an aggressive recycling program. Use it. That alone should cut back on your waste load. Common sense also helps. If you have to use plastic diapers, for instance, wash them off first so the smell doesn't fester in the can. Better yet, use cloth diapers.

Take garbage out frequently. Find a place far away from general living areas. Have a properly lined can with a secure lid that shuts odors in, or invest in a can of disinfectant.

When village officials reevaluate the program on its anniversary, they should have no doubt what to do. The issue was clear enough for an 11-year-old reader, who recently wrote to this newspaper.

"If we had pickup twice a week, people may feel that it won't matter if they generate more garbage," she wrote. "Once a week is totally enough!"

We couldn't agree more.

*11-14-90*  
**Neighbors want concrete company to move**  
 By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have sided with homeowners along Jackson Drive who are fighting to remove a concrete business from their neighborhood.

Jackson Drive resident William Berglund has been running his concrete business, Benson Construction, out of his home for 8½ years. But by recently applying for a unique-use permit from the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals, he has provided his neighbors with a chance to evict

the business.

Jackson Drive is surrounded by the village of Wheeling and is considered, by village officials, to be part of the village in terms of land planning although it technically lies in unincorporated Wheeling Township.

Although the village does not usually get involved in matters outside its limits, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson considers this a special case.

"The street is close to the village," he said. "What happens there could affect the village. It is not the best thing to have a business operating among homes."

Berglund's neighbors, 50 of whom showed up at a recent public hearing, have complained about the dirt and noise they say his business creates. And although he has prepared a plan for landscaping and fencing around the storage site, neighbors have expressed a larger concern: who regulates unique use property and what kind of a development trend would it set for undeveloped lots along the road?

"To allow heavy truck use and storage of construction materials and fuel in a residentially settled and zoned area defeats the underlying purpose for the planning and regulating justification of the present zoning district," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said in a letter to the zoning board.

Berglund, who has lived on Jackson Drive for 21 years, said that running his business out of his home is a financial necessity.

The zoning board will decide sometime this week when to rule on Berglund's request. They will make a recommendation to the Cook County board, which will have the final say on the matter.

## Is once enough? residents ask

*11-15-90*  
**A year ago, both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling cut back to one day of garbage pickup. Now, officials may reconsider the decision.**

By ARNOLD GRAHL  
 MANAGING EDITOR  
*COUNTRYSIDE*

Like its neighbor to the west, the village of Wheeling will be taking a closer look at its once-a-week garbage pickup schedule soon to see if residents would be better served by returning to the previous twice-weekly pickup.

Several residents have complained about the less frequent garbage pickup, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson. The schedule is similar to one adopted by Buffalo Grove, which splits the two hauling days into one for normal garbage and one for leaf and yard waste pickup between the months of April and December. Yard waste was banned from landfills last July.

The garbage discussion came up during the Wheel-

ing Village Board's workshop Monday night, while trustees were being asked to give their blessing to a 5 percent increase in residents' garbage bills.

Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, which serves parts of both towns, told Wheeling trustees the increase was needed to offset rising fuel costs, increased landfill tipping fees and higher wage and benefit expenses. The rate would increase 55 cents to \$11.53 a month.

According to the disposal company, a local subsidiary of Waste Management Inc., tipping fees at landfills have increased from 5 percent to 40 percent. Most of the village's garbage is hauled to Lake Landfill in Northfield, where tipping fees went up 5.2 percent. However, some of the garbage is shipped to ARF landfill in Grayslake, where costs climbed from \$8.60 a cubic yard to \$12.20 a cubic yard.

Disposal officials said fuel costs also have been squeezing their operations. The price of diesel fuel has risen 32 percent and the

(Continued on page 19)

cost of oil 30 percent.

"Five percent seems fair and reasonable with what's going on around us," Anderson said.

He said the village probably would approve the rate increase.

Once trustees gave their preliminary OK to the fee increase, discussion turned to the weekly pickup schedule, with a few residents complaining of the inconvenience, odor and rodent problems they associated with the once-weekly garbage pickup.

Anderson said the village might explore whether other options would be fairer to people who don't have a lot of yard waste. He said one alternative would be a twice-a-week garbage pickup with separate stickers for yard waste. People would have to buy the stickers to affix to bags of yard waste.

"Those who need it would pay, and those who don't wouldn't," Anderson said.

## Oil cost may hike Wheeling garbage pickup

*Julia, Nov 13, 1990*

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will probably see a 5 percent increase in their garbage pick-up bill next year, thanks to increases in diesel oil and fuel prices, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal told village trustees Monday.

The waste management company needs the trustees' permission to institute the rate hike and trustees offered little resistance to the plan.

The 55 cent increase would bring the monthly fee for twice-weekly garbage pickup to \$11.53. Rates for recyclables, including newspaper, glass, aluminum, tin and plastics, would remain at

\$1.95 per month.

Don Bultuis, general manager of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, said the cost of diesel fuel has increased 32 percent over the last year and the cost of oil has gone up 30 percent.

He said landfill rates have also increased up to 40.7 percent.

"On a 12- to 18-month basis we usually expect a request for some type of increase," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "This request does not seem to be unreasonable."

But one Wheeling resident feels differently.

Louis Minnich, of 205 W. Manchester Drive, said his garbage pick-up bill has gone up about 36 percent since he moved into the

village four years ago.

"I think that another rate hike is absurd," he said. "Wheeling is a blue-collar community. We should find another company or have this one find some way to reduce costs."

But Sheila H. Schultz, village manager, said that while it would be nice if the disposal company could charge communities with a lower income, lower garbage removal fees, "that is just not the way it works."

Several trustees said the increases in Minnich's bill were the costs of getting the village's recycling program up and running, including a 95 cent increase last year when the village added plastics to its list of recyclables.

# Recycling revenue expected to drop

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
Nov. 15, 1990

ing back to the community, there may come a day when there is a negative income."

The village has provided curbside pick up of recyclables, including newspaper, glass, aluminum, and tin, some good news about plastics, including two-liter soda pop containers and milk jugs.

"The revenue from plastics is equal to the revenue that you have received from glass, and twice what you received from tin," he said.

"Plastics has become the second most valuable commodity. I do not foresee a glut in that."

While figures for October are not yet available, Lee A. Addleman, recycling coordinator for the Midwest region of Waste Management of North America, Inc., said that he expects the profits to be about \$1,300 for last month.

"However, I am not sure those numbers are supportable for any length of time," he said. "I am concerned that as far as revenues com-

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
Nov. 15, 1990

Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal had good news and bad news for Wheeling trustees when it delivered its annual progress report.

Officials of the waste management company said that the village's recycling program is still going strong but that the revenue the village will see from its efforts will probably diminish.

Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal forwards all profits, less the processing cost for the recycling, back to

homeowner living in the average-priced house of \$100,280 will pay about \$278.42 in property taxes to the village.

The largest increase in the levy is in the general fund, which jumps 96 percent to \$2 million.

That money funds the police, fire, finance and community development departments, the administrative services of the village board and building and vehicle maintenance.

Schultz said she was surprised that no residents spoke at the public hearing for the levy held before trustees voted unanimously to approve it.

"I think people are satisfied that we are trying to be as cautious as we can with expenditures."

state income tax surcharge," he said. "We need to see what is going to happen in the future."

Last year the village reduced the levy because of the surcharge.

"When we didn't need the money, we gave it back (by abating taxes)," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "The tax rate is still lower than it has been in past years and this is not unexpected. We knew when we lowered the levy last year we might have to raise it again."

The village's tax rate is expected to go up to \$1.16 per \$100 of assessed home value. It will be lower than the 1988 rate of \$1.50, but higher than the current rate of 96 cents.

At a rate of \$1.16, a Wheeling

Wheeling property taxpayers will see an increase in their village tax bill next year as a result of trustees' approval Monday of a \$6.2 million levy.

But trustees immediately abated \$368,000 of the levy so the actual amount asked for will be about \$5.8 million, 30 percent more than last year's \$4.4 million.

Another \$300,000 of the levy could be abated in April if the rate of the Illinois Income Tax Surcharge is known by then, said finance director Robert W. Fialkowski.

"The levy follows through with our trepidation over the fate of the

# Policeman found guilty of lying, leaving village

Officer Robert Pressley, who has filed a racial discrimination suit against the police department, was found guilty of leaving village limits while on duty.

11-15-90  
By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER  
COUNTRYSIDE

The Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners has suspended Officer Robert Pressley without pay for 20 days, after finding him guilty of leaving village limits while on duty and lying to investigators.

Police officials were seeking a 30-day suspension without pay for the officer, who is a 12-year veteran of the force.

The controversy regarding Pressley began over seven years ago, when Police Chief Michael Haeger suspended Pressley for allegedly breaking department rules of truthfulness in relation to a citizen's complaint that he'd engaged in sexual relations with a woman in a van, parked outside The Original Gran-

ny's Restaurant, at 831 W. Dundee Road.

Pressley challenged the 1982 suspension, and won his case before the board of fire and police commissioners.

The next year, Pressley filed a civil suit claiming Haeger had retaliated against him for the successful challenge and violated his 14th Amendment equal protection rights. Pressley, who is black, contended in the suit that he was unfairly disciplined, and punished more severely than white officers for similar offenses. He also charged Haeger failed to intervene when fellow officers harassed Pressley with racial epithets and cartoons.

The racial discrimination suit against the department is scheduled to begin on Dec. 3.

Haeger filed the latest charges heard before the police commission this summer.

Specifically, the board ruled Thursday that Pressley had violated departmental policy by taking breaks in November of 1989 at a Speedway convenience

store on Milwaukee Avenue two-tenths of a mile outside village boundaries, by failing to perform his duties as a training officer by bringing a trainee on unauthorized breaks in the establishment, and by responding untruthfully to officers investigating those charges.

Pressley's attorneys, Alan Friedman and Noel Wroblewski, acknowledged that he took breaks outside the area of his jurisdiction, but contended that such behavior was common practice within the department.

The attorneys brought two Lake County Sheriff's Department deputies, and a former Speedway clerk, to testify that they had seen several other Wheeling officers in the Speedway store. Wheeling Police Officer Randall Olsberg also testified that he had taken unauthorized breaks outside village limits about twice a month for approximately a year.

As in Pressley's civil suit, the attorneys contended Thursday that Pressley was faced with a potentially harsher penalty than white

(Continued on page 24)

officers who had engaged in comparable conduct. One officer was given a one-day suspension, and two received only written reprimands, they said.

They said bringing trainees on unauthorized breaks was also common practice.

Friedman and Wroblewski also claimed Pressley had not lied to investigators, but had not been able to remember all the specifics of relatively minor incidents that took place long ago.

"I was asked to recall events eight to nine months prior to being asked," Pressley said under questioning by Steve Culliton, the attorney representing Haeger. "I can't know when I took a 15 minute break eight months ago... I can't tell you where I was two weeks ago."

"Basically the events are not in dispute," Friedman told the commissioners. "The focal point is whether Bob Pressley lied. He simply was mistaken and forgot about inconsequential events... when he took a break... He simply didn't remember."

To bolster that argument, Pressley's attorneys had Wheeling Police Officer Hugh Versteegh, the trainee who accompanied Pressley on breaks, testify that his

recollection of events was also incomplete. Versteegh said it would be impossible for him to remember exactly when he took breaks during the time in question without having his memory refreshed by documents or other means.

Pressley also testified that his replies in the interview were limited to yes or no answers, leaving him no leeway to fully explain them.

But Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said he believed Pressley was lying when he interviewed him about the events. Culliton also said no one prevented Pressley from giving more complete answers when questioned, and said Pressley was told he could go off the record to respond to some of the questions.

In arguing for the 30 day suspension, Culliton stressed the high standard of honesty required of police officers. "How does a person charged with a speeding violation, and officer Pressley is there to testify, know he's truthful?" he asked.

Friedman said he did not know if he would appeal the ruling from the hearing, which lasted five-and-a-half-hours. He said he had 35 days from the time findings are put in writing to appeal.

# New Wheeling levy should raise taxes

11/20/90 (Tuesday)  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling property taxpayers will see an increase in their village tax bill next year as a result of trustees' approval Monday of a \$6.2 million levy.

But trustees immediately abated \$368,000 of the levy so the actual amount asked for will be about \$5.8 million, 30 percent more than last year's \$4.4 million.

Another \$300,000 of the levy could be abated in April if the rate of the Illinois Income Tax Surcharge is known by then, said finance director Robert W. Fialkowski.

"The levy follows through with our trepidation over the fate of the

homeowner living in the average-priced house of \$100,280 will pay about \$278.42 in property taxes to the village.

The largest increase in the levy is in the general fund, which jumps 96 percent to \$2 million.

That money funds the police, fire, finance and community development departments, the administrative services of the village board and building and vehicle maintenance.

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Last year the village reduced the levy because of the surcharge.

"When we didn't need the money, we gave it back (by abating taxes)," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "The tax rate is still lower than it has been in past years and this is not unexpected. We knew when we lowered the levy last year we might have to raise it again."

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# Airport demolishes hangars near runway

11-17-90

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport is moving one step closer to meeting Federal Aviation Administration safety standards this week, as officials continue to tear down airplane storage hangars that are too close to the main runway.

The FAA originally directed airport officials to demolish all of the T-hangars, where smaller planes are stored, but because the airport needs to offer pilots covered storage space, officials struck a deal with the FAA so that only those hangars nearest

the runway will be torn down immediately.

"We are creating a clear zone to enhance the safety of the airport and improving the airport's aesthetics at the same time," Michael Zonsius, assistant airport manager said.

Before demolition of the hangars began last week the airport had storage for 75 airplanes. When the project is completed, in about two weeks, there will be space for 39 airplanes.

The hangars, on the airport's south end along Palatine Road, have been considered unsightly by members of

the Palwaukee Airport Commission and the airport's management for quite some time.

"We are hoping to paint the remaining hangars," Fred E. Stewart, airport manager, said. "They are a real eyesore and don't add much to the area. To get the space cleared up and looking better will be a big help."

Airport officials had hoped to have the hangars painted this year but the prices received from contractors came in \$22,000 over the budgeted amount for the project.

"We will re-advertise for painters again in the new fiscal year, after

May 1, when we have budgeted the appropriate amount," Stewart said.

The T-hangar demolition comes right on the heels of two other demolitions at the airport in recent weeks.

An abandoned gas station at the corner of Wolf and Hintz roads came down two weeks ago to make way for the relocation of that intersection expected to take place by 1994.

Also, an old house along Hintz Road also came down recently because it was too close to the northwest end of the airport's main runway.

# Village considers 24% tax levy increase

Sunday, Nov. 18, 1990

Wheeling residents will get their chance to comment on the village's proposed \$6.2 million 1990 levy when the village trustees hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Monday.

The 1990 levy determines taxes collected in 1991.

The proposed levy is 24 percent higher than the 1989 levy of \$4.48 million.

Village officials say the increase is needed because of the uncertain future of the state's income tax surcharge. The village has received \$800,000 from the surcharge, set to

expire this year.

Village officials have said part of the levy could be abated later this year if the income tax surcharge is extended.

But the unknown future of the surcharge is only one of the reasons trustees are looking to a higher levy. The village's general fund needs will increase significantly next year, due partly to growth in personnel expenditures.

The general fund is used mainly to pay for police and fire department services, administrative services of

the Village Board, finance and community development.

If the levy is passed, the tax rate will go up to \$1.16 per \$100 of assessed home value. But it will still be lower than the 1988 rate of \$1.50. The levy rate is now 96 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

At a rate of \$1.16, a Wheeling homeowner living in the average-price house of \$100,280 would pay about \$278.42 in property taxes to the village.

The public hearing will be held in council chambers at Village Hall,

255 W. Dundee Road, immediately before the trustees vote on the proposed levy.

## The top meeting

**Who:**The Wheeling Village Board

**Where:**Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

**When:**8 p.m. Monday

11-21-90

## WHEELING VILLAGE NOTES

### Wheeling garbage rate increasing

Wheeling village trustees approved an increase in the garbage collection rate charged to Wheeling residents by Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal.

The increase, to \$11.53 per month for twice-weekly pickup is a 5 percent increase over last year's rate.

The waste management company asked for the increase because of rising landfill charges and increased labor and equipment costs.

### Village to spend \$5,700 to trim trees

Trustees voted to spend \$5,700 to have about 83 of the village's trees trimmed.

R.W. Hendricksen of Des Plaines will trim parkway trees removing any dead or dying branches. The trees are located along Audrey Court, Bernice Court, Green Drive, Isa Drive and Merle Lane.

The work will be completed by late December.

### Village buying station wagon for fire chief

The board voted to purchase a new vehicle for the fire chief.

The Ford Taurus station wagon will have heavy duty suspension and a special block heater. With delivery, it is expected to cost about \$11,750.



## Not as bad as it looks

Bill Henry of the Wheeling Fire Department covers up a simulated fatality during an industrial accident drill at Business Services Inc. in Mount Prospect. Students from Prospect High School played the part of accident victims.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

## Wheeling police win national accreditation

11-21-90

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Three years of preparation and planning paid off recently for the Wheeling Police Department when they gained national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.

Assessors from the commission visited Wheeling in October and checked to see that more than 829 standards for accreditation — in the areas of policies and procedure, administration and operations and support services — had been met.

Representatives of the police department went before one more committee of assessors at the

group's annual meeting in St Paul, Minn., last weekend and then were unanimously recommended for accreditation.

"It was not an easy process," said village president Sheila H. Schultz. "They asked us some tough questions."

And the department cannot simply sit back and relax now that the initial accreditation thrust is over because it comes up for reaccreditation in 1995 and every five years thereafter.

But instead of going through every police department file and checking every piece of equipment as they did in October, the commission will come out and make random checks.

"We've started working towards reaccreditation already," Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes said. "We have to maintain our policies and keep on top of everything."

In accrediting the department, members of the commission highlighted Wheeling's policy for handling bias crimes, lifting it up as a model program.

Hermes said he believes the department can continue to come up with innovative policies.

"Roll call training, new officers, and new ideas will keep the department innovative," he said. "Continued roll call training and working out lesson plans for these sessions keeps the officers interested."

# Grandma's lesson brings forth charity

Thurs Nov. 22, 1990 "Thanksgiving Day"

By KAREN S. SJOBLUM  
Daily Herald Correspondent

They say your past always comes back to you, and usually it's something you'd rather forget. In Judy Abruscato's case, however, her past taught her to remember something very important.

"Being raised by a grandma has its plus sides. She was very charitable, and that rubbed off on me. In raising my own kids, the priority was to be kind to each other because tomorrow you don't know what will be," she says.

This 56-year-old Wheeling resident began her charitable work at the age of 8, and the important lesson her grandmother taught her has been put to practice ever since.

Abruscato has been married to her husband, Mario, 67, for more than 30 years, raised two children — Anthony, 26, and Valerie, 29 — and worked full-time for the First National Bank of Wheeling since the day it opened more than 12 years ago. Juggling a family and career is trying, to say the least, and the thought of spending a number of those precious free hours on volunteer work is more than most people care to think about; however, Abruscato feels it can work.

"I believe working mothers can find just as much available time. It's tough — I know. But my kids loved my involvement. If I had to do something, they were always there with me," she says.

Abruscato currently spends some of her free time working with the Wheeling Lioness Club, a group she founded about five years ago; she now is on the board of directors after serving as the club's president.

One of the group's main focuses is to gather and distribute eyeglasses to other countries that cannot regularly provide this service. For example, Abruscato says India has a high



Judy Abruscato has continued practicing what her grandmother taught her about charitable work.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

rate of eye disease, so quite a bit of their work has been invested there. Furthermore, the group also assists those closer to home through various fund-raising activities.

"We did a fund-raiser for the police department — a spaghetti din-

ner. What an experience in fund-raising. We planned enough for 200 people — more than enough, we thought," she recalls. "So many people showed up that we ran out of spaghetti, we ran out of salad, we ran out of everything. But it was a good

Someone  
to be  
thankful for

time," she says with a laugh.

She also volunteers her time to Wheeling's Fourth of July fireworks and parade festivities. The committee of citizens and business people must plan these events a year in advance, and Abruscato again has been involved since its inception 11 years ago.

"It started with a phone call — 'Hey, Judy, want to go to a meeting?' It always starts that way, but it has been so much fun," she says.

Finally, Abruscato also is a village trustee, although her four-year term will end in April. While this pace potentially could break other spirits, Abruscato says she has a few secrets for her success.

"You can never do anything without a good husband. Mario and I... we work together. Everything I belong to, Mario belongs to," she says. "He takes care of everything — the running around, the phone calls, everything."

Additionally, she has the support and assistance from her children, who often are involved in the same causes. Furthermore, Abruscato says the people at the bank have been very cooperative; it is, incidentally, a drop-off point for the Lioness' eyeglasses program.

"Mario is retired and has taken the burden I had for 25 years — he takes care of the house. That's part of how I'm able to manage. And I enjoy it," she says. "Show people compassion. It's very rewarding."

## Wal-Mart shows traffic plans

Tues. Nov. 27, 1990

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. gave Wheeling trustees a comprehensive overview of its plans for a Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club in Wheeling Monday amid concerns from local condominium residents about traffic problems the stores could create.

Wal-Mart is planning to build the two stores on a 37-acre parcel of property owned and farmed by the Schwind family. The property is bordered by the village on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

The village will vote on annexing

the property sometime in January, if Wal-Mart receives approval from the plan commission, appearance commission and zoning board of appeals.

About 15 residents of the Cedar Run Condominiums, which border the proposed site on the east, expressed concern about the traffic problems the Wal-Mart would create on what they say are already congested McHenry and Lake-Cook roads.

Plans call for three entrances to the shopping center on each of those two roads, with the main entrance on Lake-Cook Road having a stoplight with left and right turn lanes.

Patrick E. Perry, real estate man-

ager for Wal-Mart said a stoplight also could be erected at one of the McHenry Road entrances after the stores open.

He said the Illinois Department of Transportation will not give permission for a stoplight at that entrance until a need for one has been demonstrated.

Representatives from Wal-Mart already have met with residents.

"They have been very cooperative on the superficial things," said Mary Arridson, president of the Cedar Run homeowners association. "But one hand doesn't know what the other is doing. This is the first time we have heard they would be willing to put a traffic light on McHenry Road."

## Saturday, Nov. 24, 1990 Wheeling approves 911 network bylaws

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling moved one step closer to installing an enhanced 911 emergency system this week when it approved bylaws for the governing board that will oversee installation and operation of the network.

Village trustees will serve as members of the emergency telephone systems board but much of the day-to-day operation of the system will be done by an advisory board consisting of two members from the police department, two members from the fire department and the communications center supervisor.

Trustees also elected a chair-

man, vice-chairman and secretary to serve until the first annual meeting of the board in May. At that meeting, officers will be elected to serve two-year terms.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz was elected to serve as chairman and Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman was elected to the vice chairman position. Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke will serve as board secretary.

The advisory board has already met and is gathering price information on the equipment. They have also visited area stations that use the enhanced 911 system.

Fire Chief Keith MacIssac said trustees can expect the advisory board to come before them sometime in the next three months to

ask for spending approval to get moving on purchasing and installing the system.

He said it will take between six and nine months to install the system.

The village is already collecting a 75-cent monthly fee from residents through Illinois Bell to pay for the new emergency system. The money is held separate from other revenues and cannot be used to pay village bills other than those for the 911 system.

Voters approved the enhanced 911 system last November. The system automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes last only a few seconds.

Thurs. Nov. 22, 1990

# Wheeling bank robber at large

**The bearded man that robbed a Wheeling bank last week is probably not the same robber who hit two other banks in Buffalo Grove and Palatine.**

The man who robbed the First Colonial Bank Northwest in Wheeling last week is probably responsible for several other similar hold ups in the area, according to an FBI spokesman.

"He's probably good for robberies in Skokie, Norridge, Libertyville and Chicago," Special Agent Robert Long, press coordinator for the Chicago FBI office, said Monday.

The Wheeling bank, located at 800 S. Wheeling Road, was hit at about 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 15. A Wheeling Police Department source said the robber, a white male wearing a baseball cap, dark jacket and sunglasses, and armed with a semi-automatic pistol, probably made off with about \$50,000.

Long said it was not unusual for robbers to hold up more than one bank in a given region.

"They're often repeat-ers," he explained. "Every year, we arrest someone who's good for three or four robberies."

He said the robber at First Colonial Northwest was probably not the same man who held up two other banks in the north and northwest suburbs. The robber in the latter incidents wore a flesh-colored mask.

In the Wheeling case, the robber may have been wearing a false beard, according to Long.

"It looks phony to me," he said of the beard shown in a picture taken by a bank security camera. "It's hard to tell."

The robber appeared to go out of his way to make bank patrons and employees aware of his intentions, Long added.

"He was continually waving the gun around and shouting that this was a bank robbery," he said. "He threatened people, telling them they'd better not call the police."

The robber pointed his weapon at a teller, who took the money out of a vault, according to Long.

He said the FBI hadn't identified any suspects in the incident.

The FBI is continuing its investigation of the Wheeling case, and is working with Wheeling police and other jurisdictions where area bank robberies occurred.

# Palwaukee officials start work on drainage ditch

Nov. 11/23/90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners voted this week to spend \$70,000 to delve deeper into the intricacies of relocating the Wheeling drainage ditch.

The ditch needs to be relocated because it runs too close to the airport's main runway and places too many restrictions on developing property around it.

If the ditch were left where it is now, several bridges would have to be built across it because it hinders traffic at the airport.

The creek now runs south from Hintz Road east of Wolf Road through the airport. It crosses Milwaukee Avenue into the Cook County Forest Preserve and empties into the Des Plaines River.

"The drainage ditch study has been a slow, steady project," Fred E. Stewart, airport manager said. "Now we are going to get into some of the detailed engineering, figuring out the size and shape of the structure needed to replace it."

Engineering fees for this portion of the study are expected to be about \$140,000. The state is picking up the tab for the remaining \$70,000.

The same engineering firm that is doing an environmental assessment on the relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf Roads — Crawford, Murphy and Tilly Inc. of Springfield — will do the drainage ditch study.

Relocating the ditch, through the former Twin Drive-In Theater, just north of the airport, is part of the airport's 12-year capital improvement program.

The stream would run through the least amount of forest preserve property with that move.

"We knew that we would have to move the drainage ditch when we bought the airport," Stewart said. "The question has been where to move it."

Airport officials first began studying the project in 1985 when a study was conducted to determine the drainage needs of the airport, most of which is built on a floodway.

# Plans for Wal-Mart come up for review

11/25-90  
Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will bring preliminary plans for a shopping outlet before Wheeling plan commissioners Wednesday.

Although the village and representatives from Wal-Mart and the village's community development department have been talking about the project for several months, this will be the first time the rapidly growing discount chain comes before the commission.

The village will have to annex the property on which Wal-Mart hopes to build both a Wal-Mart and a Sam's Wholesale Club. All property annexed into the village is automatically zoned for single-family houses, so the Plan Commission will consider recommending the zoning be changed to general commercial.

Wal-Mart hopes to sign a long-term lease with the Schwind family, owners of the proposed site along Lake-Cook Road. The 37-acre parcel is bordered by the village of Wheeling on the east, Weiland Road on the

# The top meeting

**Who:** The Wheeling Plan Commission

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday

west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

Preliminary plans call for the eastern two-thirds of the site to be developed by Wal-Mart. Along with the two stores, there will be about 1,500 parking spaces and water retention basins to help control rain water runoff.

Walmart sells clothes, health and beauty aids, toys and other general merchandise at discounted prices in 1,385 stores in 26 states. They have hit the Chicago suburbs hard, opening up stores in Naperville, Vernon Hills, Bloomingdale and Crystal Lake. A Mount Prospect Wal-Mart is expected to open in the spring.

Village officials expect the approval process for a Wheeling Wal-Mart to go through the spring

# Wal-Mart proposal meets mixed reviews

ing needs to be up against the southeast corner." The plans call for a 3-foot berm, 6-foot pine trees and a 6-foot fence to separate the store from its neighbors. But some trustees are worried that will not be enough to keep trucks unloading at the store's docks from disturbing its neighbors.

ry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north. "This is a great thing for Wheeling," said Trustee William A. Rogers.

While excited that Wal-Mart Inc., a major retailing chain, wants to locate in the village, trustees say they are worried that plans call for one of the two stores to be too close to a neighboring condominium complex.

"My concern is that the trucks will be too close to Cedar Run," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "We can't have trucks sitting there and idling. That would be hard on the residents."

Patrick E. Perry, real estate manager for Wal-Mart, said he expects the 115,000-square-foot Wal-Mart to have at least \$25 million in sales in its first year.

Trustees did not seem to be concerned about the location of the Wal-Mart building at the northwest end of the property, however, plans call for the Sam's to be built just 56 feet from the Cedar Run property line.

It is up to the plan commission to request any changes from the Wal-Mart developers, and a public hearing is set for Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the village hall.

Trustees did not seem to be concerned about the location of the Wal-Mart building at the northwest end of the property, however, plans call for the Sam's to be built just 56 feet from the Cedar Run property line.

Wal-Mart hopes to build a Sam's Wholesale Club and Wal-Mart Department Store on a 37-acre piece of property bordered by Cedar Run condominiums on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry

It is up to the plan commission to request any changes from the Wal-Mart developers, and a public hearing is set for Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the village hall.

"I think that Sam's could move," Trustee Joseph W. Ratajczak said. "The buildings could be split up differently, I don't think that build-

over what happens there." Anderson said that it would be nice to have an undeveloped area near the village but it is impractical to expect land in the area to stay undeveloped for very long.

# Wheeling considers Wal-Mart rezoning

11/26/90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After months of informal talks with village officials, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., will unveil its plans this week for a Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club in Wheeling.

Residents will have two opportunities to ask questions of village officials and Wal-Mart representatives. The first opportunity will be at 8 p.m. today when village trustees discuss annexing the property Wal-Mart is eyeing for its stores.

The 37-acre parcel, now owned and farmed by the Schwind family, is bordered by the village on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

Wal-Mart representatives will also appear before the plan commission at 7:30 p.m. Thursday requesting zoning changes.

The property will be automatically zoned for houses when it is annexed by the village so commissioners will consider changing the zoning to general commercial, enabling Wal-Mart to move forward with its plans.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village wants to annex the property so that it has control over its development.

"The Wal-Mart is very likely to develop whether we annex the property or not," he said.

"We want to have some control

over what happens there."

Anderson said that it would be nice to have an undeveloped area near the village but it is impractical to expect land in the area to stay undeveloped for very long.

"It is always nice to have a major successful retailer want to locate in your community," he said.

"It's nice to have a good store for the residents but it is also good for village tax revenues."

Anderson said that he expects village income from sales taxes at the Wal-Mart to be around \$100,000 per year if the store is successful.

He could not estimate how much the village would gain in property tax revenue.

# Firefighters, village ease into settlement

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Wheeling trustees unanimously ratified an agreement with firefighters earlier this month, they brought to a close four years of negotiations that transcended the tenure of a village manager and a fire chief.

The protracted negotiations also contributed to an all-time low morale among fire department workers, leaders of the firefighters union say.

An agreement seemed so far out of reach in August that both sides agreed to call in an arbitrator to decide the more than 30 issues that separated them. But just two days before the arbitration hearings were scheduled to begin, a turnaround in the talks led to resolution of all but one of the issues in dispute.

And now that the agreement is signed and sealed, both sides are finally free to talk about the issues that divided them, how negotiations that went on for years turned around so quickly and produced an agreement, the role new Fire Chief Keith S. MacIssac played in the turnaround, and how any damage wrought by the, at times, heated negotiations can be repaired.

"At the very last minute I think both sides realized that there was room for some give and take," said Craig G. Anderson, village manager. "We realized that maybe it didn't have to be all or nothing."

Contract clashes began months be-



**Village Manager Craig G. Anderson credits the new fire chief "fresh perspective" with helping to bring about a negotiated settlement between the village and its firefighters.**

fore the last agreement expired on April 30, 1986, when firefighters moved to include lieutenants in their union. The Illinois Public Labor Relations Act of 1986 created collective bargaining for police officers and firefighters but excluded supervisors. The Wheeling Firefighters Association voted to include — and asked the village to recognize — its six lieutenants as part of the union.

But the village refused to negotiate with the lieutenants, so the firefighters took their case to the Illinois Labor Relations Board, which

agreed with the firefighters. Wheeling appealed the case, lost and took the case to the Illinois Supreme Court.

The case was finally decided in April, when the court ruled in the firefighters' favor.

In January of this year, after reaching a stalemate, both sides agreed to call in a federal mediator. Finally in late August, when mediation failed to bring about a contract, both sides agreed to begin the arbitration process.

Now the firefighters say the issues that were most difficult to resolve included: what normal duty entails, management rights, police association rights, the role of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and how to handle jury duty now that firefighters are no longer exempt from serving.

Enter new Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIssac.

Both sides agreed that MacIssac, on the job since April, brought a new, fresh perspective to the stalemated talks.

"A fresh perspective helped," said Anderson. "It was good to have somebody new come in after we had been knocking our heads for three and one-half years."

MacIssac said that he although he knew the negotiations were proceeding less than smoothly when he took the job, resolving the dispute has been tougher on him than he thought it would be.

"I'm a little bruised and beat up," he said. "But I'm still having fun. We

are going through some exciting times here, and I'm very optimistic we can work together."

Once MacIssac joined the village's bargaining team, he and Firefighter Association President Bart Burns began to have informal chats about the items in dispute, packaging them in groups to make them easier to discuss.

"We had a package of issues that got resolved in a few minutes after MacIssac got permission to bargain," Burns said. "The chief and I sat down with each other, trusted each other and in turn were more honest with each other."

James A. Rhodes, village attorney and member of their negotiating team, agreed that MacIssac played an important role in getting the negotiations moving again by showing firefighters that he wanted to run a professional department.

"One of the underlying issues in the negotiations was the fact that we had a fire chief retiring and a new chief coming in," he said. "But once MacIssac showed the firefighters his theory of management and his definition of professionalism some of their fears were released." For his part, MacIssac refuses to take too much credit for his role in the agreement, preferring instead to focus on ways to heal any wounds the protracted negotiations may have left on his department.

"I can't take credit for everything," he said. "I had the benefit of

See SETTLE on Page 3

Nov. 29, 1990  
Continued from Page 1

a perspective that nobody else had. I came in from the outside with no preconceived notions.

MacIssac said that there are some "hurt feelings" as a result of the negotiations, but he has a three-pronged plan of reconciliation for getting the department back on its collective feet.

"The old adage that time heals all wounds is true," he said. "But I also

want to have a close working relationship between the union officers and myself."

MacIssac also wants to get firefighters involved in decision making within the department. To this end he has committees writing specifications for a new fire engine, trying out new fire-retardant uniforms, putting together the budget for next year, organizing public education and coordinating training activities.

## Goodwill collections increasing steadily

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The number of Wheeling residents making contributions to Goodwill Industries through curbside collection has steadily increased since the program's inception a year ago.

While 10 percent of the village's homeowners participated in the program during its first week of operation, Goodwill officials estimate at least 15 percent are now participating in the once-a-month pickup.

"I think 15 percent is a conservative figure," said Kathleen Bradley of Goodwill Industries of Metropolitan Chicago. "Twenty percent would probably be closer to

the actual number participating." Goodwill trucks follow trucks from Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal — the village's trash and recycling hauler — on recycling days during the first full week of each month.

They collect any items that will fit into the white Goodwill plastic bag — including old clothes, accessories, shoes, toys, books, tools, kitchen utensils and small working appliances. Everytime a bag is picked up an empty one is left to replace it. Bags can also be picked up at village hall.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said there have been a few "glitches" in the program's first year, but that for the most part things have been running smooth-

ly. "Whenever we have been aware of a problem with Goodwill missing a house or several houses, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal has gone back and picked up the items," he said.

The waste management company then makes sure the items get to Goodwill, either by delivering them or making arrangements for Goodwill to pick them up at the waste management facility.

Goodwill officials estimate about 10,000 pounds of reusable goods — enough to fill a small resale store — are picked up each month if the weather is good. That amount drops to 4,000 pounds if the weather is bad.

## Rezoning of Wal-Mart site narrowly passes

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Plan Commissioners narrowly approved Thursday recommending to the village board rezoning the proposed Wal-Mart site from residential to commercial.

Commissioners voted 3-2 to recommend the zoning change. Two commissioners were absent.

Commissioner Steve Walanka voted to rezone the property after passing on his first vote.

"I vote yes reluctantly based on staff's recommendations," he said.

Commissioners Otis Heddlund and Terry Steilen also voted to recommend rezoning of the property, bordered by the village on

the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

Commissioners Frank A. Proletti and Dennis Rickey voted against the change.

The village will have to annex the property on which the retailer hopes to build a Wal-Mart and a Sam's Wholesale Club. All property annexed into the village is automatically zoned for single-family housing.

The village will annex the property only if Wal-Mart receives approval from the plan commission, appearance commission and the zoning board of appeals.

Village Planner Mark Janek said that village staff had determined that the property is unsuit-

able for residential development.

"Heavy vehicular traffic and noise pollution on Lake-Cook Road and McHenry Road are detrimental to residential zoning," Janek said.

About 1 acre of the 37-acre site would be zoned for gas station-type use. Although there are no plans for development of that property before the village at this time, rezoning of that parcel is part of the agreement for annexation between the village and the Schwind family, owners of the property.

Commissioners also approved preliminary division of the property. Wal-Mart is expected back before the plan commission on Dec. 13.

## Panel questions Wal-Mart parking needs

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. ran into the first snag in its plan to build a Wheeling Wal-Mart when company representatives went before the plan commission.

After giving approval to the zoning changes needed to allow Wal-Mart to build a department store and a Sam's Wholesale Club on 37 acres of property bordered by the village of Wheeling on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north, plan commissioners sent Wal-Mart representatives back to the drawing board Thursday.

Commissioners are unhappy

with the number of parking spaces Wal-Mart is requesting for the site and with the proximity of the Sam's Wholesale Club loading dock to the Cedar Run condominium complex.

The plan calls for 1,700 parking spaces, about 300 more than the minimum the village would require for the two stores.

"I will tell you upfront that I have a problem with the massive amount of parking spaces," Commissioner Terry Steilen said.

While Wal-Mart representatives stressed they need those spaces, especially during the peak holiday shopping season, they did eventually agree to take another look at their design or at least present the commission with proof of their

ability to fill 1,700 parking spaces.

"We are willing to do whatever it takes to put a Wal-Mart in Wheeling," said David L. Reifman, attorney for Wal-Mart.

"Parking is a major issue for us, but we are willing to take another look."

Although Wal-Mart already has agreed to put up a fence and trees between the Sam's Wholesale Club and Cedar Run, commissioners want them to look at ways to further buffer that area along with the rest of the site.

"A buffer is meant to reduce the visual and noise impact of the site on surrounding areas, particularly Cedar Run," Village Planner Mark Janek said.

# Police earn accreditation

By APRIL HATTORI  
STAFF WRITER

11-29-90  
Wheeling/Though dwarfed in size by the Chicago Police Department, the Wheeling Police have something their big city buddies don't have - the stamp of approval by Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said Chicago, like 45 other municipalities in the state, is in the process of becoming accredited.

The Wheeling Police Department is one of 14 Illinois agencies to receive accreditation by the nationally recognized group. Over 166 departments in the country meet its list of requirements, which reads like a comprehensive zoning ordinance.

The quest for improving Wheeling law enforcement began in 1982 when the department took a hard look at itself.

"We wanted to make ourselves more credible," Hermes said. "It was important for us to match our standards with those nationwide."

Instead of improving old rules, the department began with a new slate and rewrote every policy.

The department instituted over 500 new policies, including a Citizens Advisory Committee and a Police Advisory Committee. Both groups were charged with providing long range goals for police

6  
We wanted to make ourselves more credible.

Michael Hermes

enforcement.

Hermes noted that both volunteer committees submitted similar goals for Wheeling.

"I was surprised. In other towns, the police and community usually have different goals," Hermes said.

Suggested goals included focusing on gang support,

expanding patrols and the continuing sobriety checks on Wheeling roads.

Hermes said he is particularly proud of the department's Bias/Hate Crimes program, a project pioneered by the department.

Before if someone sprays graffiti on a synagogue or Catholic church it was considered a normal offense. Now it's a separate offense. Before a bias/hate crime would just be considered criminal damage to property or battery.

Hermes has found that minor crimes motivated by race or sexual orientation tend to escalate into more serious incidents if not carefully monitored. Thus, the department investigates every bias/hate crime thoroughly, rather than classifying it as a conventional crime, he said.

Officers say the national recognition has brought pride to the force, which endured a three-year accreditation process.

"It was a whole lot of work," Hermes said. "But worth it."

# Wal-Mart eyes 30 acre site west of Weiland

By APRIL HATTORI  
STAFF WRITER

11-29-90  
Wheeling/Some Wheeling residents voiced concern Monday about increased traffic from a proposal to develop a Wal-Mart shopping center on a 30-acre site west of Weiland Road.

Wal-Mart officials estimated the center would increase traffic by 100 cars during rush hour around the site, located between Lake-Cook and McHenry Roads, just west of Weiland Road.

"Route 83 is bad enough," said Mary Arvidson, president of the Cedar Run subdivision, which is adjacent to the site. "I can only see it causing a tremendous problem."

Arvidson said residents already have trouble entering and exiting the subdivision off McHenry Road. She said a traffic light should be installed at the shopping center's entrance on McHenry Road to enable Cedar Run residents to regulate traffic.

Wal-Mart's plans already include an additional light on Lake-Cook Road.

Patrick Peery, real estate manager for Wal-Mart, said his company would gladly pay for a light on McHenry Road, which is owned by the state.

But he said the state Department of Transportation would not authorize installation of a light before the shopping center is in operation.

The proposal calls for a 114,000-square-foot Wal-Mart at the northwest corner of the property and a 130,000-square-foot Sam's Warehouse at the southeast corner. Both stores would share a parking lot that could hold 1,700 cars. A Mobil gas station at the corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland Roads is also planned.

But the construction of Sam's Warehouse, 75 feet to 80 feet from Cedar Run homes, also has some residents worried about noise and safety.

Sam's Warehouse loading dock will be built behind Donna Budzinski's home. "I live on the second floor and will have a bird's eye view of the trucks," she said.

Aside from their concerns about the project, though, many residents felt sales tax revenues from Wal-Mart and Sam's Warehouse will be an advantage for the Wheeling.

"If it don't come to Wheeling, it goes to Buffalo Grove," said Ed Main, who is considering a run for village trustee.

Wal-Mart officials expect \$25-30 million dollars in annual sales from Wal-Mart and \$50-60 million from Sam's Warehouse. Wal-Mart has six stores in the Chicago area including one in Vernon Hills and Naperville.

The board is expected to vote on the measure in January. Three more public hearings on the project will be held in December. Wal-Mart officials said the center could be completed by December 1991.

# Wheeling seeking flood insurance break

12-4-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents with flood insurance can expect to pay 5 percent less on their premiums next year if the village's application under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's community rating program is approved.

FEMA created the community rating system to give communities a way to promote reduced flood loss and encourage the purchase of flood insurance. Wheeling is the 14th Illinois municipality to apply to the program.

Program officials began accepting applications Oct. 1, and the village must apply by Dec. 15 if residents are to get the flood insurance

reduction in 1991. Village officials estimate about 400 residents now have flood insurance.

Community development director Michael Klitzke said there will probably be some changes in the program's requirements as it gets under way.

"It is a new program and they haven't done any reviews yet," he said. "There will be some modifications as they go along."

A cornerstone of the program is village determination of what property lies in a flood zone. Houses bought with federal loans have to have flood insurance if they are on a flood plain, Klitzke said. That determination is usually made by private consulting firms or the Illi-

nois State Water Survey.

But under the FEMA program the village would make written determinations for residents for \$25, the same amount charged by the Illinois Water Survey.

Klitzke said that the village responds to questions related to flood insurance and that explaining the flood map and how the determination works usually takes more time than making the actual determination would.

"Right now we get three or four calls on the same piece of property," he said. "We are hoping with the service fee that appraisers, mortgage companies and property owners could share the information."

# Citizens have wide choice of offices to seek

the offices.

Four seats on the Indian Trails Library Board will expire. Three board members John Lovetere, Thomas Murray and Mary Ellen Mattson have picked up petitions. The remaining board member Richard C. Tripp has yet to announce his decision.

Candidates have more than enough time to file petitions to run for the various offices. Petitions cannot be filed before Jan. 14, 1991. The deadline for formal announcement with the various agencies is Jan. 21, 1991.

members Judy Abruscato, Anthony Altieri, Jr. and James R. Whittington must decide their intentions to run as well. None of the board members have picked up petitions yet.

Wheeling Park District commissioners Ed Klocke, Don Lark and Bill Mattes will decide whether to run again in April. At the time of publication, no one had picked up petitions. Two Vernon Park Library Board seats, now held by Brenda Malloy and Betty Stover, will expire. No one yet has entered petitions to run for

decide whether to continue their crusades for the parks. They are Martha Weiss, Donald Hedlund and Larry Reiner. None of the candidates have formally announced their plans to renew their seats and no new candidates have come forward.

In Long Grove, three village board members are contemplating decisions to renew their seats. They are Ray Basso, Gall Blake and Chester Cole. At the time of publication, no applications had been picked up. Wheeling Village board

mer trustee Elliot Hartstein have announced their intentions to run for the town's top seat.

Three Buffalo Grove trustee positions, currently held by Jordan Shifrin, John Marienthal and Bruce Kahn are set to expire. Shifrin has decided not to run again, citing increased involvement with Northwest Bar Association. Marienthal and Bruce Rubin, a partner in Shifrin's law firm, have announced their intentions to run for two of the seats. Three Buffalo Grove Park District commissioners will

By APRIL HATTORI  
STAFF WRITER

11-29-90  
Spring means renewal for some and change for others. On April 2, 1991 voters will have the opportunity to choose new candidates or support incumbents for various municipal offices. The following is a summary of the various positions which will expire in April 1991: Buffalo Grove Village President Verna Clayton will bow out of the race after four terms. Village Trustees Michael O'Malley and Sidney Mathias and for-

# Wheeling Upward Party names slate for 3 seats

12-5-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. and two others will run on the Wheeling Upward Party slate for three seats on the village board.

Altieri will be joined on the slate by Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke and Wheeling Township Trustee Edward Main.

They are the first to announce they will seek the three open four-year trustee terms in the April 1991 election.

Altieri has served on the village board since 1983. He is also a member of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission. Before being elected trustee he was chairman of the Wheeling Plan Commission for seven years.

"There are a lot of exciting things going on in the village right now," Altieri said.

"I have gained experience with the village board and the airport

commission and I want to use that knowledge."

Although the Upward Party platform is still sketchy, he pledged the candidates, if elected, will continue the fiscal responsibility of the present village board.

Altieri said although his running mates do not have experience as village trustees, they are both "extremely well qualified."

Gaffke has been village clerk since 1989. Before that she served for three years on the Wheeling Plan Commission.

Main has been Wheeling Township trustee since 1986 and is also chairman of the Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners. He served on the Wheeling Appearance Commission for six years.

Trustee James R. Whittington, who ran on the Upward Party slate four years ago, has decided not to seek re-election for personal reasons.

# Volunteers sought for centennial celebration

Wed. Dec. 5, 1990

By LYNN HERRICK  
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Wheeling Centennial Committee will be asking area residents, "Are you involved?" in hopes of getting more volunteers to work on the village's 100th birthday celebration.

Although the anniversary of Wheeling's incorporation, in 1994, is still four years away, the committee is already working to make the day's festivities memorable.

"We need to start zeroing in on certain aspects of the celebration now," committee member Ginger Goldman said. "People often don't want to

think four years in advance, but a lot of this needs to be thought of now," she added.

Hence the 'Are You Involved?' slogan, which will start appearing on badges soon, committee member and village trustee Elizabeth Hartman said, adding the village board has approved giving money to the centennial celebration.

The committee plans to meet monthly to plan what Goldman calls a 'blow out parade and picnic' at the Aug. 7, 1994 commemoration.

In addition, the committee will devise fund-raising ideas for the event, including an 18 month calendar that

will culminate in the birthday celebration.

"We are interested in perhaps getting local businesses to sponsor a month each," Hartman said.

"We would also like to see local non-profit organizations sponsor a once a month event dealing with the centennial," Goldman said, citing a local dance as a possibility.

Dedicating a permanent commemoration of the event is also at the forefront of the committee's collective minds. "We are open to ideas on something to dedicate," Goldman said. "We don't know what kind of money we'll have, but when we know

what it is we want, we'll work toward it."

The committee is also planning to start a 'star search' for entertainment ideas. "I would hope we could afford some known names," Goldman said. "Although Mel Torme is probably very expensive," she laughed.

In the time leading up to the celebration, Goldman said, "We'll all become Nancy Drew detectives at festivals around the area in the next few years, finding aspects of other local celebrations that might fit into Wheeling's centennial."

## 12/5/90 - Wednesday Bartlett accepts funds for fight against balefill

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bartlett trustees accepted the first contribution Tuesday from another municipality for the village's five-year fight against a proposed balefill near its border.

Officials say they hope the Village of Wayne's \$3,500 contribution to legal and consulting fees for fighting the approval of high-tech landfill — called a balefill because garbage is compacted into bales before burial — is just the first.

"We decided maybe those of us who live in Wayne ought to try to do a little something," Wayne Mayor Richard Lightfine told Bartlett trustees.

Most recently Bartlett commissioned a \$5,000 to \$6,000 study of alternatives to the balefill project, which was proposed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, a group of north and northwest suburban com-

munities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering granting a permit for the project, which is the last official hurdle before construction can proceed.

Now the village will turn to 21 communities along the Fox Valley and the Newark Valley Aquifer, an underground water supply that some officials have said may be threatened if the project proceeds.

"We're going to be heading south raising cash," said Bartlett Village President John A. Stark.

Bartlett has spent roughly \$280,000 in its struggle to prevent the project from getting the state and federal permits that are needed. But despite sending several letters to those communities that may be affected, none have responded or offered to contribute.

But Stark said he believes the communities will be more responsive to a personal request.

## Apartment dwellers can recycle in Wheeling

Wed. 12/12/90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of apartments, town houses and condominiums in the village of Wheeling can now participate in the village's recycling program by having a newly designed recycling container placed on common ground within the development.

But the service is not without a cost and officials of the village and Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal Inc. said that may be the reason the new idea is not catching on as quickly as they had hoped.

There are about 11 multi-family housing complexes in the village and so far only one has expressed an interest in the six-bin storage container.

"Most multi-family complexes are on a budget and when they begin to work on new budgets I'm sure they will accept the recycling container," said Don Bulthuis, general manager of Wheeling/Buffalo Grove Disposal.

While the waste management company would retain ownership of the bins after they are placed in an apartment or condominium complex, they would charge a monthly

fee for emptying the bin.

Bulthuis would not say how much the program might cost because he said it was difficult to generalize. The fee would vary according to the size of the housing complex.

The containers, about the same size as an apartment complex garbage dumpster, would have six removable bins that would hold aluminum, tin, glass and newspaper.

Plastic would not be recycled under this program because it would take up too much space in the container.

"In the past most containers were made to be serviced by a garbage truck," Bulthuis said. "This container has removable bins so it can be serviced by one of our trucks." Unlike the village's curbside recycling program where residents pay for the program whether using it or not, there is no way to make multi-family housing dwellers use the new program. "At some point I suppose recycling will become mandatory," said Craig G. Anderson, village manager. "But for now there is nothing the village can do to make them recycle."

## Trustee will give up his post with no animosity

12-6-90  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village Trustee James A. Whittington stressed that his reasons for not seeking re-election to the village board are personal and professional and he feels no animosity toward other board members.

"I enjoyed working with the other trustees and I am going to miss it," he said Wednesday. "But I need to put my priorities back together a bit."

Whittington, associate principal at Wheeling High School, said the combined demands of his job at

the school and his work as trustee have become too much. When Whittington was appointed to the board in 1985 and when he ran for re-election in 1987, he was student activities director for Northwest Suburban High School District 214. He became associate principal at the high school in 1988.

"There have been some conflicting activities," he said. "I have been balancing and juggling a lot of things and I didn't want to balance a campaign with my work at the school."

Whittington, who was born and raised in Wheeling, said he has enjoyed having the opportunity to ad-



James Whittington

dress issues facing the village and has come to understand them better. However, he said a trustee is always learning.

"Nobody appoints us with all the answers when we are elected," he said. "Being trustee has been a good, pleasant experience."

# Panel: Pace of suburban jobs boom to pick up even more

By DAVE MCKINNEY  
and DIANE DUNGEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Spurred partly by growth along the Lake-Cook Road corridor, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission Wednesday pushed up its long-range estimate for total jobs in suburban Cook County by nearly 15 percent.

The 20-year employment projection released by the planning agency was part of several key counts that went to one undeniable and not-so-surprising conclusion: People and jobs are still coming to the Northwest suburbs in droves.

"The most significant change is in employment figures," said Max

Dieber, research director for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. "It's much more than we previously forecast."

The commission estimates by 2010 suburban Cook will have 1.56 million jobs, up from the 1.1 million jobs counted in the 1980 census. The projection represents a 14.5 percent increase of 198,100 jobs over long-range estimates made by the planning agency just two years ago.

"A very large percentage of the increase is along the Lake-Cook corridor and in Northfield, Palatine and Wheeling townships," Dieber said.

By comparison, population increases appear to be much more modest. The commission increased its headcount for 2010 by 2.7 percent

from 1988 to 2.4 million — up from 2.2 million in 1980. Chicago is estimated to have 3.1 million residents by 2010.

The population estimates in suburban Cook generally were nudged upward after numerous claims from municipalities that the projections were low, Dieber said.

According to the new projections, the five largest Northwest suburbs 20 years from now in terms of population will be Schaumburg (86,959), Arlington Heights (79,444), Des Plaines (62,762), Mount Prospect (53,976) and Hoffman Estates (51,517). Schaumburg now trails Arlington Heights in population, according to preliminary 1990 census figures from October.

In the entire Chicago area, the

Continued from Page 1

but not as quickly as Lake, the NIPC numbers showed.

When metropolitan counties are added together, NIPC's 2010 estimates predict a total of 8,327,900 people will be living in the Chicago area, up from the 7.1 million counted in the 1980 census. Because of jumps in growth projections for Lake and McHenry and Will counties, the total number reflects a 1.8 percent increase over 1988 estimates.

"If you just look at all the growth out here — all the companies that are coming in and all of the traffic — you can tell our numbers are going to be up," said Rita Athas, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference. "This is no surprise."

What Athas and other suburban leaders hope, however, is that the numbers will bolster their argument that the suburbs deserve greater political representation — particularly when it comes time to redraw Congressional maps.

"Not to say the city is less important," Athas said, "but as the population shifts, the suburbs need to be considered for more road projects. Our needs need to be given consideration."

Dieber, NIPC's research director, said the agency's new figures — based partly on talks with municipal



### Future of jobs

Projected number of jobs for 2010 in Chicago and suburbs

	1980	2010	% change
Suburban Cook	1,114,000	1,566,300	+40.6
Chicago	1,583,000	1,682,800	+6.3
DuPage	284,700	641,500	+125.3
Lake	162,000	306,700	+89.3
Kane	119,100	174,400	+46.4
McHenry	47,000	73,200	+55.7
Will	91,700	134,100	+45.2

Source: Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

Daily Herald Graphic/Tim Brodovich

largest suburbs in 2010 are forecast by NIPC to be Aurora (148,317) and Naperville (126,738).

The study forecasts suburban Cook will have 961,800 housing units by 2010 — a 1.8 percent revision upward from the forecast two years ago and an increase over 1980's

count of 785,700 housing units. In terms of housing, population and employment gains, Lake County boasts the biggest revisions upward in the study. Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry and Will all will grow —

See NIPC on Page 4

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-13-90

on the south and Lake-Cook Road

that would not happen because the

Wal-Mart Inc. must have approval of all the village's commissions before trustees will vote to annex the proposed site.

Representatives of the retailer will come before the plan commission with a revised site plan on Thursday.

The village is not considering li-

## Zoning board OKs Wal-Mart garden store

Developers of a proposed Wheeling Wal-Mart store jumped another hurdle Wednesday, when the Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals voted to recommend to the village board that the store be allowed to have an outdoor garden center.

A variation in municipal code was needed because the proposed site's current zoning prohibits outdoor sales.

Wal-Mart Inc. is asking the village to give them permission to build a Wal-Mart and a Sam's Wholesale Club on 37 acres of property bordered by the village of Wheeling on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road

on the north. The garden center would be on the north side of the Wal-Mart, which is at the northwest corner of the property. It would be open from early spring until late fall and sell items such as flowers, fertilizer and trees.

Most of the items would be packaged, not sold in bulk.

"Wal-Mart runs a relatively standardized program nationwide," said Wal-Mart attorney David L. Reisman. "We only develop sites that can fit all our needs. The project could not go forward without the garden center."

Commissioners expressed concern that garden center products might overflow into the parking area, but Reisman assured them

### Population in the Northwest suburbs

#### Projections for 2010

	1990	2010	% change
Schaumburg	66,781	86,959	+30.2
Arlington Heights	75,251	79,444	+5.5
Des Plaines	52,805	62,762	+18.8
Mount Prospect	51,650	53,976	+4.5
Hoffman Estates	45,555	51,517	+13.0
Palatine	36,166	46,218	+27.7
Buffalo Grove	34,550	46,018	+33.1
Bartlett	19,184	41,912	+118.4
Wheeling	29,786	40,164	+34.8
Elk Grove Village	33,154	39,767	+19.9
Streamwood	29,540	39,380	+33.3
Hanover Park	32,385	37,914	+17.0
Rolling Meadows	22,210	22,486	-
Prospect Heights	15,370	15,168	-
Barrington	9,369	12,496	+33.3
Inverness	6,443	9,201	+42.8
Long Grove	4,544	6,691	+47.2
Barrington Hills	3,262	5,942	+82.1
Lake Barrington	3,821	4,903	+28.3
South Barrington	2,933	4,791	+63.3
North Barrington	1,560	3,053	+95.7
Chicago	2,725,979	3,155,000	+15.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

Daily Herald Graphic

and county officials and preliminary U.S. Census counts — should stand for at least two years without need for revision.

## Health van makes visit

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Area residents who meet Cook County low-income eligibility requirements can get free health testing outside of the Wheeling Village Hall Thursday when the Cook County "Wellness on Wheels Van" comes to town.

The van will be outside of Village Hall at 255 W. Dundee Road from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Appointments are necessary because financial eligibility must be determined.

The clinic will offer a physical examination by a family nurse practitioner. Vision and hearing tests, nutrition and weight consultations, inoculations for measles, tetanus, mumps and rubella, and tests for anemia, diabetes and high blood pressure will also be available.

Students entering high school or college may also be eligible for the physical examination.

"This may help out people who ordinarily put their health care on the back burner," said Dr. Bruce M. Portnoy, a member of the Wheeling Board of Health and an optometrist.

## Wheeling may allow some home businesses

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some types of home businesses in Wheeling may no longer be illegal if trustees pass an ordinance now being drafted.

Although home occupations are now prohibited by Wheeling municipal code, village officials estimate that there are at least 100 businesses now being operated out of private homes.

"A lot of businesses are technically in violation of the village code," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "So we have looked at what other villages are doing and where we ought to go on this issue."

The village is not considering li-

censing or inspecting these businesses, which range from secretarial to day-care services, so the village would not get additional revenue or incur administrative costs under the ordinance. And certain businesses would continue to be prohibited, including beauty salons, motor vehicle repair and manufacturing.

Anderson said that the village has received very few complaints about businesses being run out of homes and that the ones he has received have been seasonal in nature.

"The complaints appear at certain times of the year," he said.

"And are usually related to businesses like landscaping. Frankly, these complaints usually disap-

pear and we haven't been real direct in addressing them."

Trustee William A. Rogers said that he has seen vans parked in driveways around the village and watched four or five people come and take the vans elsewhere.

"Neighbors don't appreciate that and shouldn't be subjected to it," he said.

The ordinance would prohibit outdoor storage of equipment or materials, and also stipulate the operation of the business could not cause an increase in noise or traffic in the neighborhood, or any electrical interference.

"When there is a complaint we need to have some guidelines to look to," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

# July deadline set for Wheeling 911

Handwritten: 12/13/90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's Enhanced 911 advisory board has set a tight schedule for purchasing and installing the equipment necessary to get the village's emergency system up and running on July 22.

That is the date that Illinois Bell will cut Wheeling into the 911 network. If the village is not ready it could be two more years before another open date comes along.

"Illinois Bell sets the date based on when the referendum was passed

and when the contracts were signed," said J. Michael Hermes, Wheeling deputy chief of police. "We have no choice. It's a tight schedule but we should have no problems meeting it. We have to do it now or they say 'go to the back of the line.'"

The next step for the advisory board, made up of two members from the police department, two members from the fire department and the communications center supervisor, is to present its equipment wish list to the Emergency Telephone System Board.

The committee has visited area

fire and police departments that use the enhanced 911 system and has determined that it will cost roughly \$300,000 for the necessary equipment. They will ask the emergency telephone systems board, made up of the village trustees, to approve the expenditure when it meets Jan. 14.

After the purchase is approved the advisory committee will enter into contract negotiations with Ameritech Inc., which is the agent for all four of the companies that make 911 equipment.

"Every municipality in the area has gone directly to Ameritech," Hermes said.

If everything goes according to schedule, installation of the equipment will begin April 15. Illinois Bell will begin testing the system April 30 to get ready for the July 22 start up.

Voters approved the enhanced 911 system last November. The system automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes only last a few seconds.

## Planners give OK to Wal-Mart proposal

Handwritten: 12-14-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission approved Wal-Mart Inc.'s proposed site plan Thursday, leaving appearance commission approval as the last go-ahead developers need before trustees will vote to annex their site into the village.

The proposed 37-acre site, where Wal-Mart wants to build a Sam's Wholesale Club and Wal-Mart department store is now bordered by village limits on the east. It is bordered by Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

Wal-Mart engineers worked with village staff and residents of the Cedar Run condominium complex,

bordering the site on the east, to come up with the revised plan that met with commissioners' approval. Commissioners had been unhappy with the number of parking spaces at the site and the proximity of the Sam's Wholesale Club loading dock to the Cedar Run complex.

Although Wal-Mart eliminated 49 parking spaces and added buffering between the stores and the road, and between the back of Sam's and Cedar Run, one commissioner voted against approval of the site plan.

"I am not comfortable with this plan because of the parking spaces," said Commissioner Steve Walanka. "I still think 1,400 is too many."

The revised plan also calls for the Sam's truck dock to be moved eliminating an entrance to the proposed shopping center on McHenry Road and turning the dock around so that it is no longer parallel to the back yard of some Cedar Run residents.

"I think we came out the best we could," said Mary Arvidson, president of the Cedar Run Homeowner's Association. "They made some substantial changes from their original plans. It looks like we are getting some good neighbors."

If the appearance commission approves the plan when it meets on Dec. 19, village trustees will consider the annexation agreement in January.

## Balefill agency's money offer labeled a bribe by opponents

Handwritten: 12-14-90

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an apparent move to push along approval of a high-tech landfill near Bartlett, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has offered to contribute money for the creation and preservation of wildlife habitat and to add more underground water supply monitors.

But the proposal has landfill opponents angry, calling the offer a bribe and saying that such privately discussed changes squeeze the public out of the project.

In a letter to the Illinois Department of Conservation, SWANCC offered to establish a surcharge on the fees for using the balefill — so called because trash will be compacted into

bales before burial. Those fees — 50 cents per ton during the first six years of operation and \$1 per ton for the remainder of the balefill's life — would be "collected by SWANCC and paid to the Department of Conservation in trust," the letter said.

"Those funds will be used by the department, at its discretion, for the purpose of creation, preservation, enhancement and protection of habitat," it said.

SWANCC also agreed to increase protection of the Bluff Springs Fen Nature Preserve in Elgin by installing six additional groundwater monitoring wells in the area and including the fen in a groundwater protection plan secured by a trust fund.

"They're offering us what amounts to a bribe" said Mary

Byrne, president of the Citizens Against the Balefill. She also criticized SWANCC for altering the project without notifying the public.

"When the public has no input on the changes, that's bad," she said.

SWANCC officials, Illinois Department of Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers, which is considering whether or not to issue the final permit SWANCC needs, were unavailable for comment.

In April, conservation department officials came out against the project, citing the landfill's possible threat to nearby underground water supplies and its effect on wildlife at the site. A report prepared later by the Army Corps of Engineers said the balefill would not harm the water supply if it is built as designed.

## Wheeling differ on planning

plan the land is planned for commercial use.

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck said officials took offense to Buffalo Grove's letter and the implication that Wheeling was wrong for planning commercial development on that land.

"It was unfortunate that that letter had kind of an aggressive tone to it," Janeck said. "It was written as if Buffalo Grove is more rational in their land planning than Wheeling is."

Buffalo Grove William R. Balling said the letter was not "aggressive," and that Wheeling officials should have expected some criticism at the public hearing on the proposal.

congestion along Lake-Cook Road, and could hurt existing businesses in both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling.

Nonetheless, commissioners recommended approval of plans to build a Wal-Mart department store and Sam's Wholesale Club on 37 acres bordered by Weiland, McHenry and Lake-Cook roads.

The land is in unincorporated Cook County, but Wheeling officials plan to annex the property as part of the agreement.

Buffalo Grove officials also had hoped to one day annex the land into Buffalo Grove. On the Buffalo Grove master plan, the land is planned for residential development, while on Wheeling's master

## Buffalo Grove, Wheeling differ on planning

Handwritten: Nov. 13/17/90

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As plans for a Wal-Mart on Lake-Cook Road move full speed ahead, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling officials have begun to quibble about which town has planned properly for development along the road.

Buffalo Grove officials recently wrote a letter to the Wheeling Plan Commission stating the Wal-Mart proposal did not follow Buffalo Grove's master plan, and that Wheeling officials should think carefully before recommending village board approval of the plan.

Buffalo Grove officials believe the large commercial development would create more traffic

## Spring vote to include new political party

Handwritten: 12/21/90 - Fri.

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When they close the curtain behind them in the voting booths next spring, Wheeling voters will see a new political party fielding three trustee candidates on their ballots.

The party, the Citizens Action Party, has been formed by incumbent trustee Judy Abruscato, who will be seeking her second term as trustee in the April elections.

"I believe we need to have a two-party system," Abruscato said. "I ran as an independent during the last election but I feel that you need to belong, to think in some realms that are the same."

The other two candidates run-

ning under the Citizens Action Party banner are Michael Lynch, 36, of 675 Longtree Lane, and David Devito, 35, of 638 Merle Avenue.

Lynch has served as president of the Wheeling Jaycees, has an interest in firefighting, and commutes to Chicago to work in the insurance business.

Devito was raised in the village and attended Wheeling High School. He is the owner of a business in Palatine.

"We need to get younger candidates involved," Abruscato said. "Sometimes fresh ideas are better than established ones."

Abruscato said garbage pick-up will probably become one of the issues of the election.

Until April 1990, garbage was picked up twice a week. But after new state laws for the handling of yard waste were enacted by the state, the village changed to once-a-week garbage pick up and once-a-week yard waste pick up.

Some residents have complained about the change. And Abruscato said other municipalities are also considering how to handle yard waste.

"No one seems happy with the once-a-week pick up," she said.

Abruscato, Lynch and Devito will face off against three Upward Party candidates: Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr., Village Clerk Lois Gaffke and Wheeling Township Trustee Edward H. Main.

12-19-90  
**Wheeling agrees to install lights**

Wheeling trustees voted to spend \$23,000 to install temporary traffic signals at Old McHenry Road and Lexington Drive. Village officials estimate that the signals can be installed within two months of final approval of the plans by the Illinois Department of Transportation but they have no idea when that approval might come through. The signals will be temporary

because McHenry Road is scheduled for eventual widening. At that time permanent traffic signals will be installed.

**Ridgefield group signs easment**

The Ridgefield subdivision homeowners association and village trustees signed an easement agreement that enables the village to maintain their storm sewers within the subdivision. The village is responsible for

maintaining, and repairing a retention basin located within the subdivision but could not service it without the easement agreement, which gives the village the right to cross private property to do any work on the basin.

**Palwaukee workers finally in program**

Trustees learned that the Social Security Administration is finally ready to accept contributions for Palwaukee Municipal Airport

personnel and voted to send the administration a check for \$28,247 to cover contributions retroactive from Sept. 1, 1989.

The Social Security Administration originally refused the contributions because the airport did not have an agreement with the state of Illinois. But the airport recently completed the necessary paperwork to enter into the agreement so Social Security is now ready to receive the contributions, which must be made before the end of this year.

12-18-90  
**Traffic light sensor in Wheeling plans**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board approved a new five-year capital improvement plan Monday that includes \$66,000 to fix village traffic lights so the signal can be changed by approaching police cars and fire trucks. Fire Chief Keith S. Mac Issac said the traffic pre-emption devices will be installed on all traffic lights over a seven-year period. These devices react to a light signal transmitted by emergency vehicles, giving the vehicle a green light while changing the signal to red for vehicles going in other directions. Under the program, two inter-

sections each year will be fitted with the sensor. Mac Issac said it would take five to seven years before all the village's emergency vehicles are equipped with the transmitting device. "This is a wise investment for the safety of the community," he said. "The system is also compatible with our neighbors so they could use it when providing assistance." The Opticom system is used in Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect. Other projects new on the capital improvement list this year are traffic signals at Lexington Avenue and Route 83 and at Dundee Road and Huntington Drive. The plan also includes building a

third water reservoir and pumping station at the Soo Line and Old Willow Road to accommodate industrial park development. Some projects are ongoing village projects such as sidewalk repair and replacements and the village's tree program. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said all projects are feasible but those that are further out in the five-year plan, including a park near the K-Mart on Dundee Road, and a park at the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, are more tentative. "This is simply a plan for the next five years so that everybody knows before hand this is what we are going to be doing," said James A. Rhodes, village attorney.

12/29/90  
**Appearance Commission OKs plans for Wal-Mart**

By GINI OHLSON  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Township Appearance Commission has added its stamp of approval to plans for a Wheeling Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club. The commission approved the architectural landscaping and lighting plans for the two stores after Wal-Mart representatives answered their questions about the Sam's loading dock and the location of trash receptacles outside the stores. Commissioners were concerned the loading dock would be seen by passing motorists. But Joe Altenhoff of McClure engineering said the truck dock would be down from eye level. Several commissioners commented they felt it was necessary to have trash receptacles in the front outer areas of the stores. Commissioner George Heiber said receptacles would be beneficial in keeping the area free from wrappers and other garbage customers might throw away on their way out. Although Wal-Mart had intended to monitor the littering situation by using its staff to keep all trash receptacles inside and use staff to pick up litter, Wal-Mart

representatives said they would agree to having trash receptacles in the outer area. Altenhoff also detailed for the commission Wal-Mart's plans for the area's lighting. He stated they intended to use approximately 30, 42-foot light fixtures in the parking area. He said that the system is one of the best outdoor lighting systems in the country and that virtually no direct light will spillover. Several of the commissioners questioned Altenhoff as to the height of the lighting. Tom Fennel, staff liaison to the appearance commission suggested that perhaps the height of the lights might be lowered to 32 feet. Altenhoff explained, that if this were to be done approximately nine more lights would have to be added. The commissioners voted four to one in favor of keeping the lighting at 42 feet. Wal-Mart officials have to go back before the zoning board of appeals one more time before they get final approval from the village board for their plans. At that time, probably in late January, the village will annex the proposed site, bordered now by the village on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

12/28/90  
**FAA seeking input on Palwaukee plans**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Neighbors of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport who want to voice opinions on the airport's proposed noise abatement program can write the Federal Aviation Administration until Jan. 29. The FAA is in the process of reviewing the airport's plan, which is a blend of structural improvements and regulations for pilots who use the airport. The ideas for reducing noise at the airport, jointly owned by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights, come out of a four-year study conducted by Coffman Associates Inc., an airport consulting firm based in Kansas

City, Mo. FAA approval of the project is needed before the federal agency will agree to pay for any of the estimated \$523,000 worth of work. Under the plan, the airport's noisiest planes will be prohibited from taking off and landing between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Pilots would also be prohibited from performing engine maintenance during those hours. The plan would also require airplanes to turn left after taking off to avoid passing over some residential areas in Wheeling. Airport officials are already asking pilots to cut back engine thrust when possible to reduce noise immediately after takeoff. "These are very simple things to

do that would greatly reduce the noise," said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant manager of the airport. "We encourage our pilots to participate but they don't have to if they feel it would hinder the safety of their flight." Other parts of the plan call for construction of a noise fence on the east side of Wolf Road, and the construction of a taxiway to eliminate airplanes idling for long periods of time at the end of the runway. The FAA is expected to rule on the plan by June. To comment, write Jerri L. Horst, Federal Aviation Administration, Great Lakes Region, Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-640.8, 2300 E. Devon Ave, Des Plaines 60018.

Sat. 12/29/90  
**Village to pick up Yule trees for recycling**

By JOYCE KELLY  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to reduce the amount of refuse sent to local landfills, Wheeling officials have established a Christmas tree pickup service set to begin Wednesday. "It's just a part of good recycling," said Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance Scott T.

Shirley. During the two-week program, trees will be collected every day from residents' parkways and chipped into mulch for composting. The recycled material will then be used as garden filler. Village officials are requiring residents to strip trees of decorations and separate them from other household garbage.

The Wheeling program was modeled after Buffalo Grove's pick-up service. Last year, more than 1,700 trees were collected in five days in Buffalo Grove. Shirley said that based on the number of phone calls Wheeling officials have received about the program, he expects it too will be successful. While there is no cost to Wheeling

residents who participate in this year's tree pickup service, labor and equipment fees estimated at \$7,800 will be absorbed by the village. As in previous years, the Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal Co. will continue to pick up trees from Wheeling residents to deliver to landfills. Those trees will be picked up prior to and after the new Jan. 2-11 service.

# New fire chief made a big impact

Sunday - 12-30-90

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first year of the decade brought some changes in the faces that help shape Wheeling and the resolution of one issue that had plagued the village for several years.

A new fire chief, village planner and Wheeling High School principal brought fresh perspectives to the village. And in the case of Fire Chief Keith S. MacIssac that new perspective was credited with narrowly avoiding arbitration on more than 30 issues that had kept the firefighters working without a contract for five years.

1990 was also the year that Wheeling residents saw some success in negotiating with or defeating developers who wanted to change the face of the village.

Both Saftey-Kleen Corp. and Wal-Mart Inc. upset residents with their plans to build in the village. After twice failing to file the necessary paperwork to apply for the permit to build a hazardous waste storage site in the village, Saftey-Kleen representatives decided to locate the facility in Elgin.

And after meeting with residents of the Cedar Run condominiums, Wal-Mart representatives made significant changes to their plan for a Wheeling Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club. The plans still await final village approval.

However, residents were less successful in getting village officials to return to twice-a-week curbside garbage pick-up after trustees voted early in the year to pick up garbage one day a week and designated the other day for pick up of yard waste and recyclables.

Other happenings in Wheeling may not have played as big a role in shaping the village for the next century, but they speak to the spirit of the community and to its shortcomings.

The following is a sampling of those events — some happy, some sad, some seemingly never-ending — that made headlines in 1990:

## The top story

Sighs of relief were heard from both the village and its firefighters when an agreement was reached on all but one of the issues that had kept the two sides from reaching a contract agreement for four years.

The settlement came just days before the two sides were scheduled to present the case to a federal arbitrator.

Contract clashes began months before the last agreement expired on April 30, 1986, when firefighters decided to include lieutenants in their union. After the village refused to recognize the lieutenants talks broke down and last April a federal mediator was called in. In August an agreement still had not been reached so both sides agreed to call in an arbitrator.

But in an effort to avoid the costly arbitration process, estimated to be in the four-figure range, MacIssac and Firefighter's Union President Bart Burns began to chat informally about the issues, which included what normal duty entails, management rights, police association rights, the role of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and how to handle jury duty now that firefighters are no longer exempt from serving.

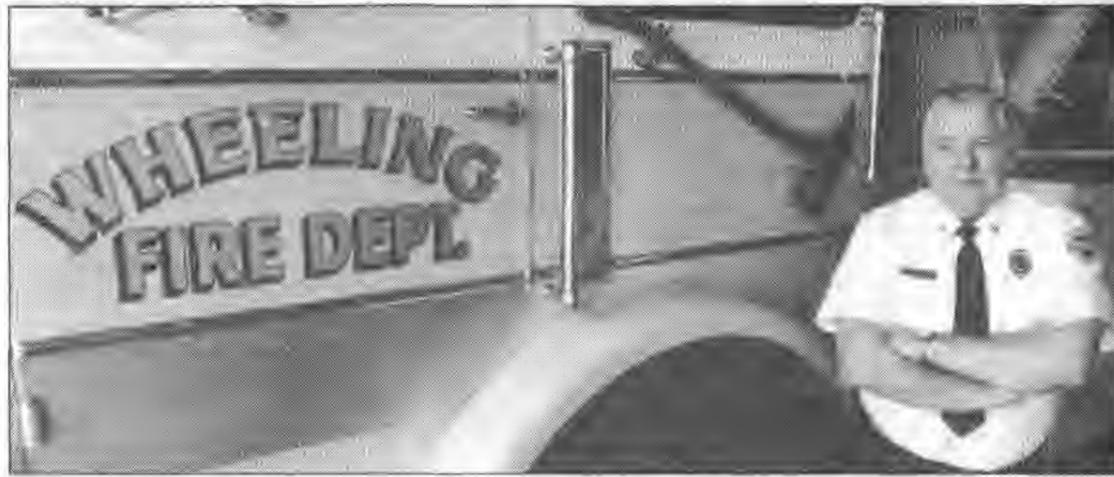
Both sides agree that MacIssac brought a fresh perspective to the stalemated talks and that once firefighters saw he wanted to involve them in some of the decisions that would affect them, negotiations went much smoother.

Firefighter morale has been low but MacIssac will have until April 1993, when his contract expires, to heal the wounds that the protracted negotiations left on his department.

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Whispers that a Wheeling Wal-Mart might be in the retailing giant's plans began circulating in the village in early summer but no official word was given about the corporation's plans until they began talking with residents who will border the proposed stores — a Sam's



Bernie Koeppen, Wheeling's first full-time fire chief, retired after 43 years of service to the village.

## 1990 A LOOK BACK

Wholesale Club is also part of the plan — in October.

Wal-Mart representatives want the village to annex the proposed site bordered by the village limits on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north.

But the village will not finalize the annexation agreement until Wal-Mart has approval from the village's Plan and Appearance commissions and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Representatives of the retailer have been successful so far in the approval process but not without making significant changes, including the relocation of the Sam's Warehouse loading dock and eliminating 49 parking spaces, in their plans to suit both plan commissioners and residents of Cedar Run.

Wal-Mart expects the 115,000-square-foot Wal-Mart to have at least \$25 million in sales in its first year, while the Sam's is expected to make about \$50 million.

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The stores would be open in the spring of 1992.

ant in the Danforth Principal Preparation Program at the University of Oklahoma while she was completing her doctorate in education.

And just as it was difficult to picture Wheeling High School without Shirley, it was not easy to picture the Wheeling Fire Department without Koeppen.

Koeppen, who began as a volunteer firefighter with the village in 1947, retired March 31 at the age of 65. In 1950 he became the assistant fire chief in what was still an all-volunteer department. He guided the firefighters through three station moves and brought national attention to the department when he declared red dead and had all the village's fire engines painted lime-green.

Koeppen was replaced by 31-year-old MacIssac, who left the position of director of emergency services/fire chief for the Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department. MacIssac, who began his new job April 16, was chosen from 25 applicants.

## Most controversial

Police Chief Michael Haeger continued his practice of publicly accusing his officers of violating department disciplinary regulations. But this time he charged Police Officer Robert Pressley, perhaps Wheeling's most controversial police officer.

Pressley was charged with violating department codes that prohibit officers from taking breaks within the first two hours of their shifts and taking breaks that exceed 15 minutes. Haeger stated that Pressley went to a gas station just outside village boundaries on at least four occasions in October and November of 1989. When questions about the charges Pressley did not tell the truth, according to the charges.

Pressley was found guilty of the charges by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners in November but his lawyers are planning to appeal. They say that the charges are evidence of Haeger's continued attempts to rid the police department of its only black police officer.

Pressley's 1983 racial discrimination suit against the village, in which he charges that Haeger denied him salary increases and falsely accused him of illicit sexual activity in a case that was later dropped by the police and fire commission, is scheduled to be heard in U.S. District Court in early 1991.

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District officials expected enrollment to rise steadily but were surprised by the 6 percent increase. The largest increases were at Robert Frost Elementary School in Mount Prospect, the school at the bottom of the remodeling priority list.

Remodeling plans for Mark Twain Elementary School in Wheeling are almost complete and that work is slated to begin in the spring. And voters in November gave the School Board permission to build a new Walt Whitman Elementary School in



Daily Herald Map

figures in Palwaukee's master plan are waiting and wondering if and when they will be able to move.

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More than 1,000 children visted Santa this year. And with the old tradition the historical society also began a new one. For the first time the society sold commemorative Christmas tree ornaments that are engraved with "Lollipop Lane 1990."

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The park district paid \$1 million for that land and in 1990 hired an architectural firm to begin preliminary plans for the sports complex which could include a swimming pool, community recreation building, jogging paths, parking and a reservoir to handle flood waters.

Preliminary proposals call for the complex to be completed by the summer of 1992 but park district commissioners have said that is an optimistic projection. The year 1991 will be spent looking over preliminary plans and preparing cost estimates with construction possibly beginning



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## End of an era

It was actually the end of two eras in Wheeling in 1990 when two public servants traded their jobs for retirement.

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He was replaced on July 2 by Elizabeth Ann Ennis, the first female principal in District 214. She has held jobs as director of high school and adult education in the Oklahoma City public school system and as principal of Hammond High School in Indiana. Right before coming to Wheeling she worked as a graduate assist-

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Remodeling plans for Mark Twain Elementary School in Wheeling are almost complete and that work is slated to begin in the spring. And voters in November gave the School Board permission to build a new Walt Whitman Elementary School in Wheeling to the tune of about \$4.75 million.

The district will not have to borrow money or raise taxes to implement any of their grand-scale building plans. The money will come from the interest earned from the district's working cash fund. The interest income is estimated at \$750,000 annually.

### Story that won't die

When the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission decided to spend \$83 million on a 12-year capital improvement plan they hoped it would be just that — a 12-year plan. But as with any plan that involves federal and state funding, progress has been slow and most of the residents whose homes sit on land that



Daily Herald Map

figures in Palwaukee's master plan are waiting and wondering if and when they will be able to move.

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Preliminary proposals call for the complex to be completed by the summer of 1992 but park district commissioners have said that is an optimistic projection. The year 1991 will be spent looking over preliminary plans and preparing cost estimates with construction possibly beginning at the end of the year.

The year 1991 should also bring the Indian Trails Public Library to the forefront of the news as the Library Board begin studying ways to improve service to an ever-growing population.

The newly formed Citizens Alternative Services Committee will meet for the first time in January and begin its task of studying how the library serves the residents of Wheeling, part of Buffalo Grove and a small portion of Prospect Heights.

The committee, made up of 15 people, will then make a recommendation about how to improve those services when it meets with the Library Board sometime in June. The board will have the final say on what the library can afford to do and when it can do it.



**Greg Koepfen bags sweet corn at his family's farm stand on Dundee Road. Wheeling residents will be sad to see the stand go when the Wheeling Park District, who purchased the land last summer, begins construction on its new sports complex.**

## Wheeling manager gets 3rd raise in 2 years

Thurs, Jan 3, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees unanimously approved a 7.25 percent pay increase for Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Anderson's salary of \$64,000 will increase to \$69,000, following Anderson's annual salary review in early December.

Anderson joined the village staff in June 1988 at an annual salary of \$55,000, which was increased by 7 percent seven months later. Then last December, trustees voted to raise his salary 9 percent to \$64,000.

"We think he is doing an excellent job in all areas," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz about

Anderson. "The entire board is very pleased with Craig's performance. He does a fine job in reporting to the village board. That communication helps us to operate well, and that is much appreciated."

Anderson replaced eight-year village manager Thomas Markus, who left Wheeling to take a job as a city manager in a Minnesota suburb. Markus has since accepted a city manager's position in a Detroit suburb.

As village manager, Anderson, 40, oversees 183 full-time village employees. The village's five department heads, the village attorney and an assistant village manager report directly to him.

The village manager represents

Wheeling on the Northwest Water Commission, the group that handles Lake Michigan water allocation for the village and three nearby suburbs. Anderson is a member of the executive committee of the Northwest Municipal Conference.

"One of Craig's strong points is his participation in intergovernmental affairs," Schultz said.

"I'm very pleased with the pay raise," Anderson said. "It is very generous. I feel I have carried out the objectives and goals set by the village board. Trustees also expressed satisfaction about getting a good budget, but I can't take all the credit for that."

Prior to the Wheeling position Anderson was assistant village manager in Glenview.

## Wheeling clears way for bowling alley

1-8-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will be able to throw strikes, spares and even gutter balls at a bowling center on Milwaukee Avenue, now that village trustees have approved the plan.

Brunswick Corp. plans to begin building the 40-lane center at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave., just north of Mayer Avenue, within the next few months. Plans for the center are not quite complete, Brunswick representative Philip Fitzgerald told trustees Monday, but he expects them to be finished within the next two months.

"It usually takes about five months for construction," he said.

"And we generally like to open our bowling centers around Labor Day."

Plans for the center call for a billiard room, liquor bar, snack bar, kitchen and lounge. There also will be a pro shop, game room, multipurpose room and an area for bleachers.

The center also will give Wheeling television exposure.

Automatic pinsetters and state-of-the-art computerized scoring equipment will enable the center to hold national professional bowling tournaments. Fitzgerald said at least one tournament will be televised annually.

The bowling section of the center will be open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to midnight, Monday through

Thursday until 1:30 a.m., and Friday and Saturday until 2 a.m. The billiard room will close every night at midnight.

Brunswick officials were hoping to have 12 game machines in the center, but village law limits that number to four. And Village Attorney James A. Rhodes told trustees they cannot increase that number without rewriting the village ordinance.

Fitzgerald also asked trustees if it would be possible to have league bowling after the 2 a.m. closing time for people who work night shifts. Although Rhodes said no alcohol can be served after 2 a.m., trustees said they would consider such a request later if enough interest is expressed.

## Levy hikes of Wheeling tax bodies vary

1-5-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents saw tax levies increase across-the-board this year but the percentages they went up varied greatly.

The village of Wheeling posted the largest levy increase, jumping 30 percent to \$6.2 million from its 1989 levy of \$4.4 million. The Indian Trails Public Library was not far behind. Its tax levy jumped 25 percent to \$2.3 million from \$1.8 million.

But Wheeling Township and the Wheeling Park District both increased their 1990 levies by less than 10 percent from 1989. Township trustees, with a 102 percent increase in the road and bridge por-

tion of the levy, still managed to keep their levy at a modest increase from last year's \$1.1 million. Their 1990 levy is about \$1.4 million.

And the park district increased its levy from \$1.41 million to \$1.5 million, an increase of 4.7 percent. Although all of the levies went up, each of the four governmental bodies had their own reasons for their increases.

School districts have until later this month to file their levies, so residents can expect to have more of a change in their tax bill. School taxes are the largest portion of a homeowner's tax bill.

Levies set this year are for taxes to be collected in 1991.

Village trustees raised their levy

because of the uncertainty of the Illinois income tax surcharge scheduled to expire in July. The village received about \$800,000 from that surcharge this year.

Robert W. Flakowski, finance manager for the village, has said it would be possible to abate about \$300,000 of the levy if the surcharge is extended.

Although the levy will raise the village's tax rate to \$1.16 per \$100 assessed home value it will still be lower than the 1988 rate of \$1.50. The 1989 tax rate was 96 cents.

Indian Trails is counting on an increase in the value of property within its district to soften the blow of their 25 percent levy increase.

## Seniors: Cab fare discounts not being met

1-8-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although Wheeling senior citizens are entitled to a 20 percent discount on cab fares with companies licensed in the village, confusion among cab drivers and the seniors themselves, and mixed signals from village officials, have made it difficult for them to collect that discount.

Since 1984 the village has required cab drivers to give senior citizens age 65 and older a 20 percent reduction in cab fares. However, some senior citizens said the cab companies are not complying with the law

and village officials are not doing anything to enforce it.

Unlike other communities with similar laws, Wheeling does not reimburse the cab companies for the reduced fares. Cab companies must apply to the village for an operating license, and one of the conditions for approval is compliance with the reduced fare ordinance.

But Pat Walsdorf, a member of the American Association of Retired Persons, said the discount is a hit-or-miss situation and that some cab drivers have taken the 20 percent discount out of their own pockets

rather than hassle with their dispatchers.

"I have been told that it is up to me to discuss the discount with my cab driver," she said. "I know that I have no recourse if they refuse to give me the discount and I have been trying to get this straight for year."

Walsdorf also said that she has trouble getting a reduced fare when she is returning to Wheeling from another location.

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the ordinance states the discount applies to business transacted in the village and that any rides that

begin outside village limits are not covered by the ordinance.

"It is a contract for service at the point of origination," he said. "How can we regulate a transaction that takes place outside of our jurisdiction?"

But because the miscommunication between the village and its senior citizens has continued since the ordinance was passed in 1984, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson is looking for a way to straighten the problem out.

"We hope to have the village board discuss this problem soon," he said.

## Vandalized neighbors band together to fight

FRL, 1/04/91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Six months of vandalism along a street in a Wheeling neighborhood have prompted residents to form a watch group to protect their property and to try and catch the vandals.

Residents along Pear Tree Lane, in the Ridgfield subdivision at the corner of Hintz and Wheeling Roads, said there have been at least two dozen incidents, mostly egg-throwing, that they did not report to the Wheeling police. However, when the vandals began breaking glass in driveways and in the street, they started filing reports.

Wheeling Police Cmdr. Eric Larson said the department has 17 documented cases of vandalism along the street.

"We have added an extra watch with an unmarked patrol car and an investigator who knows the neighborhood and the families involved," he said. "We still have hopes of picking up additional evidence since it is an ongoing case. But I know the residents are about at the end of their rope."

Elizabeth Bartos, whose house seems to bear the brunt of most of the vandalism, said the incidents began in June when two eggs were thrown at her and her husband while they were in their front yard.

In October, she said, someone began smashing glass bottles and jars in her driveway and in the street in front of her house.

"For a while this happened three or four times a week," she said. "We felt it was time to call the police."

Three other houses have also had problems with the vandals, who residents and police think are local teenagers.

Bartos said after each incident, she and her neighbors would gather and that is where the idea of the neighborhood watch was born. She said so far eight people have volunteered for the watch, which consists of keeping watch through windows or driving up and down the street.

"We have asked the police several times if they can spare an unmarked car to sit at the end of the block," Bartos said. "But they say they can't do it."

## WHEELING VILLAGE NOTES

### Trustees deliver OK for pizza carry-out

1-4-90  
Herald  
Wheeling trustees approved plans for a pizza carry-out restaurant in the Lexington Commons Shopping Center on Lake-Cook Road.

The proposed restaurant will be the third in a string of restaurants in the space at 1059 Lake-Cook Road. It will not have seating and is expected to have three employees.

The restaurant will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### Demolition of homes part of airport plan

Village trustees approved spending \$58,219.60 to demolish two houses on property recently purchased by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The money will also be used to clear brush and debris from the three parcels of property, on Hintz and Wolf roads, and put up fencing.

Airport officials asked for the expenditure, made out of reserve funds, so work on the property could begin immediately. Because the work is part of the capital improvement plan, the airport will be reimbursed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

### Two patrol officers to be added to force

Trustees approved increasing the number of patrol officers allowed in the police department's budget to 42 from 40 so that two new officers could be hired before the end of the fiscal year.

The change will not, however, change the number of sworn police positions which remains at 53. It also does not mean that additional money will need to be budgeted for the positions because money is still available in this year's budget.

## Officer asks judge to overrule suspension

1-12-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police officer has asked the Circuit Court of Cook County to overturn the 20-day suspension handed him by the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

The commissioners suspended Robert Pressley in early November, after finding him guilty of leaving the village during his coffee breaks. Pressley also was found guilty of lying when confronted about his activities and of violating performance standards for policemen who train officers.

Pressley, who has a racial discrimination suit against the village which is expected to come to

trial later this month, would not comment on the appeal.

However, his attorney, Noel T. Wroblewski, said it was his opinion the board of police and fire commissioners made the wrong decision when they found Pressley guilty.

"The evidence did not sustain that he was guilty," Wroblewski said. "It did not support the police department's case. The decision was wrong."

Because Pressley has asked for an administrative review of his case, it is unlikely that oral testimony will be given. A circuit court judge will review the transcripts of Pressley's hearing and written testimony from both sides. Wroblewski said a decision should be

rendered in about four months.

Edward Main, chairman of the board of fire and police commissioners, said the board is sticking by the suspension.

"Mr. Pressley is entitled to do whatever he has to do," he said. "I feel confident in the decision we have made."

Pressley's attorneys have argued that the decisions made against him are "selective prosecution." They say police department officials are trying to retaliate against Pressley for his controversial history on the force.

Pressley also has another suit pending against the village as a result of a gag order placed on him by Police Chief Michael Haeger in April.

## Law change lets disabled live together without OK

1-14-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A recent change in Wheeling law will enable up to eight developmentally disabled adults to share a group home in the village without seeking special approval from the village board.

Prior to the change, approved by village trustees this week, no more than four non-related adults could share a house. But last summer when village officials were notified by the Illinois Planning Council on Development Disabilities that they were in violation of 1988 amendments made to the federal Fair Housing Act, village officials began looking for ways to meet the federal requirements without making wholesale changes in the village's housing regulations.

"Eight was the magic number," said Michael Klitzke, community development director. "We thought we were in compliance at four, but it turned out we weren't and we didn't want to open up the overall code to change."

So village officials recommended to trustees that an amendment regarding developmentally disabled

adults be added to current zoning regulations regarding the definition of a family as it applies to residing within the village.

The ordinance defines a developmental disability as a "physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities or impairs their ability to live independently."

Substance abusers are not included in the definition.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said there are "a couple of" group homes in Wheeling now. He said he does not expect any complaints from residents about the change.

"I don't foresee any problems," he said. "This is just for the developmentally disabled. It excludes any type of shelter arrangement."

Klitzke agreed that the change, although required by state and federal government, is also good for the village.

"The homes will no longer be grouped together, like on a cul-de-sac," he said. "The old school put these people in communities within communities. The new school integrates them into the community."

## Fire board OKs spending \$7,100 on test

1-16-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commission members gave Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac the go-ahead Tuesday to spend \$7,100 to give eligible firefighters a test that could, if they pass it, put them on the road to earning the rank of lieutenant.

Somewhere between 15 and 20 firefighters could be eligible to take the test in May. It has been about 10 years since the last test was given, and the village agreed to give a new test every three years in the agreement signed with the firefighters last November.

MacIsaac said that to be eligible to take the test, a firefighter has to have completed three years of service and passed the tests necessary to be "firefighter three" certified by the state. He said that five of the departments 39 firefighters are going through the state program now and if certified could be eligible to take the lieutenant's test in May.

Commissioners agreed to the most expensive testing option, a combination of two multiple-choice tests and assessment of each candidate by the Illinois Fire Chief Association, after learning that while there probably would only be one lieutenant opening in the department in the next three years, MacIsaac is planning to use the promotional list created from

the testing to choose firefighters to serve as acting lieutenants.

"We want to make sure we get the best candidate possible to fill that one position," MacIsaac said. "And we will take the top candidates on the list and use them as acting lieutenants on a regular basis."

MacIsaac said that acting lieutenants are needed 60 to 70 times a year when the department's six lieutenants are on vacation, sick, or otherwise away from the department.

Bar Burns, president of the firefighters union, said that firefighters wanted the new testing put in the contract so that more of them could have the chance to be acting lieutenants.

## Wheeling may regulate tree planting, cutting

1-13-91

Wheeling village trustees will consider adopting a tree ordinance when they meet Monday night.

The ordinance will govern tree removal, planting and preservation throughout the village.

If the ordinance is adopted anyone wanting to plant a tree on public property will be required to get a permit. The diameter and species of the tree and its location will have to be approved by the village's director of operations and maintenance.

The ordinance would also set

### THE WEEK AHEAD

guideline for preserving trees. It would become unlawful to remove, injure or destroy any tree more than 10 inches in diameter that is located within 25 feet of a street right of way.

If a tree is dead or dying, is diseased, or creates a hazard to persons or property, it could be removed by obtaining a permit.

Overall, according to Village Man-

ager Craig G. Anderson, the ordinance is meant to enhance the appearance of the community by guaranteeing making forestry a priority.

The ordinance will also govern new development in the village by involving the village planner in tree placement. Developers could be required to leave certain trees on their site or plant new ones to replace ones that have to be removed. It will also become unlawful to attach signs to village trees.

Violators could be fined \$25 to \$500.

### The top meeting

What The Wheeling Village Board

Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 225 W. Dundee Road

When: 8 p.m.

## Enhanced 911 system estimated at \$92,000

Thurs., Jan. 17, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board got another progress report on its Enhanced 911 system this week, including, for the first time, a rough estimate of how much the system is going to cost.

Trustees, acting as members of the emergency system telephone board, were told the system is going to cost about \$92,000.

But J. Michael Hermes, deputy chief of police, said that estimate is rough and nothing will be finalized until sometime next month.

"That is just the cost for the 911 equipment," he said. "Any other costs will be budgeted in the normal budget process."

Trustees also received the specifics on the equipment that the 911 advisory board is recommending the village purchase. The advisory board consists of two members from the police department, two members from the fire department and the communications center supervisor.

Michael Leaf, public safety consultant for Ameritech, told trustees the best selling point of the equipment was that there were two components to interpret the data base in-

formation — name, address, and phone of the incoming caller.

This two-component system is called redundant and Leaf said that having the dual components guarantees that the system will never be out of order.

This 911 system also features a call check that will enable the police dispatcher to instantly replay any conversation that is hard to understand. By hitting a button the dispatcher will also be able to slow down the tape or save the information.

Radio communications from police officers in the field could be han-

dled the same way.

"This means that the dispatchers can play the conversation over and over until they are sure they understand it," he said.

There will be four 911 phone trunks to take calls for both the police and fire department, but the system could be expanded to eight trunks in the future if necessary.

Last year the police department received about 21,000 service calls.

Trustees will have to approve the system next month if the village wants to meet the July 22 start-up deadline.

Wed. 1-16-91

# Palwaukee workers shovel to defeat snow

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport employees worked around the clock during the season's first major snowstorm last week, keeping the airport open during the entire 48-hour snowfall.

And while the 6-inch snowstorm holds, for now, the record as this area's biggest storm, it will be remembered by airport employees as the first snowstorm that they, not Priester Aviation, conquered.

Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant airport manager for maintenance and operations, has been preparing his three-man maintenance crew for snow removal since last spring when

Palwaukee Airport Commissioners decided to terminate their snow removal contract with Priester Aviation, former owners of the airport.

"All in all I think we did pretty well," Rouleau said. "We had some minor damage to some lightposts, but it was nothing major."

Rouleau said the airport's two plow trucks and the snowblower truck were in operation straight through the entire storm. And because the flurries were continuous, even airport manager Fred E. Stewart and Michael F. Zonsius, assistant manager for administration and finance, were called on to do some plowing.

"In adverse snow everyone is

called upon," he said.

The snow at Palwaukee must be cleared so that there are no snowbanks because of the need for wing tip clearance. Rouleau said a snowplow went through and moved the snow and then the snowblower, capable of blowing 4,000 tons of snow per hour, moved the snow further away from the runways and taxiways.

Airport employees used pick-up trucks to spread sand and a chemical called Urea that melts ice. Salt cannot be used because it erodes the metal body of airplanes.

Rouleau said he used about 10 tons of Urea during the storm.

The airport paid \$298,000 for its

plowtrucks, \$169,000 for the snowblower and they have yet to take delivery on a \$237,000 18-foot snow broom that can remove 1-2 inches of snow, without plowing or de-icing.

"One of the reasons we went with this equipment is that we don't have much time to move the snow," Rouleau said. "At an airport time is of the essence."

Now that everyone has survived the first big snowfall, Rouleau and his crew are checking their machinery, installing radios in the trucks — they had to use hand held models during this storm, making communication difficult — and waiting for the next round of battle with Mother Nature.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Village to sell computer equipment

Wheeling trustees voted to sell the village's old Wang Computer equipment by sealed bid.

Over the past six months, village officials have transferred village data processing operations over to a new system and the Wang equipment, including several printers and two work stations, is no longer needed.

Interested buyers may obtain a complete list of the equipment for sale from village hall. Sealed bids will be received until Jan. 25.

### Fialkowski reappointed village representative

Trustees reappointed Robert Fialkowski, director of finance, as village representative to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agen-

cy and the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative.

They also appointed new assistant village manager Joni Beaudry as the alternate representative to both organizations.

### Trustees approve airport equipment

Trustees also gave their approval to the purchase of \$8,925 worth of

computer equipment from Computerland for the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Although Computerland did not have the lowest price on the equipment, trustees voted to purchase the equipment from them because of their track record for installation.

The new equipment will be compatible with the computer system currently in use at the airport and will be used to upgrade that system's data processing capabilities.

# The municipal seat race is on

1-14-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Today is the first day for candidates to file nominating petitions for municipal elections in Buffalo Grove, Long Grove and Wheeling. And unlike past elections it looks like there will be at least some heated races, leading up to election day — April 2.

The hottest area race should be for Buffalo Grove village president where Verna L. Clayton's surprise announcement that she will not seek a fourth term has prompted three residents to declare their candidacy.

Two trustees and one plan commissioner are hoping to replace



Clayton, who has been an integral part of the village's image for 12 years.

It looks like how to breathe life into the ailing Buffalo Grove Town Center and bring new business to the village will top the campaign agenda, followed by discussions on the best way to handle yard waste and serve the village's senior citizens.

Michael J. O'Malley, an attorney who was elected to the board in 1989,

has proposed the reformation of an economic development commission that would be charged with bringing new business to town and helping existing businesses.

Sidney H. Mathias, an attorney who was appointed to the board in May 1988 and elected trustee last spring, is calling for the formation of an intergovernmental commission that would bring together representatives from Buffalo Grove and neighboring communities to look at regional issues.

Plan Commission Chairman Barbara Sheldon, an independent securities consultant who has been a mem-

See PETITION on Page 3

## PETITION: The municipal seat race is on

Continued from Page 1

ber of the plan commission for 13 years, also has expressed an interest in improved communication with surrounding communities and helping area businesses.

Although only three people have announced they will run for the three open trustee spots on the Buffalo Grove village board, others have expressed an interest in the slots. A total of 12 election petitions have been taken out at the village hall.

Incumbent John Mariantal, elected to the board in 1975, has said he will seek re-election. So far, he has been joined by Bruce L. Kahn, who was appointed to the board in 1990 and is seeking his first term as trustee. Brian Rubin, a village plan commissioner, also seeking his first term.

Trustee Jordan Shifrin, whose

term expires in April, announced earlier that he will not seek re-election.

Wheeling residents can also expect some excitement this spring as six candidates square off for three village trustee positions.

Incumbent trustee Judy Abruscato, who has not missed a single meeting during her tenure as trustee, has formed a new political party that will field three candidates. She will be accompanied on the slate by Wheeling residents Michael Lynch and David Devito.

Abruscato's party, the Citizens Action Party, will be challenged by three members of the Wheeling Upward Party. Incumbent trustee Anthony Altieri Jr., will be joined by Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke and Wheeling Township Trustee Edward H. Main. The Upward Party slate is expected to garner the support of Village President

Sheila H. Schultz.

As with Buffalo Grove, yard waste disposal is expected to be an issue in the Wheeling campaign. But neither party has yet released their platforms, which would identify other issues of the campaign.

The Long Grove Nominating Committee — the village's only official political party — has nominated three candidates to fill three vacant spots on the Long Grove Village Board. They are Trustee Ray Basso and plan commissioners Walter Metcalf and Bruce Klein. But several other residents have picked up nominating petitions so a race could develop yet.

The big issue is expected to be taxes. The village does not have a property tax but as building slows down the village will have to look at ways other than building permits to fund operations.

# Wheeling tightens restrictions on tree planting, removal

Tues. 1/15/91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees cast a unanimous vote for tree preservation Monday when they passed an ordinance requiring residents to obtain a permit before removing, planting or trimming a tree within 25 feet of the street right-of-way.

Under the ordinance, it is illegal to remove, injure or destroy any tree more than 10 inches in diameter that is located within 25 feet of the street.

If a tree is dead or dying, is diseased or creates a hazard to pedestrians or motorists, it could be removed by obtaining a permit.

"The ordinance fine-tunes our tree policy," said Craig G. Anderson, village manager. "It becomes unlawful for residents to just go and remove a tree and gives guidelines for when the village can take action."

Anderson said that in the past people have wanted to remove trees because the roots are clogging sewer lines. Under the ordinance, digging up trees for that reason is illegal.

Village President Shiela H. Schultz said that some residents may not see the ordinance as being as helpful as

the trustees do.

"It is common sense if a tree is hitting you in the face you can trim it," she said. "Concerned people could deluge village hall with questions about what they can and can't trim and other people in the village could continue to pay no attention. We need to find a balance."

The ordinance also gives the village more control over trees on private property. Village officials will be able to order that dying trees be removed and that tree branches that hang dangerously close to the sidewalks and streets be trimmed, all at the property owner's expense.

Planting of new trees is also governed under the ordinance. Anyone wishing to plant a tree on a public parkway must apply for a permit from the village director of operations and maintenance who will approve the diameter and species of the tree and the planting location.

Planting will only be permitted between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1 and between March 1 and May 1 each year.

Schultz also suggested that a village employee be trained as a forester.

# Wheeling police chief is answering 2 calls

By Jack Houston

This is a bittersweet week for Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger.

On Monday, he will be installed as president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, a statewide fraternal organization.

On Tuesday, he faces trial in U.S. District Court in a racial discrimination suit brought by Wheeling's only African-American police officer.

The suit, filed in 1983 by Robert Pressley, now a 12-year veteran of the force, accuses Haeger of condoning the alleged racial harassment of Pressley by fellow officers and of disciplining him harshly solely because of his race.

"This is just something a chief must face these days," Haeger said last week in denying the allegations. "As a chief, you must be prepared to deal with it."

George Koertge, executive director of the Springfield-based chiefs association, agreed. "He's not doing what many other chiefs haven't done—being sued," he said, adding that Haeger has the respect of the organization's 1,000 members.

Haeger will be installed at a 7 p.m. banquet Monday during the association's Winter Training Conference at the Woodfield Hilton & Towers in Arlington Heights.

Koertge said Haeger has been involved in the association since 1977, the year they both joined.

"He's been an excellent member and server on committees," he said.

"I'm sure he'll be an excellent president."

Haeger was elected a vice president four years ago and "worked his way through the chairs," serving last year as first vice president, Koertge said.

Haeger's interest in law enforcement began as a child growing up in Aurora. After graduating in 1970 from St. Benedict College in Atchison, Kan., where he received a degree in sociology, he answered an ad and was accepted as a Leavenworth prison police officer.

In November 1971, after 18 months with Leavenworth, he moved to Du Page County to accept a job as a Woodridge patrol officer. He also went back to school, eventually earning a master's degree in criminal justice at Lewis University in 1976.

That same year he became acting police chief of the Woodridge department. When a chief was hired the following year, Haeger was named deputy chief, a position he held five years.

Then in 1982, after 10 years in Woodridge, he was chosen from among 150 candidates to head the department of 50 officers in Wheeling.

Haeger, 43, said that one day he would hope to be chief of a department with more than 200 officers or to head a state or federal law enforcement agency. Once he retires, he said, he would like to teach law enforcement at a college.

# Villages divided over Lake-Cook widening

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Once again, Buffalo Grove and Long Grove appear to be on opposite sides of the street regarding future planning.

This time, the adversaries disagree about the planned expansion of Lake-Cook Road.

Long Grove trustees recently asked the village attorney to draft a resolution in support of the proposal to widen Lake-Cook Road to as many as nine lanes at some intersections.

Officials in Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Palatine, Arlington Heights and Cook County are reviewing an engineer's recommendation to widen an 8.7-mile stretch

of the road, from Rand Road to the Tri-State Tollway.

Currently the road has two eastbound lanes and two westbound lanes, with additional turn lanes at several intersections. Engineers have recommended the road have three lanes in each direction, as well as double turn lanes at major intersections.

Not only is the expansion necessary, some of the improvements should be done immediately, Long Grove Village Manager D.M. "Cal" Doughty said.

Specifically, the village is concerned about traffic backups in the southbound lanes on Arlington Heights Road. Rush-hour drivers wanting to turn right onto Lake-Cook Road off of Arlington Heights

Road often are backed up all the way to Checker Road, Doughty said.

The village board also plans to ask the county to move ahead with plans to install a right-hand turn lane at that intersection as soon as possible.

Buffalo Grove officials have opposed portions of the proposed expansion, saying the road, as planned, would be a massive expressway running through the center of the village.

The Buffalo Grove Village Board has not taken a formal stand on the proposal yet. However, Village President Verna L. Clayton and Village Manager William R. Balling have said they cannot support the plan as presented.

# 6 candidates vie for village board seats

1-22-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Monday was the last day to file nominating petitions for village trustee election to be held April 2. And as expected, six people will run for the three open spots.

While petitions for the Indian Trails Library Trustee and Wheeling Park District commissioner can be filed until 5 p.m. today, it looks like the two races will be uncontested.

Two incumbent trustees and four newcomers are seeking the village trustee posts. However, the race will really be between the village's two political parties - The Wheeling Upward Party and the new Citizens Action Party, started

by incumbent Trustee Judy Abruscato.

Abruscato decided to start the new party because she wanted voters to have some choices. Also running under the Citizens Action Party banner are Michael Lynch, 36, of 675 Longtree Lane and David Devito, 35, of 638 Merle Lane.

Garbage pickup is expected to be a campaign issue because Abruscato said she has heard village residents complaining about the decrease in garbage pick up days during the summer months.

Until April 1990, garbage was picked up twice a week. But after new state laws from the handling of yard waste were enacted by the state, the village changed to once-a-week garbage pick up and once-

a-week yard waste pick up.

Incumbent trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. heads the Wheeling Upward Slate. He will be accompanied on the ticket by Lois J. Gaffke, village clerk and Edward H. Main, Wheeling township trustee.

The Upward Party candidates will address noise from the Palwaukee Municipal Airport and traffic congestion along the village's main roads during the campaign.

Neither party is expected to address taxes in the village to any great extent. Both parties have said they feel that the current board of trustees and village staff is keeping municipal spending in line and that it is perceived as a non-issue by village residents.

# Board backs residents opposed to annexation

Jan. 23, 1991  
By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove trustees are backing a group of residents opposed to Wheeling's plan to annex property in a residential neighborhood for future commercial development.

Wheeling's interest in seeing the property developed commercially will damage the quality of life now enjoyed by residents surrounding the property and will create traffic problems in the area, trustees said.

Wheeling officials are considering annexing about 20 acres north of Lake-Cook Road and east of Weiland Road. Buffalo Grove officials had

Robins said. "You take away the neighborhood atmosphere, and that damages the quality of life."

Village trustees are concerned about the possible effect additional commercial development in that area would have on Lake-Cook Road traffic.

Buffalo Grove officials also have said they will not allow any access to the property from Armstrong Drive, which is directly north of the property.

Village Manager William R. Balling said he is willing to meet with Wheeling officials to discuss the proposal and Buffalo Grove's objections to the annexation.

jecting to Wheeling's plan. They will present the signed petitions to the Wheeling Plan Commission at a meeting on the proposal at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the village hall, 255 Dundee Road.

"We feel this is a residential neighborhood and we would like to see it remain a residential area," said Suzanne Robins, whose home is located on Armstrong Drive and would face any commercial development placed on the property.

"The biggest problem is it is a neighborhood, and if you take a piece of property and put any commercial development on it, you take away the integrity of that property."

hoped to annex the property one day as part of a housing development.

Buffalo Grove trustees recently approved a resolution objecting to the proposal and asking Wheeling officials to reconsider the move they are about to make.

"We will do everything in our power to prevent that parcel from being annexed into the village of Wheeling," Trustee Sidney H. Mathias said. "I would urge all of our residents who object to this proposal to attend these meetings and let them know how this will affect their quality of life."

About 150 residents living around the parcel have signed a petition ob-

# Wheeling cop's racial bias suit begins after 8 years

THURS. Jan. 24, 1991  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

After eight years of delays, the racial discrimination lawsuit filed by a Wheeling police officer against the police chief and the village finally got under way in U.S. District Court on Wednesday.

Robert Pressley, the only black officer in the department, is charging

that because of racial discrimination, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger withheld raises, condoned racial harassment by other officers and accused him of illicit sexual activity.

"We will prove that the chief publicly humiliated him (Pressley) and encouraged white police officers to harass him," said Pressley's attorney Robert Burns in his opening statement. "And we will prove that he did

it because of race."

First to testify on Pressley's behalf was former village trustee Roger Powers, a trustee from 1977-85, told jurors that in the summer of 1982 while waiting for some budget handouts he heard Haeger say to himself, "I'm going to have trouble with that nigger cop."

Powers said that no one else heard the statement. However, he said, af-

ter Haeger accused Pressley in September 1982 of illicit sexual behavior, Powers told Pressley about the comment.

Pressley appealed the charge that he "had engaged in sexual activity" in a van parked outside a Wheeling restaurant while off duty on Sept. 9, 1982, to the village's Board of Fire and Police Commissioners who ruled that Haeger did not have enough evi-

dence to support the charge.

Pressley testified that although he told Haeger about racial cartoons that appeared in his station mailbox, the chief did nothing to find out who was responsible.

But village attorney John Murphy said in his opening statement that by failing to put his problems in writing, he "did not give his supervisors the tools to deal with the problem."

# Wheeling plan panel backs annexation of Schwind property

FRIDAY Jan. 25, 1991  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

More than 70 Buffalo Grove residents, including three village trustees, packed Wheeling village hall Thursday to ask the Wheeling Plan Commission to vote against the rezoning of a piece of property along Lake-Cook Road, or at least postpone the decision.

But their pleas fell on mostly deaf ears as the commissioners voted 4-1

to recommend to village trustees the rezoning from residential to commercial.

The 20-acre parcel of land is bordered by Weiland Road on the west, the village of Buffalo Grove on the east, Lake-Cook Road on the south and Armstrong Drive on the north.

The Roland Schwind family, owners of the property, have asked the Village of Wheeling to consider annexing the property at the same time they consider annexing 37 acres on

the south side of Lake-Cook Road, where Wal-Mart Inc. hopes to build a Sam's Wholesale Club and a Wal-Mart department store. That land is also owned by the Schwind family.

This isn't an issue of what's best for Buffalo Grove or Wheeling," Buffalo Grove resident Robin Weiss said.

"It's about what's best for the residents. Why can't this decision be deferred for 30 days so that Buffalo Grove and Wheeling can reach a

compromise. The residents and their children deserve a compromise."

Commission chairman Paul Elsterhold said the decision could not be delayed.

"It would force our board to not be able to act if they choose to do so. It would be very irresponsible on our part to do so," Elsterhold added.

Barbara Baram, attorney for the Schwind family, asked the plan commission to move quickly to prevent Buffalo Grove from involuntarily an-

nexing the property. "The family wants to have the whole farm in the village," she said.

Plan commissioner Steve Walanka voted against the proposal.

"I reluctantly voted for the rezoning of the Wal-Mart property a while back, but I wasn't as concerned about the surrounding property," he said. "Here, the surrounding three areas are residential and I don't believe commercial development fits in."

# Wheeling sees businesses revenue boosters

THURS. Jan. 31, 1991  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling will be a little bit richer in 1992, now that trustees have given final approval to plans for a Wal-Mart department store and a Sam's Wholesale Club at the north end of the village.

Robert W. Fialkowski, director of finance, said the village should receive "in excess of \$100,000 per year" in sales tax from the two stores. Wal-Mart officials estimated the Wal-Mart will have \$25 million in sales in its first year and the Sam's will have approximately \$50 million.

But at least one local business owner is concerned about the effect the Wal-Mart will have on the

small businesses that already exist along Dundee Road.

"Wal-Mart is the kiss of death for local businesses," said Allan Bluestone, owner of the Ace Hardware at 755 W. Dundee Road.

"Someday, when you drive down Dundee Road it is going to look like a Saudi Arabian desert."

Village Planner Mark Janeck said the Wal-Mart will have some effect on local businesses, but he is not sure that it will be negative.

"The area is experiencing an increase in population," he said. "A lot more money is going to be spent in this area."

Janeck also said he felt competition from the Wal-Mart might be healthy for local businesses, encouraging them to upgrade their

property or remodel their stores to woo shoppers away from the Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart officials expect to break ground on the two stores — which will be built on property bordered by the Cedar Run condominiums on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north — in early April.

Plans for the stores went through several commissions before gaining approval from the trustees. Wal-Mart officials held several meetings with residents.

"Wal-Mart worked with Cedar Run and changed their plans considerably for us," said Mary Arvidson, president of the Cedar Run homeowners association.

# New assistant village manager makes debut



Lisa Schab  
 Wheeling

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Joni Beaudry, who joined our community this month as the new Wheeling assistant village manager. Joni comes to Wheeling from her last position as assistant town manager for Essex, Vt., and originally is from northern Minnesota, so we suppose she's adapting well to our Wheeling winter!

If you're doing business at the Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, stop in and say "hi" to Joni.

## Scouting

A number of Scouts from Cub Pack 265 went hiking recently at Potowotami Woods in Wheeling. Jimmy Kobuk, Kevin Roberts, Gary Flesher, Tony Argentino, Matt Badalamenti, Dave Rodriguez and Tony Rodriguez spent a winter day playing football, spotting deer, climbing and hiking and cooking a hot dog lunch. The boys are led by Cubmaster Harry Roberts.

## Support group

Parkinson's Disease is a disabling illness affecting the nerves which shows itself in tremors and a slowly progressive stiffness of the muscles. The Wheeling Senior Center Pavilion is now forming a daytime Parkinson's Disease support group. Any interested persons may call 459-2670 for further information.

## Congratulations

A number of Wheeling residents have been named Students of the Quarter at Wheeling High School. They are: Michael Goldsand, sophomore; Lynda Brooks, senior; Marena Cedillo, sophomore; Karen Dailey, senior; Elizabeth Dermer, senior; Christine Hickey, senior; Allison Kopec, sophomore; Sheila Maloney, freshman; Todd Marekese, junior; Rosalba Melgoza, sophomore; Andrew Mikes, junior; George Naratadam, freshman; Jennifer Omair, senior; Marc

Pinchouck, senior; Brian Safyn, freshman; Bernadine Schroeder, junior; Ben Watkins, junior; and Donna Wright, sophomore.

Congratulations to these students who were nominated on the basis of academic excellence, classroom participation, initiative, academic improvement, leadership, special talents and enthusiasm.

## Plan ahead

Stuart Sosin writes on behalf of the Wheeling Fourth of July Committee that "Last year's parade and fireworks display was so good; perhaps it was one of the best we've had. It wouldn't have been such a great success, of course, without a lot of help from many people. The Wheeling Fourth of July Committee thanks everyone who assisted in last year's fund-raisers, and all of the people who supported us by coming to the fund-raisers. A special thank-you goes to everyone who contributed by giving donations."

The Fourth of July Committee is now beginning to work toward this year's celebration. All interested residents and community members are invited to attend committee meetings which will be held at 8 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at AM-VETS Hall, 700 Old McHenry Road in Wheeling.

Donations may also be sent to: P.O. Box 893F, Wheeling, IL 60090. For further information, call Mike Lynch at 459-6549 or Judy Abruscato at 541-8788 or 459-4000.

# Wheeling board set to vote on controversial annexation

1/28/91  
 BY AMY CARR  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove officials have exhausted nearly all available options in their efforts to convince Wheeling to abandon a plan to annex a piece of property along Lake-Cook Road.

Now, the final decision rests in the hands of the Wheeling Village Board.

The village board will decide tonight whether to annex 20 acres at the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads. The Roland Schwind family, owners of the property, have asked Wheeling to consider annexing the property at the same time they consider annexing the 37 acres on the south side of Lake-Cook Road, where Wal-Mart Inc. hopes to build a Sam's Wholesale Club and a Wal-Mart department store.

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling residents living around the 20-acre site object to plans to change the zoning on the property from residential to commercial. Adding a commercial development to the area would detract from the neighborhood and the quality of life, residents say.

Buffalo Grove officials also are concerned about the lack of available sewer service to the property, and are pleading with Wheeling village board members to re-think the proposal, Village Manager William R. Balling said.

"This is a real opportunity for the Village of Wheeling to have very broad shoulders and step up and say 'we haven't done full planning on the north piece of property ... And we recognize that,'" Balling said. "I think Wheeling wants to be a good neighbor."

But Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson is asking for a little trust.

Even if the property is zoned for commercial development, Anderson said any proposed development of the property would have to go through the village's plan review process. The concerns of surrounding residents certainly would be addressed at that time, he said.

"There has to be some trust here that we're going to have this property scrutinized through the proper plan review," Anderson said.

# Board set to consider Wal-Mart annexation

The Wheeling Village Board will consider annexation of the proposed Wal-Mart department store and Sam's Wholesale Club site and approval of Wal-Mart's plans for the property when they meet on Monday night.

Wal-Mart executives have already gotten preliminary approval from the Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Appearance Commission but final approval from trustees is needed before they can move forward.

Trustees would not consider annexing the 37-acre parcel of land, bordered by the village on the east, Weiland Road on the west, McHenry Road on the south and Lake-Cook Road on the north, until the plans had met with approval from all the commissions.

Wal-Mart engineers worked closely with village staff and residents of the Cedar Run condominium complex on the east to come up with a plan that would be agreeable to the villages and the neighbors.

To get plan commissioners' approval, Wal-Mart eliminated 49 parking spaces and added buffering between the back of Sam's Wholesale Club and Cedar Run. Wal-Mart also agreed to move the Sam's truck dock, eliminating an entrance to the proposed shopping center on McHenry Road and turning the dock around so that it is no longer parallel to the back yard of some Cedar Run residents.

If the trustees approve the plan, Wal-Mart officials expect to break

ground in April and have the stores open around Easter of 1992.

## The top meeting

**Who:** The Wheeling Village Board

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

# Wheeling board changes mind, approves commercial zoning

Jan. 29, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove residents won a shortlived victory Monday when Wheeling trustees voted not to change the zoning on a piece of property on Lake-Cook Road from residential to commercial.

But about one hour later, trustees reconsidered that action and unanimously voted to annex the property into the village — zoned commercial.

The 20-acre parcel of land owned by the Roland Schwind family is bordered by Weiland Road on the west, the village of Buffalo Grove on the east, Lake-Cook Road on the south and Armstrong Drive on the north.

The Schwinds asked Wheeling to annex the property at the same time the village annexed the 37-acre Wal-Mart site on the south side of Lake-Cook Road.

Trustees approved the annexation agreement but did not have the two-thirds majority needed to change the

zoning to commercial. But because they had already approved the annexation agreement, they would have been open to a lawsuit from the Schwind family if they had not agreed to rezone the property, according to Village Attorney James Rhodes.

"I have never had a board approve an agreement and then not do what the agreement provides for," said Barbara Baran, Schwind attorney.

Trustee Joseph Ratajczak, one of the trustees voting initially against

rezoning, said that he had hoped to rezone the property at a later date when a developer came before the village. "I wanted to do the right thing," Ratajczak said.

"I don't know what we can say to all the people who left thinking they were victorious," said village President Sheila Schultz. "Except to say that, if they look around, they will notice that in the past we have been sensitive to people when planning uses for land. Our commissioners do a good job."

# Buffalo Grove battles Wheeling over land

By Jack Houston and Jeff Givens

A territorial skirmish in the northwest suburbs has turned a 20-acre tract of farmland on Lake Cook Road into a virtual battleground.

The clash in recent weeks has pitted village against village and neighbor against neighbor. It has Wheeling officials and Buffalo Grove residents fighting over the future of property owned by the Roland Schwind family.

At issue is whether the site will be developed as commercial or residential property. It looks like it's going to be commercial.

The disputed parcel lies just inside Lake County, on the north side of Lake Cook Road and east of Weiland Road, with single-family homes on the north and condominiums on the east. It is surrounded on three sides by Buffalo Grove.

But at the landowners' request, Wheeling has agreed to annex the tract and rezone it commercial. The Schwinds asked Wheeling to intervene after Buffalo Grove published notice last month that it planned to annex the land without the owners consent.

"We weren't going to do anything [about annexation] until they [Buffalo Grove] took their action," Roland Schwind said.

As far as Wheeling and the Schwinds are concerned, the matter was settled Monday night when Wheeling village trustees approved the request. But Buffalo Grove officials say there's more to come.

"Buffalo Grove is considering all its options, taking the best interests of all its citizens into account," a spokesman for the village said Tuesday. "We're looking into any aspect we can, but we're not at liberty to say right now. There are steps to take. We don't want to tip our hand."

The annexation by Wheeling is part of a wider plan to incorporate a larger section of the same farm lying south of the Lake-Cook county line. Those additional 38 acres are land

on which the Wheeling Plan Commission recommends building a Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club discount store—much to the chagrin of Buffalo Grove residents.

"We're trying to preserve a quality of life in Buffalo Grove," a resident complained at a zoning hearing Thursday. "It seems people don't count anymore."

Others who live adjacent to the 20-acre plot fear the owners want to develop the tract into a strip mall.

"People are sick and tired of concrete and shopping centers," Buffalo Grove Trustee Michael O'Malley said.

During the hearing, Barbara Sheldon, chairman of the Buffalo Grove Plan Commission, read into the record Buffalo Grove's formal resolution opposing the proposed rezoning and annexation. The resolution claimed that the action is inconsistent with both Buffalo Grove's and Wheeling's master plans and economic interests.

It also charged that the planned action would have a detrimental impact on Lake Cook Road traffic and adjacent homes and has inadequate sewer planning.

The resolution also noted that Buffalo Grove may need the land for a water pumping station.

Sheldon and O'Malley, who were joined by two other Buffalo Grove officials in urging a delay in a vote on the zoning proposal, are candidates for Buffalo Grove village president.

In a 30-minute summary, Barbara Baran, the owner's attorney, disputed most of Buffalo Grove's claims.

"The owners are seeking to have their whole farm in the Village of Wheeling," she said. "All they are seeking is to keep what they already have. . . . The owners should be able to choose what village they want to be in."

During public comment, residents said they wanted "Lake Cook Road to look like Lake Cook Road, not like Dundee Road," which is mainly a commercial shopping strip.

# Police officer inspires D.A.R.E. participants

Jan. 31, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When the sixth-graders at Tarkington Elementary School became the first students in Wheeling to participate in the state-wide drug abuse resistance program (D.A.R.E.), their teachers hoped for two things: that the youths would learn the evils of drug abuse and that they would begin to see police officers as their friends.

And, after the 75 students received their graduation certificates recently, it looked like at least one of the goals for the program had been met, when several of them hugged Wheeling Police Officer Chris M. Parr and

told her they would miss her.

Parr, youth services officer for the Wheeling, police department, spent one hour a week with each of the four sixth-grade classes at the school, teaching them from the D.A.R.E. curriculum used nationwide.

"Chris has been an inspiration to the children," said Maria Topliff, Tarkington PTO president. "The kids have come home talking positively about the police department."

Topliff was one of a crowded gymnasium full of parents who attended the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremonies and listened to representatives from each class tell what they had learned in their 17 lessons with Parr.

"The most important lesson was

the one on self esteem," Parr said. "It is taken for granted that we know what it is."

And her message came through in the words of the students.

"If you have high self esteem you will always have the right feeling," Lauren Cohn said.

But the message most heard by the students was indeed the message the program strives to get across: drugs are bad news.

"There are other ways to have fun than using drugs," said Samantha Topliff.

"The most important thing I learned was about drugs," said John Croke. "How to say no and dealing with the pressures of saying no."

Upon graduating from the D.A.R.E. program, each student received a D.A.R.E. T-shirt, thanks to the PTO, and a "credit card" to carry with them that lists eight ways to say no to drugs.

Each student also made a poster identifying what they learned in the program. The six winning posters will be displayed at village hall.

Parr will take the drug education program to Whitman and Field elementary schools next.

"I think we did a good job of setting the tone for this building, and District 21 students who haven't gone through the program yet," said Tarkington Principal Edward F. Searing.

# Land feud brews in Buffalo Grove

Thurs., Jan. 31, 1991

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove officials are not giving up the fight for a 20-acre parcel that was recently annexed into Wheeling.

In fact, they say they may try to annex the land themselves.

Village Trustee Sidney H. Mathias plans to ask the village attorney Monday to look into the legalities of attempting to annex the 20 acres at the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads — a parcel Wheeling officials annexed last Monday.

After hearing objections from Buffalo Grove residents who wanted the property to remain residential,



Daily Herald Map

Wheeling officials voted not to rezone the land to commercial.

But, much to the chagrin of many Buffalo Grove residents and officials, the board reconsidered the action about one hour later and decided to annex the property and zone the land commercial.

"I think the outrage of their action is what's influencing me to pursue further action," Mathias said. "It's apparent they aren't looking out for anyone but the almighty dollar."

Prior to Wheeling's annexation of the land, Buffalo Grove had published notice of its intent to annex the property, which is bordered on three sides by Buffalo Grove.

However, the Roland Schwind family, the property owners, asked Wheeling to intervene.

Would good neighbors find themselves on opposite sides of one of the most explosive issues facing the region?

## Good Neighbor policy

*COUNTRYSIDE 1-31-91*

**W**ith neighbors like these, who needs enemies? Buffalo Grove and Wheeling officials go out of their way these days to describe the relationship between the bordering towns as neighborly. To hear them tell it, the two are bosom buddies.

But in reality, the two villages find themselves on opposite sides of two critical issues facing their common border, the annexation of large parcels of property at Weiland and Lake-Cook Roads, and the proposed widening of Lake-Cook to seven lanes.

It is understandable why village officials would want to operate with the utmost politeness in their dealings with each other. But it's a disservice to residents to gloss over the differences and insist all is rosy when very important issues are hanging in the balance.

Perhaps if a state of crisis was proclaimed along Buffalo Grove's eastern border with Wheeling, it would prompt leaders from the two towns to hold peace summits and reach compromises. The compromises could go a long way in alleviating the fears of residents near this unproclaimed war zone, who at present are confused by all the "neighborly" rhetoric and wonder if they have been abandoned.

Would a good neighbor, for example, open the door to commercial development on a parcel of land surrounded by residences on three sides, as Wheeling has done with the Wal-Mart proposal? And if it did, would the other be acting neighborly if it refused sewage rights, leaving the first town high and dry on these properties.

As if the Wal-Mart deal had not been divisive enough, Wheeling has now annexed more land north of the initial piece, owned by the same farmer, who no doubt realized where he could get a better deal. Rumors are now flying about Target stores or other discount chains.

Would a good neighbor refuse its friend's request to funnel traffic from the new department store onto a sidestreet like Weiland Road, rather than a major thoroughfare, to prevent another stop light from being erected on the major street? Wheeling insists the Walmart property must have its entrance and exit off of Lake-Cook Road, shrugging off suggestions to the contrary.

And would good neighbors find themselves on opposite sides of one of the most explosive issues facing the region, a road widening project that could split one of the towns in half? Wheeling supports Lake-Cook's widening while Buffalo Grove is adamantly opposed to it.

Both towns say it is possible to agree to disagree and remain good neighbors. With that logic, maybe there's hope yet for Buffalo Grove and Long Grove.

## Final census numbers contain few surprises

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE 1-31-91*

Dramatic growth in Long Grove, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling which occurred in the '80s won't be as strong this decade, village officials predicted when discussing recently released census figures.

Officials speaking to the question of population growth in the '90s also addressed topics including residential and commercial development, infrastructure projects and potential annexations.

Recently released census figures comparing population growth from 1980 to 1990 show that Long Grove grew by 125 percent from 2,013 to 4,740; Buffalo Grove grew 64 percent from 22,230 to 36,427; and that Wheeling grew 29 percent from 23,266 to 29,911.

Long Grove Village Manager D. M. "Cal" Doughty said the village has been able to handle the increase in population and subsequent increase in demand for services because the growth was planned for. He said it didn't happen all at once and the village utilizes computer technology to help run the business of Long Grove.

"Our growth didn't just happen. It (took place) over a ten-year period, Doughty said. "We're going to mellow out. We're going to grow but we're going to control how it happens."

He added that he thought Long Grove might increase another 2,000 people by the end of the decade.

The census numbers were no surprise in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling because both communities had special censuses taken during the mid-eighties.

Buffalo Grove took censuses in both 1985 and 1988. Wheeling took a special census in 1986.

"I do not think we'll necessarily see the same pace of development we've seen in the past three or four years," said Village Planner Bob Pfeil, adding, "We weren't overwhelmed by the growth."

### Tax income

Buffalo Grove Finance Director Bill Brim said the increased population numbers translate into increased state tax revenues of about \$230,000 made up of motor fuel tax and income tax monies.

"We'll also see some expanding retail opportunities (this decade)," Pfeil said. "Obviously, there will be additional costs. There's just more area to serve, people to serve."

Brim added that the village will develop from within with "fill-in" growth as opposed to large-scale annexations. He said the village's fiscal expansion will be seen through expanded retail opportunities along with some commercial and industrial development.

Wheeling Director of Finance Bob Fialkowski said his community's increased population figures will translate into about \$180,000 worth of extra tax revenues but added that the increased costs to the village will outweigh the fiscal gain.

"It is real hard to quantitatively analyze it," Fialkowski said. "We've substantially increased the numbers of (village) personnel. (It) certainly (has) outstripped the amount of growth. Obviously growth is costing us money."

Wheeling Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said the increased growth and related costs were expected.

"There really were no areas that were surprises. The growth was (planned for) in our comprehensive plan," Klitzke said, adding, "I don't expect large land growth or annexations to occur (this decade). We are now surrounded by adjacent municipalities. The available developmental land... is limited."

### Size challenges

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he accepts that there are increased challenges when a town grows but he added that Wheeling has been able to deal with increases in traffic, service needs and costs.

"The growth has been gradual enough that we've been able to handle it without having to spend major, major, major amounts of money. It hasn't really taxed us," Anderson said. "I think the growth, whatever occurs in the nineties, will be very gradual and will be less pronounced than in the '80s."

Buffalo Grove Village Manager Bill Baling echoed Anderson's comments about his village's growth. He noted that Buffalo Grove will grow at a lesser rate in the next nine years. And he added that the village master plan forecasts this.

"I think the tenants of the master plan are in place," Baling said. "I think the challenge of the nineties will be road upgrades. If the regional and state agencies don't act on roads, then region will suffer."

# Six hopefuls vie for 3 trustee posts

Thurs. Jan. 31, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After uncontested elections for village trustee in 1989, Wheeling voters will once again have some choices to make in the voting booth this spring when six candidates vie for three village trustee positions.

However, there will be no choices this time around in the races for park district commissioner and Indian Trails library board trustee, where the number of candidates equals the number of seats open on each board.

There are two new candidates for the park district board because commissioners Edward L. Klocke and Donald P. Lark have decided not to seek re-election. But all of the candidates for seats on the library board are incumbents.

The lack of new candidates for library board seats is reminiscent of the village trustee election in 1989 when Village President Sheila H. Schultz and three incumbent trustees ran uncontested.

But the formation of a new political party, the Citizens Action Party, has guaranteed that in 1991, at least, contested elections are back in Wheeling and depending on the outcome of the elections, the political balance in the village could change significantly.

The Citizens Action Party, formed by incumbent Trustee Judy Abruscato, will field three candidates for trustee.

Abruscato, who ran as an independent in 1987, said she felt it was time for the village to return to the two-party political system.

"I feel that you need to belong," Abruscato said of her decision to form the party. "Being an independent was nice but I have found candidates who think in some of the same



Michael Lynch



David DeVito



Judy Abruscato



Anthony Altieri



Edward H. Main



Lois J. Gaffke

realms." Abruscato will head the Citizens Action Party slate joined by Michael Lynch of 675 Longtree and David DeVito of 638 Merle.

Abruscato, 56, and a village resident for 24 years, is seeking her second term as trustee. She is the president of the Wheeling Fourth of July Committee and has served on the

Zoning Board of Appeals. Lynch, 37, a resident of the Longtree subdivision in Wheeling for 7 1/2 years, is a past-president of the Wheeling Jaycees. He is currently vice-president of the Wheeling Fourth of July committee.

DeVito, 34, has been a village resident his entire life. He is co-owner of a metal fabricating and auto building company in Palatine.

Abruscato, Lynch and DeVito will face off against three candidates from the Wheeling Upward Party, formed during the 1987 elections.

Incumbent Trustee Anthony Altieri will head the Upward Party ticket. He will be joined by Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke and Wheeling Township Trustee Edward H. Main, both seeking their first terms as trustee.

Altieri, 52, is seeking his third term as trustee. He served seven years as chairman of the Wheeling Plan Commission and has served as president of the Wheeling Jaycees.

Gaffke, is seeking her first term as trustee. She has served as village clerk since 1989. Before that she served three years on the Wheeling Plan Commission. She has served as co-chairman of the Wheeling Family Fest for the past two years.

Main, 46, is also seeking his first term as trustee. He is currently

chairman of the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and a Wheeling Township trustee. He is a past-chairman of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee and past-president of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce.

Garbage is perceived by the Citizens Action Party to be one of the bigger issues of the campaign. Until April 1990, garbage was picked up twice a week. But after new state laws for the handling of yard waste were enacted, the village changed to once-a-week garbage pick up and once-a-week yard waste pick up.

Both parties would like to see a commuter train station in the village, but how they will push for it is still unknown.

Upward Party candidates will also address noise from the Palwaukee Municipal Airport and traffic congestion along the village's main roads during the campaign.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz will throw her support behind the Upward Party.

"I have worked and campaigned with Tony," she said. "I think Lois Gaffke will make a fine trustee and Ed Main certainly is qualified, he has been very active in the community."

Schultz said taxes would probably

See TRUSTEE on Page 3

## Election '91

### Wheeling Village Board

**Vacancies**  
3 seats

**Incumbents**  
Judy Abruscato, Anthony Altieri Jr., James Whittington

**Who's filed**

**Anthony Altieri**

Current trustee, project engineer, Upward Party.

**Judy Abruscato**

Current trustee, personal banking officer, Citizens Action Party.

**Edward H. Main**

Wheeling township trustee, director of business development, Upward Party.

**Michael Lynch**

Safety loss control engineer, Citizens Action Party.

**Lois J. Gaffke**

Village clerk, vice president of a well drilling company, Upward Party.

**David DeVito**

Business owner, Citizens Action Party.

## TRUSTEE: Six candidates vie for 3 posts

Continued from Page 1

not enter into the campaign because residents feel trustees are, for the most part, spending wisely.

"People feel well informed," she said. "They usually feel that they have been heard by trustees."

The board of trustees is now made up of six trustees who were supported by Schultz and Abruscato who ran against the Schultz ticket in 1987. If the Citizens Action Party candidates

are elected in April, a significant change in the way the village board votes on some issues could result.

And although the races for Indian Trails trustee and park district commissioner are shaping up to be less heated than the race for village trustee, there will be at least one big issue in each of those campaigns.

Park District Commissioners will have a hand in planning a new family sports complex on property recently purchased by the district on

Dundee Road next to village hall.

Commissioners will also have to decide if additional funds are needed for the project and, if so, where that money will come from.

And library board trustees will be faced with the report from their alternative services committee about what changes the library needs to make if it is going to continue to serve its growing population. Trustees will decide to act on that recommendation and also how to pay for it.

# Wheeling votes no, then yes to annex Lake-Cook property

COUNTRYSIDE

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

1-31-91

Buffalo Grove Village officials are investigating the legality of Wheeling's annexation of a piece of land north of Lake-Cook Road and Weiland, and may consider their own annexation of the same property next Monday night.

Wheeling officials annexed two parcels of property Monday that are adjacent to both towns along Lake-Cook Road. The towns are fighting over the northern 20 acre parcel. Buffalo Grove has not contested the action taken on the southern parcel slated for a Wal-Mart and Sam's Discount Warehouse.

Buffalo Grove officials and Wheeling residents left Monday's Wheeling board meeting thinking they had won their fight to stop commercial zoning on the northern parcel. Wheeling trustees had initially voted to refuse the commercial designation.

The dozens of residents in attendance cheered and left.

But then the board went into executive session, returned, reconsidered its zoning action, and voted to allow the commercial designation.

"They stumbled through some process that we are still trying to evaluate. The facts are going to play out loud and clear over the next couple of weeks," Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said Tuesday morning. "Our goals have not changed. We still want to see that property in the village."

Buffalo Grove has published its intentions to annex the property at its next board meeting Monday night. Village Board President Verna Clayton and Balling met Tuesday to discuss what action to take, including going ahead with an annexation ordinance.

Village attorney William Raysa also is said to be looking into the legality

of Wheeling's actions and the annexation agreement.

## Mistake

Three Wheeling board members originally voted against the commercial zoning designation. But the three said they didn't realize the annexation agreement contained a clause making the whole deal dependent on commercial zoning.

"Contemporaneously with the adoption of the ordinance annexing the subject property, the Village shall adopt an ordinance to amend the village zoning map to classify the subject property into the B3 zoning classification under the village of wheeling zoning ordinance," the clause reads.

Wheeling annexed the southern parcel first, making the village adjacent (Continued on page 18)

# Army Corps rejects balefill plan

Jan. Feb. 1, 1991

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The fight to build a regional landfill near Bartlett has gone on so long, it's only natural that it would invite a Biblical comparison.

"David took on Goliath and beat him," said Bartlett Village President John A. Stark. "And it wasn't easy."

Opponents of the massive 142-acre project needed the help of the Army Corps of Engineers Thursday to deliver the biggest blow — and it did, ruling the plan falls short in protecting wildlife and in considering alternative sites. Developing the site would mean the loss of a wooded habitat for endangered birds, partic-

ularly the migratory Great Blue Heron, according to the ruling. The Army Corps also faulted the proposal for failing to prove the site was the "least damaging alternative."

"We are extremely pleased, but we are not surprised by the Army Corps decision," Stark said.

Elgin Mayor George Van De Voorde called it a big win for environmentalists. "I think it's a victory for ecology — pure and simple."

While the village of Bartlett has invested five years and \$250,000 to lead the fight with other communities to knock down the plans, the 26-community Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County also has stood strong, spending \$12 million to move the project forward. The Army

Corps' permit denial, say SWANCC officials, is more of a stumble than a fall and they pledged to continue with the project.

"We've got an urgent need for waste disposal capacity," SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt said, adding that according to state estimates landfill space for the Northwest suburbs could run out in the mid-1990s.

"It's safe to say that 90 percent of the site does not fall within the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction," Abolt said. "We could move forward with work on those areas not subject to the corps' jurisdiction."

That could mean that the balefill,

See BALEFILL on Page 4

2/1/91  
Continued from Page 1

slated for a 1993 opening, still may be on schedule, Abolt said.

SWANCC officials point out that the Army Corps calls the project a "commendable plan." Except for the wildlife issue, the corps said the project's "reasonably foreseeable benefits outweigh its foreseeable detriments."

"It's like getting a 95 percent or more on your test and being told you still didn't pass," Abolt said.

The Army Corps, Abolt said, has gone beyond its jurisdiction. "The corps concluded that the needs of 800,000 people come second to the birds on the site," he said.

An Army Corps permit was the last official nod that the project needed to proceed. It could have approved or denied the permit or required an intensive environmental study that would have delayed a final decision at least a year.

By outright denying the permit,

balefill opponents say the Army Corps' decision vindicates their claims that the balefill, so-called because the garbage is compressed into bales, would threaten wildlife on one of the few remaining large tracts of wooded area and would affect drinking water to 350,000 people living south of the site.

"Quite frankly, SWANCC didn't even make it to first base (with the Army Corps)," said Rep. Dennis Hastert, of Batavia.

Hastert and Stark called on the solid waste group to change its strategy and abandon the proposed project.

"I would seriously advise SWANCC to recognize when the fight is over and find another site," Stark said.

But the solid waste agency is still armed with permits issued by the Cook County Board and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and could go ahead with most of the project, Abolt said.

to the northern parcel, and fair game for either side. Wheeling also has approved initial plans for a Wal-Mart and Sam's Discount Warehouse on the south parcel.

The entire property is owned by Roland Schwind, his wife and two daughters. Schwind said he would rather not be annexed by either village, but that if he didn't actively pursue an annexation, he believes his north parcel would be involuntarily annexed by Buffalo Grove. He said he didn't want that.

Schwind added that he has lived in the area all his life and didn't wish to cause his

neighbors any hardship. He said he has no plans to develop his north parcel of land.

"These are all my neighbors and I don't want to antagonize any of them. I don't know when I'll develop it. I still like farming. It might be five or ten years," he said.

Schwind's attorney, Barbara Baran, told the board that its action to reconsider the zoning designation was "the right thing to do." She also told the board that they had a legal obligation to abide by the annexation agreement.

**Wheeling, Buffalo Grove spar over annexation**

By BONNIE BOORM  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Insisting their vote was legal and their agreement with the owners is strong, Wheeling officials refuse to back down from a property annexation that has Buffalo Grove officials up in arms.

Wheeling annexed the land — 20 acres at the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads — earlier this week, even though Buffalo Grove had published its intent to annex the property, which is surrounded on three sides by Buffalo Grove.

Trustees made the move, because the owners of the property — the Roland Schwind family — want their entire farm to be within the village

of Wheeling. Trustees annexed 37 acres of Schwind land on the north side of Lake-Cook Road, future home of a Wal-Mart department store and a Sam's Wholesale Club, at the same time they annexed the 20 acres on the north side of Lake-Cook Road.

Buffalo Grove Trustee Sidney H. Mathias has said he plans to ask the village attorney to look into the possibilities of Buffalo Grove also annexing the land.

But Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she feels the annexation agreement was handled properly by the attorneys for both sides and will hold up.

"I am sorry to hear that Buffalo Grove would take action against the annexation," she said. "It is unfortunate that they would want to forcibly annex the property when the owner has said publicly and legally that he wishes to come to Wheeling."

And Schultz said she hopes this brewing dispute will not ruin what has been a good relationship between the two villages.

"Relations have always been good," she said. "And I see no reason why they cannot continue to be."

James A. Rhodes, Wheeling village attorney, said he filed the annexation agreement with the Cook County recorder's office Thursday. He said Wheeling is ready to fight, if necessary, to keep the property in the village.

"The Schwinds want to come to us and we want them," he said.

# Diversity attracts new asst. village manager

Fri. February 1, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

New Wheeling Assistant Village Manager Joni L. Beaudry visited the village twice before accepting the job. She liked what she saw.

"What impressed me most about Wheeling is its diversity," Beaudry said. "Not just in housing but culturally and economically also."

So after four and one our years as assistant town manager in Essex, Vt., Beaudry decided to pack up and return to the Midwest.

She said that her experience in Essex, including a stint as interim town manager, was "well rounded."

"Because it was a smaller community (18,000), I got to work on a variety of projects including renovation of a 150-year-old building," she said. "I also worked closely with the town board, as the liaison between the department heads and the board. I doubt I will be working that closely with this village board. Here I will be working on more specific projects."

Beaudry, 29, was selected from 70 people to replace David Kowal, who left the village in early August to become assistant village manager in Northbrook. She will be paid \$45,000 annually.

Some of the projects that she will work on are negotiating a new cable agreement with TCI of Illinois and evaluating the village's recycling and waste removal programs.

Beaudry also will negotiate contracts with the village's unions. Although she handled employee relations in Essex, she expects the task

to be a bit different in Wheeling because the village has a number of civil service employees.

Beaudry said she has been interested in public service work since she was a child, growing up in northern Minnesota.

"My parents were active in the city council," she said. "So we learned all that civic stuff."

Beaudry has a master's degree in public administration from Northeastern University in Boston and a bachelor's degree in political science from Moorhead State University in Minnesota. After a year as a congressional staff assistant, Beaudry decided she wanted to work at the local government level.

"I felt I could be more effective at the local level than I could at the state or federal level," she said.

The move to Wheeling will give Beaudry a chance to see how she likes working for a bigger community. And although she is not required to do so in her contract, Beaudry also has chosen to live in the village.

"I am happy to be living in Wheeling," she said. "I can get a better sense of the community."

But she said this area is a little more densely populated than she is used to.

"I am overwhelmed at all the shopping centers and commercial building," she said.

Beaudry hopes to join some local civic organizations as another way to get to know the community. However, she also is aware of the dangers of becoming too immersed in her new responsibilities.



Joni Beaudry, new assistant village manager in Wheeling, studies the issues that she will work on in her new post.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Piant

"I am very aware of the need for a balance between my personal and professional life," she said.

And she is also very happy to be back in the Midwest.

"New England has its own special

style of living," she said. "But I always knew I would move back to the Midwest. The Midwest doesn't see the booms that either coast sees — it is more steady. I like to live someplace that is more stable."

# Trustees wade through waste removal options

Sun. Feb. 3, 1991

Village of Wheeling trustees will consider the options for handling yard waste removal in the coming months when they meet Monday night.

While village officials are recommending that the trustees go with the same program that was used last year, they have prepared other options that the trustees may wish to consider.

Under the 1990 program, refuse —

## THE WEEK AHEAD

normally picked up twice weekly — was picked up once a week and yard waste was picked up once a week. Continuation of that program would mean that there would be no additional cost to residents. But some residents have complained that they have problems with maggots and odor when their garbage is only

picked up once a week.

Trustees must consider the separate collection of yard waste because of changes in the state laws, enacted July 1, 1990, concerning the handling of yard waste.

Other options that the trustees will discuss include keeping refuse pick up at twice a week and adding another collection for yard waste. However, this program would result in an increased fee to residents.

## The top meeting

**Who:**The Wheeling Village Board

**Where:**Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

**When:**8 p.m. Monday

# Wheeling cop discrimination trial goes to jury

Sat. 2/2/91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Attorneys' arguments in the trial involving a racial discrimination lawsuit against Wheeling's police chief drew to a close in U.S. District Court Friday with both sides charging the other with manipulating the truth.

Robert Pressley, who for 11 years was the only black police officer in the department, charged that because of racial discrimination, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger withheld raises, condoned racial harassment and accused him of illicit sexual activity.

In his closing argument, Pressley's attorney, Robert Burns, said Haeger's testimony during the trial was meant to convince the jury that Pressley was an "unsympathetic and calculating man."

"He believes that a black man's self esteem is not important compared to a desire to win," Burns said. "In many instances, he testified differently on the stand than he did on other occasions."

But William Kurnik, Haeger's attorney, said Pressley had not leveled with the jurors.

"I believe the evidence shows that in crucial areas, Bob Pressley and Roger Powers were not leveling with

us," he said.

Powers, a village trustee from 1977 to 1985, testified that in the summer of 1982 while waiting for some budget handouts he heard Haeger say, "I'm going to have trouble with that nigger cop."

Haeger, under oath, denied ever making such a statement.

Powers also said he did not tell fellow trustees about the comment, but in September 1982, he told Pressley after he learned that Haeger had accused Pressley of illicit sexual behavior. The village board of fire and police commissioners later ruled that Haeger did not have enough evidence to support the charge.

"Common sense says he would have told someone earlier that their new police chief was making racial statements," Kurnik said.

Before sending the jury to deliberation, Judge Paul E. Plunkett instructed them that in order to rule in favor of Pressley, they must believe that the evidence showed that Haeger made decisions based on race. He said it was not up to the jury to decide if Haeger's actions were right or wrong, only if they were based on race.

Pressley, who is still on the Wheeling police force, is asking the jurors to assess both compensatory and punitive damages against Haeger.

# Flak jackets due for Wheeling firefighters

Monday, Feb. 4, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In what the Wheeling fire chief calls "a sign of the times," village paramedics soon will begin wearing bullet-proof flak jackets on certain types of calls.

"I don't want to make it sound like there is a gun battle going on out there," said Chief Keith S. MacIsaac. "But there have been incidents and it's time that we started thinking about the safety of our personnel."

And firefighter Francis Gambro, who has spearheaded research into the purchase of bullet-proof vests, said that an incident involving a paramedic last fall "was the last straw."

Thomas Allen was responding to a call about an unconscious person in a car in the Cook County Forest Preserve along Lake-Cook Road, when he came face to face with a loaded gun.

"I was leaning into the car to pull the guy out," Allen said. "He was slumped over. I had my arms around him to pull him out and he reached under the seat and pulled out a gun. It was about six inches from me."

A Wheeling police officer and a Cook County Sheriff disarmed the gunman but the experience prompted the paramedics to take a serious look at some safety precautions.

Unlike bullet-proof vests worn by most police officers, the vests

the paramedics will be using will be worn on the outside of their clothing. They will be a bright color and carry the "star of life," an internationally recognized symbol of emergency medical personnel.

Phillip Carpenter Amvets Post No. 66 in Wheeling is purchasing the vests, which cost \$775 each, for the fire department.

Amvet Robert Hettinger said the post originally approached the police department with the offer but learned the police had money in their budget for the vests. When Hettinger learned of the incident involving Allen, the Amvets decided to offer the money to the fire department. Eventually they hope to buy four, two for each of the department's ambulances.

# Buffalo Grove grabs 20 acres in first round of land battle

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1991

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove trustees on Monday annexed 20 acres recently annexed by Wheeling — paving the way for what likely will be a lengthy battle between the two towns and the property owner.

Trustees unanimously agreed to annex the Roland Schwind family property located at the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads, despite pleas from the family's attorney who urged the board to "follow the law they created" in a previous case.

The case of the Schwind property annexation almost identically mirrors a recent border dispute between Buffalo Grove and Long Grove, attorney Barbara Baran said.

In that case, Long Grove published its intent to annex the 5.2 acres at the northwest corner of Arlington Heights Road and Route 83 prior to Buffalo Grove's annexation of the land. However, the owner of that property filed a petition to voluntarily annex into Buffalo Grove.

The court ruled in Buffalo Grove's

favor, stating the voluntary annexation took precedence over the published intent.

Now, the Schwinds have filed a petition to voluntarily annex into Wheeling, but Buffalo Grove was first to publish its intent to annex the property.

"I am asking you to follow the very law this village created in the (Long Grove) case, and rather than be Long Grove, be Buffalo Grove in this case," Baran said.

Buffalo Grove Village Attorney William Raysa said he could not offer a legal opinion because he had not had a chance to review the case. However, Raysa did say Buffalo Grove officials had no choice but to annex the land if they even wish to attempt to keep the land later.

Had the board not annexed the property on Monday, the village would have had no legal interest in the property and therefore could not have filed any objections to Wheeling's annexation, Raysa said.

Buffalo Grove officials object to Wheeling's decision to change the zoning on the property from residential to commercial.

# Prospect Heights council mum on fire referendum

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1991  
By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights aldermen have decided that, for now, they will not take a position on a referendum for a proposed \$1.15 million bond issue for the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District.

Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. said the money will be used to upgrade equipment, improve safety of personnel and expand the fire station at 10 E. Camp McDonald Road.

Gould was seeking support from the city council to help in the district's effort to get permission to borrow the money through issuing bonds, a decision that would increase property taxes by about \$40 per year.

The council said it needed more time to study the proposal before anyone would commit to supporting the referendum.

Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer said everyone on the council wants to work with the fire district to make sure the city's residents receive the best possible service.

"The city has always had a good rapport with the fire district," Meyer said.

The fire district is proposing building an addition to the existing station that will include sleeping quarters, a training room, a locker room and an exercise room. They are also planning to purchase a fire engine, a ladder truck and to rebuild another pumper truck, Gould said.

"We are looking into the future

in case we expand our boundaries," Gould said.

The present fire trucks need to be modified to allow space for more firefighters because the state mandates that all firefighters must be in an enclosed area on trucks.

Fire district officials had considered putting the referendum on the ballot a few years ago but decided not to because they wanted to wait to see the results of a referendum to consolidate with the Wheeling Township Fire Protection District. That referendum was defeated.

Although a bond issue would increase property taxes, the improvements and equipment upgrades will allow homeowners to save money on their fire insurance, Gould said.

# Wheeling trustees eye yard waste solutions

2-5-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees asked village officials to gather more information on two options for integrating yard waste removal with the village's regular refuse collection.

The Monday debate was yet another round in the battle to find the best way to eliminate grass and tree clippings without handing residents another increase in garbage pickup prices.

Last year, trustees approved once-a-week pickup during the prime growing season — April 1 through Nov. 30 — after changes in state law prohibited refuse haulers from taking yard waste to landfills.

Now some residents are complaining about giving up one day of their now twice-weekly garbage collection during growing season.

Some, including Trustee Judy Abruscato, want that second garbage collection day back, and they are willing to pay for it.

Abruscato favors moving to a bag-and-sticker system, where residents would purchase a special paper bag for yard waste and then purchase a special sticker from Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal to have the bag taken away.

"With once-a-week pickup you still have a smell when it is 95 degrees and you still have the bugs," she said.

"I would rather see two-day service continued and pay for a bag,"

Abruscato said.

Other trustees are interested in the idea of a subscription service that would allow residents who want their garbage picked up twice a week to pay extra.

Buffalo Grove trustees recently decided to give the subscription service a try during the eight-month growing season.

The cost to Buffalo Grove residents who want an additional garbage pickup will be \$2.95 per month.

Wheeling village manager Craig Anderson will gather dollar amounts, including the cost of a subscription service and the costs for stickers and paper bags, for the trustees before they make a final decision, due later this month.

Chicago Tribune 2-5-91

# Landfill proposal is worth saving

neers recognized its value, commending the agency for an "extremely well-designed" plan and declaring that its benefits outweigh its detriments. It also neutralized the prime argument against the plan, saying it posed virtually no risk to the underground water supply.

The corps' principal concern is about wetlands and woodlands on the site, fearing the impact their destruction would have on such things as a nesting site for great blue herons and the veery, a small thrush. This concern is commendable but hardly sufficient to scuttle the plan. Heron nesting sites are unusual in Illinois and veeries are not commonly found here, but by no stretch of the imagination is either an endangered species. And the habitat is not exactly virgin, having developed on an abandoned gravel pit.

Because litigation would cost even more time and money, the agency would be wise to work with the corps to try to meet its objections. It should have added confidence now that it has a plan worth saving.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over only a small portion of a landfill proposed near Bartlett, but it is enough to stop the project for now. It should not be enough to stop the backers of the landfill from continuing the fight to get it approved.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, which already has invested five years and millions of dollars in the project, has three choices: Give up, sue the corps or revise the plan to meet the objections. Whatever course it chooses, it will not be surrender, and the people who will benefit from this plan should applaud the agency for that determination.

When the landfill was first proposed by the Northwest Municipal Conference, it was a remarkable example of communities working together to solve their common garbage problem. The project will serve 26 north and northwest suburbs and will help the entire region by diminishing pressure on existing landfills.

Ironically, in rejecting the landfill, the Corps of Engi-

# Wheeling cop awarded \$40,000 in bias case

Wed. Feb. 6, 1991  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police officer was awarded \$40,000 by a U.S. District Court jury Tuesday in a racial discrimination suit against the village's police chief.

Robert Pressley, who for 11 years was the only black officer in the department, had charged that Chief Michael F. Haeger withheld raises, condoned racial harassment and doled out more severe punishments for wrongdoings to Pressley than to white officers.

And after about 15 hours of deliberations, jurors agreed with Pressley and awarded him \$40,000 in compensatory damages. Pressley's attorneys had asked for \$150,000.

William Kurnick, attorney for Haeger, said no decision has been made on whether to appeal the case. Pressley and his attorneys could not be reached for comment. Pressley is still a member of the Wheeling force.

Haeger, who was recently sworn in as head of the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs, would not comment on the verdict, but issued a statement through a police spokesman.

"I am disappointed in the decision," he said. "But I am even more disappointed in the fact that people distorted the truth and that I was judged based on action I took at the direction of others."

In September of 1982, Haeger pursued charges of illicit sexual activity against Pressley, even though he said he believed the charges were false. A village commission later ruled there was no evidence to pursue those charges.

On the stand, Haeger testified that he was following the instructions of his attorney when he pressed the charges against Pressley.

"He made a mistake," Kurnick said of Haeger. "And the jury equated it with racism."

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said, "I believe that Michael Haeger was and is a professional police chief and a fair person of integrity."

The village had been exonerated by the judge earlier in the trial.

2-6-91 - HERALD  
Village vote grounds  
airport lease proposal

Wheeling trustees voted unanimously not to give the Palwaukee Airport Commission permission to enter into a lease for one of the airport's hangars with American Flyers.

Priester Aviation offered to lease the hangar for \$3,254 per month but airport commissioners voted to go with American Flyers, a flight school, for \$3,000 per month.

Although airport commissioners went with American Flyers because their use is more consistent with the goals of the airport than Priester, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson asked trustees to send the lease back to the commission.

"I understand the reason the commission recommended this but we need to be concerned with generating maximum revenue," he said.

Village bans parking  
along Wheeling Road

It is "no parking" along Wheeling Road, between Hintz Road and Dur-dee Road, now that the village has taken over that part of the road from the Cook County Highway Department.

Village officials had agreed to take over maintenance and add that portion of the road to the village's street system once improvements on the road had been completed by the county.

Under the agreement Wheeling agreed to make it illegal to park along the road or on any of the streets leading into it.

Police get approval to  
purchase 6 new cars

Trustees approved the purchase of six new police cars for the village.

The order for the cars, expected to cost about \$72,000 had to be put in now to lock in the price but the cars will not be purchased and paid for until the 1991-92 fiscal year.

The cars are purchased through a state purchase contract. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the cars, Chevrolet Caprice Classics, will be about \$9,000 less than the ones purchased in 1990 because of General Motor's effort to push the new design.

EDITORIALS

2-6-91 - HERALD

Try again on  
balefill proposal

Roadblocks are nothing new for planners of a regional landfill planned for construction near Bartlett. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, representing 26 suburban communities that would benefit from the landfill, has faced strong and well-organized opposition from Bartlett-area residents since the plan's inception. And SWANCC officials had to try twice before winning approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

But last Thursday's rejection of the project by the Army Corps of Engineers represents the most imposing roadblock yet, because without the Corps' approval, there will be no balefill.

Waste agency officials have three choices. They can revise their plans in an effort to win the Corps' approval; they can sue the Corps, claiming that the engineers overstepped their jurisdiction in their reasons for rejecting the project; or they can abandon the proposed site and look for a different one.

With good reason, SWANCC officials are least likely to choose the third option. The only compelling reason to simply drop plans for this site now would have been evidence that the balefill might contaminate the Newark Valley Aquifer, source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people. But the Army Corps of Engineers did not reject the project on that basis; the Corps indicated that the balefill would not pose any such risk if the balefill were operated as plans indicate it will be.

Instead, the Corps issued a thumbs-down for two other reasons. One, the Corps said developing the site for solid waste disposal would mean the loss of a wooded habitat for endangered birds. Second, the Corps faulted SWANCC for failing to prove that this site is the "least damaging alternative" among various sites.

Should SWANCC sue the Corps or revise their plans and try again for the Corps' approval? Both routes entail risks. SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt fears that the Corps' position on woodlands and wetlands may have established an impasse that cannot be dissolved by revised plans. Litigation, however, could prove to be a lengthy process, and if SWANCC were to lose in court, it would still have to attempt a compromise with the Corps or to look for a new site anyway. That being a case, it could be most prudent for the solid waste agency to look for any possible solution that might satisfy the Corps' concerns about woodlands.

Siting a landfill has to be a rigorous exercise, one that offers ample opportunity for public comment and one in which government officials press landfill planners to revise, fine-tune and improve plans. We think that has occurred over the life of this project. We do not suggest the balefill is a perfect solution, but we have generally supported the plan on the grounds that it represents the most reasonable and manageable plan anyone has advanced for disposing of solid waste generated throughout the Northwest suburbs. Unless someone can demonstrate now that there's a better site for this project, SWANCC and the Army Corps ought to keep looking for a way to make this one work.



Spreading  
sunshine

About 50 seniors attended the first annual "Sunshine Saturday" at the Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling last weekend. Bingo and lunch were provided by the Wheeling Jaycees. Fourth-graders from Whitman Elementary School in Wheeling made the decorations and nametags. Above, Kay Pepe, left, and Dorothy Glab share lunch and conversation with fellow seniors. Left, Florence Elkin helps herself to some of the goodies provided by the Jaycees.

Daily Herald  
Photos By  
Joe Lewnard

# Black Wheeling officer wins discrimination suit

*Tribune 2-6-91*  
By John Gorman

A federal jury Tuesday awarded \$40,000 to a black police officer who accused Wheeling's police chief of racial discrimination.

"I'm glad I'm finally vindicated. My life has been on hold for eight years," said Patrol Officer Robert Pressley, who in 1983 sued the chief, Michael Haeger, charging racial harassment.

"The jury basically found Chief Haeger to be a racist," Pressley's attorney, Alan Freedman, said shortly after the verdict was read in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Paul Plunkett.

"This man was extremely courageous to go ahead with this case."

The jury deliberated for three days before returning the verdict to cap a two-week trial. But the jury denied Pressley punitive damages.

Hired in 1978, he was the first black officer on the Wheeling Police Department.

The verdict ends one battle in a long-running conflict between Pressley and Haeger that stemmed from a September 1982 incident in which the officer was accused of having sex with a woman one morning in the parking lot of a Wheeling restaurant.

In that incident, Freedman said, Pressley had just worked the midnight shift and had had breakfast with his girlfriend when a female customer phoned Wheeling village authorities to complain that

Pressley had exited a van zipping his pants.

As a result of that complaint, the suit charged, Haeger suspended Pressley from the force for two days without pay. The suit claimed that the "charges would not have been brought if he [Pressley] was not a member of the black race." Pressley was not arrested or formally charged with wrongdoing.

"Haeger assumed that because it was a black police officer in a van for an hour, he was having sex," Freedman said outside court Tuesday.

Haeger's attorney, William Kurnik, said the chief was stunned by the jury's decision.

"I think we were both quite surprised," Kurnik said. "I think I felt that my client's personality would come through. I found it incredible that the jury would conclude the department was racist, let alone my client."

In the suit, Freedman charged that in January 1983 Haeger gave Pressley half the raise to which he was entitled, and then did not grant him the three months of retroactive pay due him.

"All of the employee performance evaluations of the plaintiff undertaken [by Wheeling] have shown him [Pressley] to be a competent police officer with no indications that his work was unsatisfactory or substandard," the suit

See Wheeling, p. 10

charges in the plaintiff's mailbox, the suit charged.

In the years since he filed suit, Pressley has remained on the job, and he vows to stay.

"I enjoy working for the citizens of Wheeling," said Pressley, 44, as he spoke outside Plunkett's courtroom Tuesday with his wife, Ruby, by his side. She was the woman in the van, he noted.

Craig Anderson, village manager, said, "We respect the decision of the federal jury, but we are disappointed it went that way."

# Village to reveal annexation flaws

*Sat, Feb. 9, 1991*

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove village officials have stepped up their efforts to discredit Wheeling's annexation of a 20-acre parcel by requesting Wheeling turn over all documents pertaining to the annexation.

Buffalo Grove has filed a Freedom of Information request with the village of Wheeling in hopes of finding proof to back their theory that Wheeling improperly annexed a parcel over which the two towns are battling.

Both villages have annexed a 20-acre site at the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling said he and Village Attorney William Raysa already have identified several flaws in Wheeling's annexation and they will use Wheeling's annexation documents as proof that the flaws do exist.

"We have already found some deficiencies," Balling said. "I can assure you we are not going on a fishing expedition."

Balling would not reveal what problems the village has found in Wheeling's annexation.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson still contends the village's annexation was legal and proper.

The border dispute stems from a difference in philosophy as to how the property should be developed.

Buffalo Grove officials want the land to remain residential, but Wheeling officials changed the zoning of the land from residential to commercial as part of their annexation agreement.

Buffalo Grove recorded its annexation of the land Friday with the recorder of deeds in both Cook and Lake counties — a step Wheeling officials completed last week.

That move makes it official: The property now is within the corporate limits of both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Balling admits the border dispute could end up in court, but he said he is hoping to resolve the issue through meetings with Wheeling officials.

Balling said he hopes to resolve the matter within 30 days.

## Wheeling

Continued from page 1

said. In addition, the suit charged, Haeger questioned Pressley about his financial affairs and ordered him to pay certain bills "or face disciplinary action."

"The plaintiff was subjected to racial slurs, epithets and jokes by fellow officers, which have included the anonymous placing of racist car-

Asked if he wanted to continue to work for a man whom he had sued, Pressley said, "Not if he does the things he did before. I sued the man because he did me wrong because I'm black. ... About what happens to him, I've got nothing to say about it."

Still pending in federal court is another suit filed against Haeger for prohibiting Pressley from talking about his suit to reporters. A hearing on that suit is scheduled for later this month before U.S. District Judge John Nordberg.

# Officials sue to save trees at landfill site

*Sat, Feb. 9, 1991*

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bartlett and Elgin officials asked a Kane County Circuit Court judge Friday to block plans by proponents of a proposed landfill to cut trees at the site.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, which wants to build a 142-acre landfill at Gifford and West Bartlett roads, has not started to clear trees at the site, but the threat to do so was enough to move opponents into action.

The suit, filed jointly by the two municipalities and Bartlett Police Chief William McHugh, a resident of Evanston — one of the 26 SWANCC communities — seeks to

restrain the solid waste agency from felling trees on the site.

It alleges that the act would violate rules of the Illinois Department of Conservation requiring that it be consulted when disrupting endangered or threatened wildlife.

It also argues that cutting trees exceeds SWANCC's legal authority as a municipal corporation.

The US Army Corps of Engineers denied the solid waste agency's request for a permit to build the landfill, citing the destruction of wooded wildlife habitat and SWANCC's failure to provide an adequate study of alternatives.

That denial, said William Coulson, an attorney hired by Bartlett, prohibits the solid waste agency

from clearing the site because it can't build a landfill without the Army Corps permit. And, as a corporation that answers to taxpayers, it may not clear trees for any other purpose than building the landfill, he said.

SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt dismissed the suit as a "political and public relations move."

Solid waste agency officials agreed to begin the tree-clearing this month so that construction of the landfill — so called because garbage is compacted into bales before being deposited in a landfill — can begin this summer. The agency agreed not to cut trees in spring or summer when migratory birds are nesting at the site.

# Tree-clearing may start soon at landfill site

*2-7-91*

By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, the proponents of a landfill near Bartlett agreed to begin construction work on the site — including tree-clearing.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County board of directors voted Wednesday to begin clearing up to 5 acres of trees on the 503-acre site.

Though no trees have been downed, the decision already has drawn fire from the project's opponents, who have called the act "spiteful" and "arrogant" in light of the Army Corps' decision last week.

In denying the permit, corps officials cited the destruction of wildlife habitat and SWANCC's failure to provide an adequate study of alternatives.

The wooded site serves as a seasonal home to several migratory birds, including the Great Blue Heron.

Chief among the opposition is the village of Bartlett, whose leaders have vowed to ask a court to block any move by SWANCC to begin cutting trees at the site.

"They should be well-prepared to go to court," said Bartlett Village President John A. Stark.

But officials of SWANCC, the 26-community agency that is planning to build a 142-acre landfill at the intersection of Gifford and West Bartlett roads, say the board's decision is a matter of timing.

"We feel compelled to go forward," said SWANCC President and Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

## Boxed into a corner

2-7-91

**S** *COUNTRYSIDE* natching defeat from the jaws of victory, Wheeling trustees did an about face last week, approving commercial zoning for the Schwind property minutes after voting it down.

What a disgrace. The Wheeling trustees let themselves be backed into a corner by the developer. Presented with an annexation agreement that stripped them of their right to determine the best zoning for the property, they let their hunger for land overrule their better judgment.

It was really quiet a show. Before dozens of Wheeling residents and Buffalo Grove officials, the board at first voted down the commercial zoning for the 20-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland, which is surrounded by residential zoning. They watched the cheering audience filter out for the evening, basking in apparent victory.

Then in a classic example of back-room finagling, trustees retired to their closed-door executive session, listened to their attorney, and slipped back into an empty chamber to rescind their earlier nay vote.

Residents, already jittery from the annexation of the adjacent parcel to the south now slated to become a Wal-Mart and Sam's Discount Warehouse, were outraged at the shift of fate. And they have plenty of reason to be.

Wheeling trustees contend they had to reverse their course because the annexation agreement they had previously approved mandated that the land be rezoned commercial. Although a majority of trustees had been uneasy with the zoning, they were not willing to risk losing the property for their concerns.

It is likely Wheeling is so anxious to snatch the land because of lingering resentments from Buffalo Grove's annexations along Milwaukee Avenue, including the Riverwalk office plaza. But residents deserve better.

This week, Buffalo Grove approved its own annexation of the property, and promised to look into the legality of Wheeling's action. The courts will probably decide whose annexation stands. Residents can only hope their interests will amount to something in court.

They let their hunger for land overrule their better judgment

## Two villages annex same property, fight begins

*COUNTRYSIDE*

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

2-7-91

The Buffalo Grove Village board voted Monday to annex a 20-acre parcel of land which the Village of Wheeling annexed seven days earlier.

The property, owned by the Roland Schwind family, sits at the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland Roads.

Buffalo Grove Village Attorney William Raysa said the annexation was necessary to give the village legal standing in any future court proceedings.

"In order to get started, we had to pass the annexation (agreement)," Raysa said. "The next step will (involve) reviewing the Wheeling annexation and all the documentation."

Raysa said Buffalo Grove has 90 days to file the annexation with the Lake County Recorder of Deeds.

Village Manager William Balling said a preliminary review has taken place and it

shows that Wheeling's annexation of the property was flawed.

"We believe that the Wheeling annexation is defective. It is clear that they acted irregularly," Balling said. "We also believe they acted illegally."

Balling said he couldn't discuss any details of the alleged illegalities.

### Legal issue

The Schwind's attorney, Barbara Baran, spoke out against Buffalo Grove's proposed action Monday evening. "The issue before you tonight...is solely a legal one. The issue is whether the Schwinds had a proper petition (filed with Wheeling). I submit to you that they did."

The Schwinds sought a voluntary annexation of their property to Wheeling in conjunction with the voluntary annexation of 37 acres of property they own on the south-

(Continued on page 20)

### Surprised

Reached Tuesday afternoon by telephone, Baran said she was surprised that Buffalo Grove annexed the property. She declined to discuss what her clients planned to do.

She did note that one option available to her clients was the filing of a quo warranto which asks the court to question the authority of a municipality to annex a piece of property.

When asked which county the quo warranto would have to be filed in, Baran said she didn't know.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson and Village Attorney James Rhodes weren't available for comment.

east corner of Lake Cook and Weiland Roads.

Plans exist for a Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club to be built on the southeast parcel. No development plans currently exist for the northeast parcel, Baran said.

She pointed out that Buffalo Grove was involved in a similar annexation case with Long Grove. She cited case law developed in that legal action and asked the board to follow the law which they had helped create.

After the meeting, Baran spoke to the press about her clients.

"They are farmers caught in a suit," she said of the Schwind family. "How can you be in two villages? That's why I came here (tonight)-to try and avoid this. This has very serious consequences for the Schwinds."

## Villages support balefill

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling officials voiced strong support for a balefill facility near Bartlett in the wake of a recent construction permit denial by the Army Corps of Engineers for part of the project.

The Army Corps denied a construction permit application for a sanitary landfill proposed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. The sanitary landfill is part of a proposed garbage balefill project that would serve 26 northern Cook County communities.

The solid waste agency has sold \$16.25 million worth of bonds for the project to date, according Brooke Beal, assistant to the director.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling, who

chairs the agency's executive committee, said the permit denial won't stop the project.

"It's a setback. It delays the project. It adds cost to the project. It doesn't terminate the project," Balling said. "We're really disappointed that the Corps came down so hard on the bird habitat issue."

The Corps denied the permit application for two reasons. It said that the agency hadn't done a thorough enough alternative site analysis and it said that the balefill project would "contribute to significant degradation of the aquatic environment."

Balling said that the Corps overstepped its jurisdictional boundaries when it ruled on the environmental impact issue because the Corps also took into account the effect the project would have on

bird habitats and trees in the area.

He explained that Buffalo Grove will have paid the solid waste agency close to \$60,000 at the end of the village's fiscal year in April. Next year's budget calls for the same annual payment. The village's total liability for the project stands at slightly less than \$700,000.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the recent Corps decision caught him off guard.

Anderson said that Wheeling will have paid the solid waste agency \$48,500 for the project in fiscal year 1991, ending April 30. He said the same amount is budgeted for the next fiscal year. The village's total liability for the project stands at slightly more than \$560,000.

# Wheeling officer returns to beat after winning racial bias lawsuit

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After winning a lawsuit charging his boss with racial discrimination, Wheeling police officer Robert Pressley had no idea what to expect when he returned to work Wednesday after a three-week vacation.

"People have been pretty nice about welcoming me back," he said. "I'm hoping everything will work out OK."

Pressley said he is not sure how his relationship with Police Chief Michael F. Haeger will be affected by the decision of jurors in U.S. District Court Tuesday, awarding Pressley \$40,000.

"All I will say is that I can work for anybody as long as they don't do the things that he did," he said.

Pressley, Wheeling's first black officer, charged that Haeger withheld

raises, condoned racial harassment and doled out more severe punishments for wrongdoings to Pressley than to white officers. The jury award was for compensatory losses, not punitive damages. After the trial, Haeger said he was "disappointed" in the decision.

Now more than eight years after he filed the lawsuit, Pressley is hoping the problems are behind him. But his attorneys said there were more incidents of racial harassment over the past two years.

"There has been another batch of cartoons that Bob received in his mailbox (at the police department)," said Pressley attorney Bruce Bornstein. "It was more racist trash on the level that he received in '82 and '83."

"It is a horrible experience to have to go to work every day under conditions like that," Bornstein said. "I

give him tremendous credit. All his performance reviews show that he continued to be a good cop."

And Pressley said that he has no intentions of leaving the Wheeling Police Department.

"I worked hard to get where I am," he said. "And I love what I do. It's not easy coming to work in this situation and I don't know that it is going to get any easier, but I'm going to do it. That's the way I am."

A lawsuit that Pressley filed against Haeger for prohibiting him from talking to reporters is still pending in federal court.

Pressley also has filed an appeal in Cook County Circuit Court to overturn a 20-day suspension he received last fall. In that case, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners found Pressley guilty of leaving the village limits while on duty and then lying about it.



Wheeling officer Robert Pressley stands at his police cruiser on his first day back at work.

Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

# Agency loses another battle for balefill plan

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County is considering three responses to the Army Corps of Engineers' recent denial of a construction permit for a balefill near Bartlett.

Agency Executive Director William Abolt said the board of directors could vote to abandon the project, revise it or go to court over the permit denial.

"At this point, I wouldn't recommend abandoning the project," Abolt said.

Abolt called the permit denial "another setback" and added that "we've had them before. The Corps has simply made a mistake. I honestly don't know (where) else would be available. It's a little bit frustrating dealing with (this)."

The Agency board of directors and executive committee was scheduled to meet Wednesday night and consider how to proceed with the balefill project. Abolt said he expects a decision next Wednesday night at the boards' regularly scheduled meeting.

The balefill site would be a waste disposal facility for 26 communities throughout northern Cook County. The agency plan also calls for three garbage transfer stations to initially handle the garbage. One would be located in Wheeling township, one in Rolling Meadows and a third, as of yet undetermined, site.

After studying the agency's proposal for 11 months, the Army Corps last week denied a construction permit at the Bartlett-area site for two main reasons, the project, as submitted, would have a significant impact on the existing wildlife habitat; and the project didn't offer enough proof that alternative sites were given enough consideration.

"It seems to us on the surface of things that it would be very difficult if not impossible to bring something back to us that wouldn't have the same impact (on the habitat)," said John Rogner, Chicago area regulatory chief for the Army Corps of Engineers. He added that the solid waste agency does have the option of submitting a revised plan for the site.

The Army Corps stated in a prepared news release that the "construction of a sanitary landfill was needed and not con-

trary to the public interest, but that the proposed project would 'contribute to significant degradation of the aquatic environment' and therefore could not be permitted.

"Construction of the balefill would involve the loss of a substantial portion of a 550-acre tract of woodlands and seasonal ponds providing habitat for a variety of bird species, including a Great Blue Heron rookery and Illinois endangered species such as the Veery, Cooper's Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk," the statement continued.

Abolt said that the balefill would utilize 142 acres of land and that an additional 138 acres of land necessary for mitigation could be re-configured to lessen the impact on wildlife.

In developing its plan, the waste agency stipulated that it needed a minimum of 200 acres for the project. Rogner said the Army Corps questioned this.

"They haven't shown us what the basis was for the minimum size requirement. We couldn't take it at face value without any (evidence for it.) We have to question the basis for their selection criteria," Rogner said. "It's conceivable that they could go out and do a more rigorous alternative (site) study and prove to us that the 200 minimum acreage is necessary."

The solid waste agency has worked on the project for the past three years and has spent close to \$11 million, Abolt said. The 26 communities involved have contributed about \$1.6 million.

"We have a substantial reserve (\$900,000) and will, to the extent possible, rely on money in the bank or already authorized revenues to finance the continuation of the project," Abolt said. "The way you protect the members' investment is to keep the project moving forward."

Abolt said the agency is authorized to raise and spend an additional \$1.6 million in 1991, however, he said this budget figure probably will be scaled back.

"We believe the Balefill Plan does meet all the guidelines and that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers overstepped its jurisdiction with this action," Abolt said in a prepared statement. "SWANCC intends to carefully review the Corps' decision and take every step possible to win approval. We will not allow this decision to be sustained."

# First day back on job, race bias suit winner feeling 'welcome'

After winning a lawsuit this week charging his boss with racial discrimination, Wheeling police officer Robert Pressley said he was glad to be back at work Wednesday.

"People have been pretty nice about welcoming me back," he said. "I'm hoping ev-

erything will work out OK." And Pressley said he has no intentions of leaving the Wheeling Police Department.

"I worked hard to get where I am," he said. "And I love what I do."

See story on Page 5.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Brunswick strikes bowling center plans

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Just one month after gaining approval for a tournament bowling center on Milwaukee Avenue, Brunswick Corp. has backed out, leaving village officials mystified and disappointed.

A Brunswick official said the company decided to drop plans for the center in the face of economic conditions.

"At the first of the year, we reviewed all our possible investments, and due to the economic situation across the country we had to pull out of some of the deals," said Randy Wagner, director of marketing. Wagner would not say how many other bowling center projects had been abandoned.

Before the decision to withdraw from the project, Brunswick had planned to start construction within two months and open the center on Labor Day. The center was to be at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave., just north of Mayer Avenue.

Plans called for a billiard room, liquor bar, snack bar, kitchen and lounge. There would have also been a pro shop, game room, multipurpose room and an area for bleachers.

Automatic pinsetters and state-of-the-art computerized scoring equipment would have enabled the center to host national professional bowling tournaments, at least one of which would have been televised annually.

Village officials expressed disappointment that Brunswick had pulled out and did not notify them. "I am disappointed and surprised," said Village Planner Mark Janek. "Wheeling has lost out on a good recreational prospect."

Janek said the village planning office worked a long time with Brunswick officials to get a site plan that would meet the needs of both groups.

"Municipalities are not supposed to be a business," Janek said. "Their finances aren't any of our business. But this is unfortunate because the village does not have a lot of recreational facilities for the residents. It would have been good socially."

# Officer wins racial discrimination suit

COUNTYSIDE  
By B. H. MEMIS  
Staff Writer 2-14-91

Wheeling police officer Robert Pressley does not claim to be a civil rights crusader.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said he is not a racist or a bigot and he resents having to deny such charges.

Pressley recently won a racial discrimination case against Haeger and a \$40,000 judgment from a jury in a Cook County Circuit Courtroom. Now, Pressley and Haeger, opponents in court, must find a way to work on the same police force.

Pressley's suit charged that Haeger had discriminated against him because he is black. He alleged that the chief withheld pay increases, condoned racial

harassments and doled out harsher punishments to him than to others for the same infractions.

Haeger denies all the charges, and said his attorneys are considering the merits of an appeal.

Pressley said the case and the problem are behind him now, Haeger explained that being characterized as someone who judges others on the basis of color isn't easily dismissed.

Both men agree that they will continue to do their respective jobs to the best of their ability.

"What officer Pressley alleges are occurring with regards to discriminatory acts in this police department, I myself, my deputy chiefs and my supervisors are not seeing. It is unfortunate that the jury saw it,"

Haeger said.

Pressley said he stands by his charges and is glad the jury decided as it did.

"Just because he is the chief of police doesn't mean he can't lie, that he can't play politics," Pressley said. "I'm not trying to put the man down. Our differences are done. The courts did what they had to do."

Pressley said all he wants to do now is his job.

"I enjoy working for the citizens of Wheeling. I like the job. I am good at it."

The 13-year veteran of the Wheeling police force said he doesn't expect any trouble from his fellow officers, his supervisors or the chief.

"I don't expect and I hope that I don't have any problems with the chief or anyone else. But if I have

any problems, I would fight them," Pressley said. He added, "I fought... to make sure that it doesn't happen to anyone (else) in a similar situation."

But he quickly added that he doesn't want to be a champion of other people's causes. He just wants to be a cop.

"Law enforcement is what I do best," he said. "I like doing what I do. I like the street. The street is my life."

For Haeger, the loss in court hurts.

"It is not a pleasant experience. I'm not relieved that it is over. I don't think I should have lost. I think the people in this community who know me are probably the best judges of what kind of police chief I am."

"People who could have



Pressley

come forward and spoken for me are no longer with us," Haeger added, referring (Continued on page 12)

## Staff floats reasons for 31% water rate hike

Tuesday 2-12-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

per 1,000 gallons used and the two services are billed together, the net increase would be 31 percent.

Fialkowski said the village will likely need to issue bonds next year to pay for capital improvements to the water and sewer system, including the construction of a pumping and storage facility to activate a third lake water storage receiving point.

"We really have to raise rates," he said.

"It is just a matter of how much. This is the rate that we need to charge to operate the system."

The last time rates were raised was in 1982 when the village hooked up to the Lake Michigan water system.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the rate will need

## Wheeling gives nod to Mobil service station

2-15-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

for cars traveling on Weiland Road would be available.

Mobil representatives have been working with village community development staff for several years on the project. But Charles Wagner, real estate director for the oil company, said that the plans started to come together once Wal-Mart Inc. expressed interest in the site.

The village board recently approved plans for the Wal-Mart Department Store and Sam's Wholesale Club to be built on land at that intersection.

"We are like a small fish in a big pond at this point," said Mobil Representative Robert C. Kenny.

Buffalo Grove officials had objected to Wheeling's annexation of

Wheeling plan commissioners tentatively approved construction of a gas station at the southeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads Thursday, despite a letter from Buffalo Grove officials asking them to wait until sewer provisions had been secured for the site.

The Mobil Oil Corp. gas station, which would also have a mini-mart and a car wash, would be accessible to motorists going eastbound on Lake-Cook Road, but no left turns into the station would be permitted. There would also be an entrance off of the entrance to the proposed Sam's Wholesale Club on Weiland Road. No direct access

Haeger proudly stated that he also made history in the Village of Woodridge when he hired that community's first black employee while working as the deputy chief there.

"You hate to lose but when misrepresentations contribute to the loss, that's when it gets difficult to deal with," Haeger said.

Pressley and Haeger have not spoken about the court action. Neither man said he plans to approach the other for a discussion.

"I bear no malice toward the man," Pressley said.

Haeger, while he copes with a possible appeal and a pending Federal court action filed by Pressley involving freedom of speech violations, said he still has a job to do as chief of police.

## 911 system breezes by the trustees

Feb. 15, 1991 (Friday)  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees, acting as members of the emergency systems telephone board, gave the nod Monday to \$95,000 in expenditures to get the installation of an Enhanced 911 emergency system under way in the village.

The 911 advisory board — consisting of two members from the fire department, two members from the police department and the communications center supervisor — recommended the purchase after touring other municipalities using 911 and consulting a representative from Ameritech Information Systems, the sole coordinator of the purchase and installation of Enhanced 911 equipment.

"We feel we have the best system for the village of Wheeling," said Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes.

Hermes said July 22, 1991 is still the date when Wheeling residents can expect to have the opportunity to use the 911 system for the first time. He said that installation of the equipment will begin in late March or early April.

The village will also spend \$3,000 to construct an office in the police department for the communications supervisor. The office will also hold the third answering point for the system. The first two answering points will be in the police department dispatch room.

Committee members recommended this equipment to the trustees because of a redundancy feature that enables the system to keep working even while part of it is being repaired.

Voters approved the Enhanced 911 system last November. The system automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes last only a few seconds.

## 31% water, sewer price hike considered

2-10-91  
HERNOLD  
third lake water receiving point.

Wheeling trustees will consider a 31 percent increase in water and sewer rates for village residents when they meet Monday night.

Current water rates of \$1.90 per 1,000 gallons of water used would be increased to \$2.60. Sewer rates would remain the same at 36 cents per 1,000 gallons of water billed.

Village officials say that the water and sewer program has been run at a deficit for a number of years, with revenues not being enough to cover operating expenses, and that the at-

ternate funds including money from a grant received in 1986 are running low.

Trustees will also look at raising the minimum charge for water, now \$8 for up to 4,000 gallons, to \$10.40. The average Wheeling resident could expect an increase of about \$100 annually.

With the increase the village would be charging about the same amount as several nearby communities, including Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows, Hoffman Estates and

Schaumburg.

The last time the village raised its water rates was in 1982 and since then the village has converted to getting all its water from Lake Michigan. This change has eliminated most summer water shortages and reduced complaints about water quality.

However, village officials say that it is time to make some capital improvements on the water system, including the construction of storage and pumping facilities to activate a

### The top meeting

Who: The Wheeling Village Board

Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

When: 8 p.m., Monday

## 1990 Census

Racial Breakdown Source: 1990 Census

	1990 Population	Whites	Blacks	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Other
Algonquin	11,663	11,434	20	21	150	202	38
Barrington	9,504	9,340	16	10	119	157	19
Barrington Hills	4,202	4,063	7	1	116	55	15
Buffalo Grove	36,427	34,298	373	31	1,595	711	130
Cary	10,043	9,868	26	8	48	219	93
Deer Park	2,887	2,775	38	0	74	25	0
Fox River Grove	3,551	3,491	10	4	30	99	16
Hawthorn Woods	4,423	4,269	51	1	96	29	6
Hoffman Estates	3,855	40,608	1,334	87	3,727	2,543	805
Inverness	46,561	6,195	20	3	270	83	15
Island Lake	6,503	4,351	19	6	46	195	27
Kildeer	4,449	2,193	4	1	56	41	3
Lake Barrington	2,257	3,804	9	5	35	27	2
Lake Zurich	14,947	14,320	125	14	359	565	129
Long Grove	4,740	4,546	29	1	131	120	33
North Barrington	1,787	1,747	20	0	19	40	1
Palatine	39,253	36,995	370	42	1,274	1,410	572
Rolling Meadows	22,591	20,910	362	39	785	2,522	495
Schaumburg	68,586	62,150	1,471	80	4,454	1,829	441
South Barrington	2,937	2,650	26	1	260	14	0
Tower Lakes	1,333	1,315	4	0	11	13	3
Wauconda	6,294	6,195	0	6	29	250	64
Wheeling	29,911	26,955	504	55	1,376	2,508	1,021

## Ethnic trends continue here

COUNTRYSIDE 2-14-91  
By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

The number of Asian-Americans living in Buffalo Grove more than tripled in the last 10 years, while Wheeling's Hispanic population more than doubled since 1986, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau's breakdown of racial population groups shows that minorities make up approximately 8 percent of Buffalo Grove's population, 18 percent of Wheeling's population and 6.5 percent of Long Grove's population.

"We've always welcomed everybody to come to Buffalo Grove," Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said. "(But) we're (still) predominantly a white population. It's always been that way. I don't know why."

Buffalo Grove's 1990 population of 36,427 breaks down into 34,298 whites, 373 blacks, 31 American Indians, 1,595 Asians, 711 Hispanics, and 130 others.

In 1980, the U.S. Census Bureau figures showed that Buffalo Grove had a total

population of 22,230. The numbers broke out to 21,477 whites, 142 blacks, 19 American Indians, 487 Asians, 149 Hispanics, and 49 others. "I think the general trend of having basically white communities in the suburbs is continuing," said Balling. "It sure seems that way."

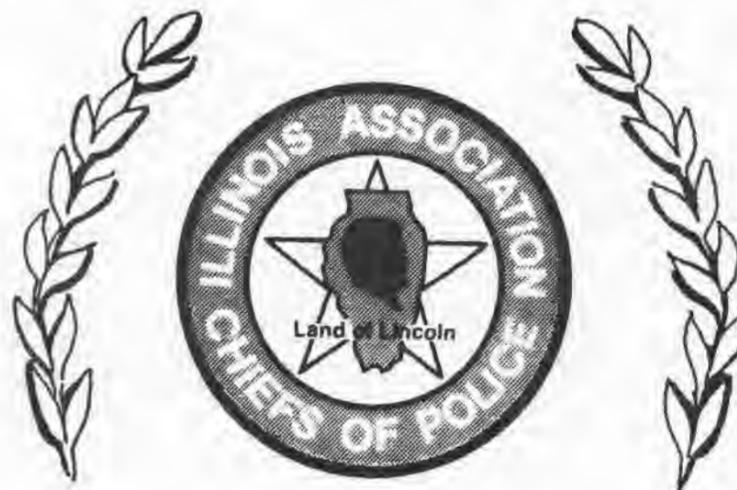
Wheeling's 1990 population of 29,911 breaks down into 26,955 whites, 504 blacks, 55 American Indians, 1,376 Asians, 2,508 Hispanics, and others 1,021.

In 1980, the U.S. Census Bureau figures showed that Wheeling had a total population of 23,270. The numbers broke out to 22,155 whites, 225 blacks, 27 American Indians, 471 Asians, 1,301 Hispanics, and 40 others.

"Even though we are primarily white... we are very proud of our diversity," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

Long Grove's 1990 population of 4,740 was 4,546 whites, 29 blacks, 1 American Indian, 131 Asians, 120 Hispanics, and 33 others. In (Continued on page 13)

## Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police



Winter Conference  
Reception and Banquet

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
1941-1991

1980, the village had a total population of 2,013. This broke down into 1,947 whites, 7 blacks, 41 Hispanics, and 59 others. 1980 figures for American Indians and Asians in Long Grove were not available.

In most areas of the northwest suburbs, Asian-Americans are the minority group showing the biggest percentage increases, said Mary Cele Smith, an associate planner for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. But Asians still remain a small part of the total population, she said.

"The Asian growth rate is certainly the highest," Smith said.

The new Asians being counted in the 1990 census include Asians who have moved to the northwest suburbs from other parts of the United States as well as people who have moved here from other countries, Smith said.

"In the 1980s, we saw a lot more immigration from Asia and also from many Spanish-speaking countries," Smith said.

The census figures on the number of Hispanics are problematic in both 1980 and 1990, Smith said. Spanish-speaking people are supposed to list themselves in two categories: as Hispanics as well as members of a racial group - white, black, Asian or American Indian.

However, many Hispanics put themselves down as Hispanic, but they did not list themselves in any other category, Smith said.

"There are too many people in the 'other races' group, because too many Hispanics were confused and did not mark themselves down under any racial group," Smith said.

Because of this, the total number of people listed in the different racial groups doesn't add up to a correct total population number, Smith said.

# Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police 1991 Board of Officers and Past Presidents

## BOARD OF OFFICERS

Michael Haeger (*Wheeling*) ..... President  
 James Taylor (*Normal*) ..... 1st Vice President  
 Darrell Sanders (*Frankfort*) ..... 2nd Vice President  
 Ronald Pavlock (*Mount Prospect*) ..... 3rd Vice President  
 William Burke (*Tinley Park*) ..... 4th Vice President  
 Charles McDonald (*SIU Edwardsville*) ..... Immediate Past President  
 Executive Director ..... George F. Koertge

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Lawrence J. Benson	1941	Victor E. Maul	1970
T.P. Sullivan	1942-49	Charles P. Runkel	1971
Roger Shanahan	1950	John Braschler	1972
Carl W. Soderlin	1951	Clarence Emrikson	1973
Lorenz Schey	1952	Ronald J. Veiser	1974
Peter J. Geishecker	1953	George P. Graves	1975*
Ervin F. Boe	1954	William O. Brey	1976*
Thomas P. Kearin	1955	Mearl J. Justus	1977
Edwin F. Whiteside	1956	Harry P. Jenkins	1978*
W. Glenn Kerwin	1957	Eldon L. Quick	1979
Milan N. Plavsic	1958	Fred Hayes	1980*
William C. Griffin	1959	Lewis L. Dreith	1981
Ray A. Welsh	1960	Charles A. Gruber	1982*
Charles F. Petersen	1961	John Bullaro	1983
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John M. Heafner	1965-66	Robert B. Bonneville	1987*
Don R. Darning	1967*	M.E. "Duke" Gorris	1988
Silver Suarez	1968	Carl Dobbs	1989*
Howard A. Heinen	1969	Charles McDonald	1990

\* Active Past President

# Winter Conference Installation Banquet

January 21, 1991  
Arlington Heights, IL

## — Program —

Presentation of Colors ..... Chicago Police Department  
 Drum and Pipes

Pledge of Allegiance ..... President Charles McDonald

Invocation ..... Reverend Thomas Nangle  
 Chaplain  
 Chicago Police Department

Introduction of Dais ..... Chief Paul Boecker

Keynote Speaker ..... Governor Jim Edgar  
 (Invited)

Installation of President  
 and Vice Presidents ..... Joel A. Kagann  
 Chief Deputy Clerk of the Court  
 DuPage County

Presentation of Gifts ..... Chief Michael F. Haeger

Remarks by President ..... Chief Michael F. Haeger

Master of Ceremonies ..... Paul Boecker  
 Fire Chief, Lisle-Woodridge  
 Fire Protection District

Entertainment ..... Wheeling High School  
 Strolling Strings

## — Dinner —

Broccoli Cheddar Chowder, Garden Salad,  
 Prime Rib, Potato, Seasonal Vegetable,  
 Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce

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# Palwaukee waits for environmental study draft

Sat. Feb. 16, 1991

By ROBIN SWANSON  
Daily Herald correspondent

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners have delayed their approval of a draft of the environmental study of the relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads until next week so they have time to look the study over before voting.

Commissioners had hoped to approve the study, which was not ready until Wednesday, before sending it on to the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights for

their approval, but several commissioners felt uncomfortable approving the study before looking it over.

"In talking with the engineers it looks like there is nothing in the study that we have not known," said Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno. "But it smacks of impropriety to pass it without having time to look it over."

The assessment consists of the environmental study, transcripts of a public hearing held in October, and responses, made by the engineers who conducted the study, to those

comments.

It is part of the process the airport must go through to get approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for the road relocation. The FAA has final say on the project. The federal agency must find that there will be no significant impact on the environment in order to give approval to the plan.

Under the current plan Hintz Road would be moved to arc north and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection. The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Mar-

quardt Drive and bow west, slicing the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate left.

Although they did not approve the study, commission members decided to forward it to the two municipalities — who jointly own the airport — so that all three groups could consider the study at the same time.

Airport officials want the draft study approved as quickly as possible so that copies can be forwarded to the State of Illinois Division of Aeronautics and the FAA.

# T-shirt imprinter loses appeal to zoning board

Mon., Feb. 18, 1991

By GINI S. OHLSON  
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals has unanimously backed a ruling by the village building, housing and zoning administrator that will keep a T-shirt imprinter out of a strip shopping center on Dundee Road.

Representatives of St. Andrews Properties, owners of the center, asked the zoning board to overturn the ruling made by Thomas Fennel Jr. that said that Berkson Products

could not move into a 5,000-square-foot storefront at 82 E. Dundee Road.

Fennel said that he denied the request because he felt the type of equipment used in the operation was mandated in the city code for an industrial area rather than a retail space.

But Joel Hirsh of St. Andrews said that Tom Berkson, owner of Berkson Products, wants to increase his retail business by locating at this center.

"He has been in the retail and wholesale business selling jackets, T-shirts and hats that he imprints,"

he said. "This particular unit that we hope to put him in, he hopes to retail in."

"He's got a small printing machine," Hirsh added. "If he was imprinting thousands certainly it would be an industrial use. This machine is no bigger than a copy machine."

But the zoning board stuck by Fennel's decision.

Fennel said that one of the reasons he denied Berkson's request was that businesses that used silk-screen processing are usually in the industrial district.

Fennel explained further that his

decision was based on the type of equipment that would be used in the operation. He said the drying process would entail the venting of hydrocarbons to the outside of the building and residential areas are located near the center.

Fennel said that Berkson could go to the Plan Commission and try and change village code so that his use of the property would fit into established criteria.

Berkson was undecided about pleading his case to plan commissioners.

# Wheeling proposes \$22.6 million budget

2-18-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials unveiled a \$22.6 million dollar spending plan Saturday, up 5 percent from last year's \$21.5 million budget.

But the budget is expected to go higher after trustees decide early next month how much money to give regional and social service agencies that normally receive financial support from the village.

Robert W. Fialkowski, finance director, said next year's budget is a conservative one because of the uncertainty of the fate of the state income tax surcharge and general economic conditions.

He said he expects property tax revenues to increase 5 percent, to

\$2.2 million, and he is optimistic that with the new Wal-Mart store the village can expect an increase in sales tax revenues. But he said the village will still have expenditures that exceed the \$20 million he expects in revenues by about \$1.7 million in the coming fiscal year. The shortfall will be made up with fund balances left over from previous years.

The new budget holds the line on personnel with no additions to the village staff.

"Additional personnel goes directly to the bottom line," said Fialkowski. "It goes directly to the expenditures without adding anything to the revenue side."

General fund expenditures are expected to increase about 4 per-

cent and include salaries and other administrative costs of running the village.

Also included in the general fund are capital improvement expenses, including \$110,000 for a new roof on village hall and \$225,000 to outfit a new fire engine.

The police department budget, up 1 percent from last year, includes \$72,000 for six new squad cars. In order to get in on a state purchase price for the Chevrolet Caprices, trustees approved that expenditure earlier this month.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the department is thinking about going back to black and white squad cars because patrolmen believe they are more easily identified.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Israel's restraint praised by village

2-21-91  
Responding to Israel's restraint in not retaliating against Iraq for bombings during the Persian Gulf War, Wheeling President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed Feb. 20 Israel Support Day.

Schultz said that the government of Israel had displayed "remarkable restraint" by not retaliating and proclaimed the day "to call attention to the courage and pride exhibited by the people of Israel during the bombing attack by Iraq."

Uri Bar-Ner, consul general of Israel, was scheduled to accept the proclamation but because he was called back to the Middle East, Wheeling resident Bruce M. Portnoy read a statement on Bar-Ner's behalf.

"Your proclamation demonstrates the strong bonds between the people of Israel and the United States," he said. "I would like to thank you for this proclamation supporting Israel in these very difficult days."

### Hangar leased to American Flyers

Trustees voted to approve a lease between the Palwaukee Municipal Airport and American Flyers for hangar No. 14 at the airport.

Earlier this month, trustees voted against the lease agreement because American Flyers

wanted to pay \$3,000 per month and Preister Aviation had agreed to lease the hangar for \$3,254 per month.

Airport officials said that American Flyers' use of the hangar was more compatible with airport than Preister's and asked trustees to agree to the lesser amount. But trustees wanted to generate maximum revenue.

After further negotiations with airport officials, American Flyers agreed to pay \$3,213 per month.

### Pay plan approved for workers in military

After more discussion about paying village employees who have been called to active duty in the military, trustees asked the village manager to draft a resolution authorizing the payment of the difference between the employee's village salary and military salary for six months.

Trustees decided against paying health benefits during that time because those benefits are covered by the military for both the employee and his dependents.

One village employee has been called to active duty in the gulf but Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that five more employees could be called.

Trustees will make the decision official next week when they vote to authorize the payment plan for a one year period.

# Airport panel OKs intersection impact study

2-21-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners moved one step closer to the relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads when they voted Wednesday to approve the draft of an environmental impact study of the plan.

The draft will go to the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights, co-owners of the airport, for their approval in early March.

If the study is approved by both municipalities, it will be forwarded to the Illinois Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration who have final approval of the plan.

Under the plan, Hintz Road

would be moved to arc north and meet Wolf Road just west of the the current intersection. The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Marquardt Drive and bow west, slicing the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate left.

Airport officials say the relocation is needed because the longest runway is too close to the intersection to meet FAA safety standards.

The FAA must find that there will be no significant impact on the environment to give approval to the plan.

The assessment consists of the environmental study, transcripts of a public hearing held in October, and responses, made by the

engineers who conducted the study, to those comments.

Several of the airport's neighbors remain opposed to the road relocation, but commissioners said that the concerns were adequately addressed in the study.

"That is a very dangerous intersection," said Commissioner Henry Levin. "The traffic problem is enough of a reason to move that intersection"

And Commissioner Dan Query said that commissioners are aware of the concerns about aesthetics around the airport.

"We are sensitive to the aesthetic merit of trees, greenery and shrubbery," he said. "It is not our taste to lay waste to areas near the airport."

# No new jobs in proposed budget

Thurs. Feb. 21, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new roof for Village Hall, outfitting for a new fire truck and six new squad cars are some of the items Wheeling hopes to purchase under its \$22.6 million spending plan for the next fiscal year.

The proposed budget — for the fiscal year beginning May 1 — shows a .5 percent decrease from last year's \$22.9 spending plan and there is one item that is conspicuously missing — new personnel.

While village officials will more than likely fill any positions that become vacant during the coming fiscal year, no new positions will be created or added to the village roster.

For instance, police department vacancies for one commander, two sergeants and one radio operator will be filled but fire department officials' hopes of creating three new battalion commander positions will have to wait at least a year.

Caution is merited in this year's budget, according to Craig G. Anderson, village manager, because of the uncertainty of the economy and the fate of the Illinois income tax surcharge.

Village officials will use money left in the 1987 capital improvements fund to put a new roof on Village Hall. The flat roof is about 13 years old and leaking in several spots. Included in the \$110,000 replacement is removing old gravel, putting up a new 52,000 square-foot roof and re-graveling.

Money from that same fund will be used to finish up installation of the

## The 1991-92 budget at a glance

Wheeling's \$22.6 million budget represents a .5 percent increase.

### Where the money goes

Expense	This year	Last year	Change
Finance & admn.	\$1,452,935	\$1,177,328	+23.4%
Capital Projects	\$355,000	\$406,250	-12.6%
Tax increment financing	\$1,938,978	\$1,938,978	+0%
Community Develop.	\$857,217	\$900,732	-4.8%
Police	\$3,814,364	\$3,767,765	+1.2%
Fire	\$2,751,502	\$2,514,169	+9.4%
Bldg./veh. maintenance	\$507,723	\$558,626	-9.1%
Road & bridge	\$1,595,313	\$1,285,175	+24%
Motor Fuel tax	\$587,320	\$778,720	-24.5%
Water & sewer fund	\$4,606,159	\$5,470,179	-15.8%
Capital equipment fund	\$267,900	\$249,550	+7.3%
Pensions	\$555,000	\$515,000	+7.7%
Bond & interest	\$2,685,687	\$2,687,488	+0.07%

### Where the money comes from

Revenue	This year	Last year	Change
Property taxes	\$6,093,462	\$3,646,119	+67%
TIF district	\$920,000	\$525,000	+75.2%
Sales tax	\$3,089,000	\$2,900,000	+6.5%
Income taxes	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	-33%
Road/bridge revenue	\$1,372,059	\$1,075,481	+27.5%
Water/sewer revenue	\$4,270,000	\$4,410,000	+25.2%
State gas tax	\$590,000	\$530,000	+11.3%
License & permit fees	\$305,000	\$305,000	+0%

finance departments new computer system. The purchase of additional software, hardware and some furniture will complete the \$220,000 project began last year when the village's old computer system could no longer handle growth or future expansion in the finance department.

The \$3.8 million dollar police bud-

get, up 1.2 percent from last year includes the purchase of six new squad cars which will mark the return of black and white police cars to the village. The cars will cost \$72,000 and will replace the six oldest cars in the department's fleet. Plastic seats will replace the conventional seats in the new cars, allowing prisoners to be

handcuffed and seatbelted, providing added safety for both police officer and prisoner.

The department will also spend \$9,000 to replace bulletproof vests that are approaching the end of their useful life. About 30 officers are assigned vests that are five or more years old and the National Institute of Justice has projected a five-year life for the vests.

However, the department will not get two new community service officer positions or the one additional police officer that they had originally requested.

Fire department officials have asked for \$114,322 to update their firefighting equipment, including \$44,400 to replace six self-contained breathing units. The units are more than 10 years old and soon will not meet federal safety standards.

More improvements to the villages streets and sidewalks are also included in next fiscal year's spending plan.

New sidewalks are proposed for the Wheeling Road branch fire station, along Hintz Road in front of VIP apartments and from the Hintz Road and Route 83 intersection to an existing sidewalk. Village officials estimate the new sidewalks will cost \$219,088.

Northgate Parkway between 12th Street and Lake-Cook Road will get curb and gutter replacement and some storm sewer work under the \$510,000 street improvement program.

On the revenue side of the village's proposed spending plan, officials ex-

See BUDGET on Page 3

## Wheeling trustees study subscription trash pickup

Wed. 2/20/91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are leaning toward offering a second weekly pickup during the yard waste season this year.

Under the proposal, residents could substitute one day's garbage pickup for a yard waste pickup from April 1 to Nov. 30. However, people wanting a second weekly garbage pickup could arrange for it with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal for an additional \$2.95 per month.

Trustees approved the once-a-week pickup during the prime growing season last year after changes in state law prohibited refuse haulers from taking yard waste to landfills.

But some residents have complained about giving up twice-a-week pickup during the year's warmest months.

The trustees said that they feel residents should be able to get the second pickup if they pay for it.

"I like the subscription way of doing pickup," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "It gives people an option if they are willing to pay a little

extra."

Buffalo Grove village trustees also have expressed interest in the subscription service and Donald Bulthuis, general manager of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, said that he hopes that enough people will sign up for the service from both municipalities so that the program will break even.

"There is no history yet," he said. "Obviously if very few people take the service and they are scattered around town, it won't be very profitable."

Trustees wanted to make sure that costs for the program would not be passed off to residents who did not want the extra pickup.

Only Village President Sheila Schultz voiced opposition to the plan.

"I'm very disturbed to see the village jump to a new program based on a very small number who are having problems," she said. "I foresee confusion and phone calls to the village. Last year we chose the simplest program we could come up with. We are still educating people, and now we are thinking about changing it."

## Fourth of July committee seeks money

Thurs. Feb. 21, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

"Pride and Glory" will be the theme for this year's Fourth of July celebration in the village of Wheeling.

And Fourth of July committee members have come up with two new ways to raise money to help pay for the celebration.

Last year the celebration, consisting of a parade and fireworks display, cost about \$12,000. Judy Abruscato, Fourth of July committee

member, said the cost of fireworks alone is expected to be around \$10,000 this year.

As in the past several years, Wheeling residents can contribute to the Fourth of July celebration fund by adding a donation amount on to their water bill when they send a check to the village. The village forwards the money to the committee.

"If everybody would add \$1 to their water bill we could probably have \$15,000 worth of fireworks," Abruscato said.

This year the committee will also sell raffle tickets in an attempt to

raise \$1,250 for the celebration. Tickets will be available next week through Abruscato, or at Wheeling Amvets Post 66 and Gene's Standard Station, 995 S. Elmhurst Road.

The tickets will sell for \$10 and drawings for a \$25 winner will be held every week from May 4 to July 4.

A "Rock around the Clock" fund-raising sock-hop will be held at the Amvets Hall, 700 Old McHenry Road, March 16 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets will be \$15 per couple or \$8 each.

The Fourth of July Committee will award prizes to the winners of a dance contest. There will be a cash bar but popcorn and pretzels will be provided.

Other planned fund-raising activities include a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Wheeling Lions Club March 24 and a spaghetti dinner presented by Wa-Pa-Getties April 24.

The Fourth of July Committee is made up of members of Wheeling's non-profit groups, such as Jaycees, Amvets and Lions Club and concerned citizens.

# Opponents gear up to fight road expansion

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE 2-21-91*  
When Audrey Friedland and her husband moved to Buffalo Grove nine years ago, a farm existed behind their home and traffic on nearby Lake-Cook Road didn't concern them much.

But today the farm is gone and traffic is a constant concern for Audrey and her neighbors.

Friedland is a member of Lake-Cook Road Corridor Constituents Against Expansion. The group will have the opportunity to present formal testimony at a March 12 public hearing being conducted by the Cook County Highway Department.

The hearing will be held at the Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. People will be given a chance to see the expansion

plans and voice their opinions about them.

The current plans call for expanding Lake-Cook Road to seven lanes from I-294 west to Rand Road. A nine-lane intersection at Arlington Heights Road also is being considered.

The project is expected to cost \$18 million and could take 10 years to complete depending on the availability of funding and the scheduling of the work, which would be done in sections.

The county has already held a public hearing on the Milwaukee Avenue overpass on Lake-Cook Road, which would cost \$13 million and take two years to complete.

Friedland's group supports the overpass but plans to speak out at the public hearing against the road widening. They are now circulating petitions to garner support.

"Cook County has taken substantial steps to accommodate increasing area traffic," the petition reads. "It is incumbent upon Lake County and its municipal governments to provide for traffic created by the extensive development in the southern portion of the county."

"We strongly feel it is unreasonable for the Lake-Cook corridor to be split in two, suffering the air pollution, noise, flooding and diminished access to community businesses and services certain to result from implementation of the current plan to expand Lake-Cook Road."

Robert Hedrick, the chief engineer of transportation and planning in the Cook County Highway Department, said a final decision on the project has not been made yet but that his department supports it.

"We know there is traffic congestion there. There will be more traffic whether we do anything to Lake-Cook Road or not," Hedrick said. "We are trying to better an existing situation and trying to improve a situation that is going to happen in the future."

Hedrick explained that the Cook County Board president and commissioners make the final decision on the project along with County Highway Superintendent Glenn Fredericks.

The project is being supported by the Long Grove Village Board which recently unanimously passed a resolution supporting the plan.

Buffalo Grove Village officials have come out opposed to parts of the project. In Wheeling, no position has been taken yet, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"We haven't indicated any opposition," Anderson said. "I think it is good that we're considering doing something. I don't look at this as a given. Anything could happen. I have no idea what the general public thinks about it."

Friedland said if the general public stays away from the public hearing, the county will interpret its silence as support.

"It is like an election. No vote is a vote for. If they don't speak out, they are saying it is OK and they are approving it," Friedland said.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said the village is against improvements between Arlington Heights and Weiland Roads. He said the village will make its feelings known at the public hearing.

(Continued on page 12)

"We think our problems are significant," Balling said, adding, "We may be in a minority position."

Buffalo Grove village officials plan to pass a resolution at the March 4 board meeting outlining the village's formal position.

The Transportation Management Association, comprised of 55 businesses and 25,000 employees along the Lake-Cook Corridor, has come out in favor of the expansion. Association executive director William Baltutis said that the project will

benefit businesses and area residents.

"Road improvements will help reduce employee stress and increase productivity," Baltutis said.

However, he said that improving the road will benefit residents too.

## 1990 Census

Racial Breakdown Source: 1990 Census

*COUNTRYSIDE 2-21-91*

	1990 Population	Whites	Blacks	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Other
Algonquin	11,663	11,434	20	21	150	202	38
Barrington	9,504	9,340	16	10	119	157	19
Barrington Hills	4,202	4,063	7	1	116	55	15
Buffalo Grove	36,427	34,298	373	31	1,595	711	130
Cary	10,043	9,868	26	8	48	219	93
Deer Park	2,887	2,775	38	0	74	25	0
Fox River Grove	3,551	3,491	10	4	30	99	16
Hawthorn Woods	4,423	4,269	51	1	96	29	6
Hoffman Estates	46,561	40,608	1,334	87	3,727	2,543	805
Inverness	6,503	6,195	20	3	270	83	15
Island Lake	4,449	4,351	19	6	46	195	27
Kildeer	2,257	2,193	4	1	56	41	3
Lake Barrington	3,885	3,804	9	5	35	27	2
Lake Zurich	14,947	14,320	125	14	359	565	129
Long Grove	4,740	4,546	29	1	131	120	33
North Barrington	1,787	1,747	20	0	19	40	1
Palatine	39,253	36,985	370	42	1,274	1,410	572
Rolling Meadows	22,591	20,910	362	39	785	2,522	495
Schaumburg	68,586	62,150	1,471	80	4,454	1,829	441
South Barrington	2,937	2,650	26	1	260	14	0
Tower Lakes	1,333	1,315	4	0	11	13	3
Wauconda	6,294	6,195	0	6	29	250	64
Wheeling	29,911	26,955	504	55	1,376	2,508	1,021

## Correction

A chart which appeared in last week's *Countryside* highlighting ethnic populations determined in the 1990 census contained

inaccurate population statistics. A corrected version appears above. The *Countryside* regrets the error.

## Wheeling praises Israel

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE 2-28-91*  
In a show of international brotherhood, the Village Board of Wheeling proclaimed Feb. 20 Israel Support Day.

Resident Bruce Portnoy brought the idea to the village.

"The civilians in Israel are no different than people anywhere else. Right now they are living in a very tumultuous time," Portnoy said. "Even though we're quite removed (from the activity) geographically, we're not much different than they are."

Portnoy noted that Wheeling's Jewish population isn't very large but that support of Israel transcends religious lines. "It is not just Jews that are interested in seeing the survival of Israel."

Village president Sheila Schultz said that proclamations are a fairly routine occurrence by the village board, but she added that this one dealt with a very serious issue.

"We understand how blessed we are here. One can just imagine what it must be like," Schultz said. "Our hearts go out to the people over there."

The village proclamation states that "the government of Israel has displayed remarkable restraint by not retaliating immediately against this aggression."

The proclamation continues by designating February 20, 1991 to be 'Israel Support Day' in order to "call attention to the courage and pride exhibited by the people of Israel during the bombing attack by Iraq."

## Residents are no-shows at water rate meeting

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Another chance for Wheeling residents to voice their opinions on a water rate increase went quietly by Monday as only trustees had financial questions about the hike.

Village officials held a second meeting devoted to the increase to make sure that citizens had ample opportunity to address the 31 percent jump, but not one resident showed up.

"We did this making a special effort to hear if people were unhappy or didn't understand," said Sheila H. Schultz, village president. "The fact that no one came indicates to me that they may not like it, but they understand it."

Under the proposal, the water rate would go up to \$2.60 per 1,000 gallons of water billed, up from \$1.90, a nearly 37 percent increase. But because sewer rates will not be raised from the current 36 cents per 1,000 gallons used, and the two services are billed together, the net increase would be 31 percent.

The last time rates were raised was in 1982 when the village hooked up to Lake Michigan water.

Finance Director Robert W. Filkowski said the increase is needed to help pay for improvements to the water system, including activation of a third lake water receiving point in the south part of the village and replacement of aging water mains.

But Trustee Judy Abruscato asked why village officials did not anticipate the need for capital improvement funds and gradually raise rates over the past few years.

"I have a problem with a 36 percent increase," she said. "It's a large dollar amount. How come we didn't start to plan for this way back rather than wait until now?"

An average Wheeling resident can expect an increase of about \$100 annually if trustees approve the hike.

But most trustees said it was better to raise the rates as needed rather than build up a reserve. "We have known we would need an increase for years," Trustee William Rogers said.

Fr., Mar. 1, 1991

# Amendment calls for tobacco license fee hike

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling businesses that sell tobacco, either over the counter or through a vending machine, can expect an increase in their licensing fee, if trustees pass a proposed amendment to their business license ordinance.

Although most of the changes to the ordinance are what Robert W.

Fialkowski, finance manager, calls "housekeeping" changes in language, the cost of a license to sell tobacco products will go to \$75 annually from \$50 if the changes are adopted Monday.

There are currently 25 licensed cigarette machines and 25 licenses for over-the-counter sales of cigarettes in the village.

Village manager Craig G. Ander-

son said that revenue from business permits and licenses is around \$110,000 per year and he does not expect any significant increase in revenue because of the higher license fee for tobacco.

The revised ordinance also sets a fine for failure to get a license. In the past, the fine had been taken from another part of the village code but now those found in violation of the li-

cense ordinance can expect to pay between \$35 and \$500.

Also spelled out in the ordinance are those businesses that are exempt from the licensing fee such as attorneys, barbers, doctors and detectives.

Fialkowski said these businesses are exempt because they already are required to get a license from the state of Illinois.

## Resident asks BGA help in annexation fight

Wed. Feb. 27, 1991

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Buffalo Grove resident has turned to the Better Government Association for help in his battle against Wheeling's recent decision to annex and zone commercial a parcel abutting his property.

Terry Robins, of Buffalo Grove, is hoping the BGA will question the legality of Wheeling's decision to zone commercial the 20 acres at the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads. If the BGA finds fault in the village board's action, Robins said he plans to file a lawsuit seeking to have the vote overturned.

Buffalo Grove also has annexed the property and officials are

studying the legality of Wheeling's annexation in hopes of having it overturned.

BGA investigator Peter Wilson said he was contacted by Robins and is conducting a preliminary investigation, but the BGA has not officially taken on the case yet.

Specifically, Robins has asked the BGA to study the legality of the way the village board voted to rezone the property.

After hearing the concerns of residents who wanted the area to remain residential, the Wheeling Village Board voted last month to annex the property, but keep residential zoning on the land. Sensing a victory, residents left the meeting following that vote.

Moments later, however, the

board adjourned to executive session only to re-emerge and vote again on the proposal. This time, the board approved commercial zoning for the property — a stipulation the board apparently had agreed to earlier by passing the annexation ordinance.

"We contacted the BGA because someone suggested it as a way of overturning or putting pressure on the Wheeling Village Board because they acted in a way that was not following normal government procedures," Robins said.

Wilson agreed the board's actions seem "irregular." However, until the BGA receives additional information the group cannot determine whether a full-fledged investigation is warranted.

## Government group finds annex vote legal

3-1-91

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials probably could have been "friendlier" when they voted to annex a controversial 20-acre parcel, but Better Government Association officials say they find no legal flaws in the vote.

After reviewing village board minutes, the BGA has decided not to help a group of Buffalo Grove residents in their quest to have the annexation vote overturned, BGA investigator Peter Wilson said.

Buffalo Grove resident Terry Robins had asked the BGA to step in and investigate the method in which Wheeling annexed and rezoned the 20 acres at the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook

roads. Residents and village officials object to Wheeling's decision to annex the property and to change the zoning from residential to commercial.

Buffalo Grove also has annexed the land and is looking for flaws in Wheeling's annexation, which occurred first, in hopes of having it overturned.

Wilson specifically was looking into the legality of the way the village board voted to rezone the property.

After hearing the concerns of residents who wanted the land to remain residential, the Wheeling board voted last month to annex the property, but maintain its residential zoning. Following the vote, the group of residents left the

board meeting feeling victorious.

Then, after learning the commercial zoning was a stipulation the Wheeling board had agreed to in the annexation ordinance, the board adjourned to executive session and re-emerged only to vote in favor of the commercial zoning.

That vote, Wilson says, was perfectly legal.

"Wheeling may have been a little sloppy, and maybe not as friendly as they could have been to the residents in letting them know they were going to reconvene, but from a technical standpoint, there's nothing there," Wilson said. "The Better Government Association is not getting involved. We have no problem with it."

### THE WEEK AHEAD

## Village reviews road relocation impact study

Wheeling village trustees will consider approving the draft of the environmental assessment study of the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads when they meet Monday night.

Palwaukee Airport commissioners have already approved the study, but approval is also needed from the two owners of the airport: the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights.

If the study is approved by both municipalities, it will be forwarded to the Illinois Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration who have final approval of the plan.

Airport officials say the relocation is needed because the longest runway is too close to the intersection to meet FAA safety standards. But the FAA must look over the environmental assessment study and find that there will be no significant impact on the environment if the intersection is moved.

Under the plan, Hintz Road would be moved to arc north and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection. The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Marquardt Drive and bow west, slicing the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate left.

The assessment consists of the environmental study, transcripts of a public hearing held in October and responses, made by the engineers who conducted the study, to those comments.

Although several of the airport's neighbors remain opposed to the road relocation, commissioners unanimously passed the study on Feb. 20.

**The top meeting**  
**Who:** The Wheeling Village Board  
**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road  
**When:** 7:30 p.m. Monday

## Water bill rate hike to get another hearing

HERALD - 2-24-91

Wheeling residents will get another opportunity to voice their opinions on a proposed 31 percent increase in water rates, when the Village Board meets Monday night.

Although trustees discussed the increase earlier this month, village officials want to give trustees and residents one more chance to have questions about the hike answered.

Village officials have said the increase is needed because the program has been run at a deficit for

### THE WEEK AHEAD

several years and now state grant and reserve money that has been used to supplement the fund is running low. Therefore, the income must begin supporting the expenditures.

The proposal calls for water rates to go to \$2.60 per 1,000 gallons of water billed, up from \$1.90. Sewer rates would remain at the rate of 36 cents

per 1,000 gallons of water billed.

The last time rates were raised was in 1982 when the village hooked up to the Lake Michigan water system.

With the increase, the village would be charging close to the same amount as many neighboring communities, including Arlington

Heights, Rolling Meadows, Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg.

### The top meeting

**Who:** The Wheeling Village Board  
**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road  
**When:** 8 p.m. Monday

# Wheeling to boost water rates by 31%

3-5-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After one last debate centering around village fiscal policy, Wheeling trustees Monday voted to hike water rates by 31 percent.

While one trustee continued to say the increase was too big for residents to swallow in one year, most of the trustees said the entire increase was necessary now.

"I see we are in need of an increase," said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

"I don't have a problem with needing an increase," she said. "But I don't see why we couldn't have planned to not make this increase all at one time."

The average resident can expect

his water bill to increase about \$100 annually.

The rate increase is needed to help pay for improvements to the water system, including activation of a third lake water receiving point in the south part of the village and the replacement of aging water mains.

Abruscato said she did not want village staff to get the idea that she felt they had done something wrong in not asking for the increase sooner.

"I'm not saying that anybody has done anything incorrectly," she said.

"I don't recall really going into the issue of water over the past four years but maybe I missed it," Abruscato added.

"I think the problem is that it wasn't gone into in depth at the budget hearings," she said. "I'm sorry to see it has gotten to this point. I am not thinking staff is not qualified."

Other trustees commended village staff for maintaining the same water rate since 1982 when the village hooked up to Lake Michigan water and said village staff was just following their instructions.

"They have been working under our instruction not to collect taxes until necessary," said Trustee William Rogers.

Water rates will go up to \$2.60 per 1,000 gallons of water billed, up from \$1.90. Sewer rates will stay at 36 cents per 1,000 gallons used.

# Wolf-Hintz relocation impact study delayed

3-5-91  
By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

At the urging of 2nd Ward Alderman Warren G. Sunde, the Prospect Heights city council has delayed action on approving a draft of the environmental assessment study of the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Sunde said the study is lacking information on how expected growth of plane traffic at Palwaukee Airport will affect the surrounding area.

"If that isn't included here the whole thing is hogwash," Sunde said.

The study must be approved by both Prospect Heights and Wheeling before it can be forwarded to

the Illinois Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration, who give final approval of the plan. Wheeling officials approved the study Monday.

Sunde said the consultant who did the report said that in order for the airport to expand the road project must be done. "What you see here is a massive expansion of the airport, which some members of the commission and politicians said would never happen," Sunde said.

Airport officials say the relocation is needed because the longest runway is too close to the intersection to meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards. But the FAA must review the study to assure that there will be no signifi-

cant impact on the environment if the intersection is moved.

Third Ward Alderman Carey L. Chickerno said aldermen were wrong in tabling the report without giving someone a chance to refute Sunde's claims.

Chickerno said the delay in approving an environmental assessment could hinder the airport's ability to get state and federal loans to aid in buying property in the area. The airport's "window of opportunity" to apply for grants could pass by and send the agencies a wrong message, he said.

"It sends a message to them that maybe we don't care about the projects," Chickerno said. "It shows we're not aggressively pursuing projects."

# Seven service agencies tap Wheeling for funds

Wed. Mar 12, 1991  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Village of Wheeling trustees heard funding requests from seven social service agencies Monday, several of whom thanked them for past support and all of whom asked for more.

Horizons Children's Center asked for the largest increase from \$13,100 to \$25,000, a 90 percent jump in funds from the village.

"One out of every five children in the United States lives in poverty," said Susan Sclove, director of the center. "It is not different for Wheeling."

The center, on Schoenbeck Road in Wheeling, provides subsidies for

low-income families. Since it opened in 1986, 650 children from Wheeling have attended the center.

Trustee William A. Rogers questioned a jump to \$16,500 from \$15,000 in starting salaries for teachers at the center.

But Sclove that the salary increase was needed.

"We want to be able to hire and to keep quality teachers," she said.

Trustees also heard funding requests from Omni Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Shelter, Inc., CEDA Northwest, Northwest Suburban High School District 214 Community Education and Resource Center for the Elderly.

If trustees vote to give each

agency what it is seeking, they will add a \$109,550 expenditure to their proposed \$27.6 million spending plan.

Resource Center for the Elderly asked for \$500 in addition to its funding request for \$1,700.

The additional \$500 is to fund a special program called Senior Shared in which local high school students repair the homes of Wheeling senior citizens.

Trustee James Whittington said that the program has been a boon for high school students. Representatives from the Resource Center said the students can do a variety of tasks from caulking windows to fixing leaky faucets. It gives the students a chance to get in touch with the rest of the community.

# 2nd garbage pickup will be available

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-7-91

Wheeling residents will be able to sign up for an additional garbage pick up during yard waste disposal months now that trustees have approved the subscription service.

Under the plan, residents will pay an extra \$2.95 per month if they want to have their garbage picked up twice a week. The plan is in answer to residents' complaints about giving up one day of their now twice-weekly garbage collection during growing season.

Last year, trustees approved once-a-week pickup during prime growing season — April 1 through Nov. 30 — after changes in state law prohibited refuse haulers from taking yard waste to landfills.

But at least one trustee was concerned that the \$2.95 will not cover the cost of the second weekly pickup and that residents who do not subscribe to the service will end up paying for it anyway in an increase in their garbage pick up rates next year.

Don BulBulhuis, general manager of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal has said he has no way of knowing what the actual cost of the service will be and that if only a few residents sign up for the extra pick up, the disposal company will end up losing money.

"I am still concerned about what the eventual cost will be," said Trustee William Rogers. "If Waste Management decides to keep this service how will we know we are not being charged for it in the future?"

The village of Buffalo Grove recently approved the subscription service and Rogers suggested letting them try it for a year.

But other trustees were confident that the charge for the service could be contained to the people who subscribe.

"I'm not keen about sitting back and watching Buffalo Grove do it and then saying we should have," said Trustee James Whittington. "We can make a decision on our own. We need to offer the choice. If the cost of the program becomes prohibitive residents will find an alternative."

# Prospect Heights grounds airport plans for now

3-9-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Prospect Heights City Council's recent decision to delay approving the environmental assessment study of the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads will not keep the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Division of Aeronautics from looking at the study.

But if Prospect Heights aldermen do not approve the study before the FAA makes its finding, land acquisition and grant applications cannot go forward, according to Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials.

"We cannot do anything without Prospect Heights' approval," said Fred E. Stewart, airport manager. Originally, the study could not

even have been forwarded to the FAA without approval from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, but Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners voted in early February to send the study to all four of the governmental bodies for concurrent review. Wheeling approved the study Monday night. But at the urging of 2nd Ward Alderman Warren G. Sunde, Prospect Heights voted to table the study until the engineers who wrote it could answer some questions.

Sunde claims the study should include an assessment of how increased air traffic would affect the airport's neighbors and that without that the study is incomplete.

"This study is a decoy," Sunde

said. "What's happening is it is drawing everybody's attention away from the airport's purchase of 58 acres for a large expansion of the airport."

Sunde said he wants the engineers to estimate the volume of operations from additional aircraft at the airport over the next 10 years and then measure the noise.

"There is no questions that expansion will take place with this project," he said. "You can't just give part of the picture."

But 3rd Ward Alderman and Palwaukee Airport Commission member Carey L. Chickerno said that there is no plan for expansion of the airport.

He said if the airport acquires the land that the Twin Drive-In theater

now sits on, just south of the airport, a portion of the land would be used to relocate the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and the rest would be sold.

"Both communities have already agreed to that," he said. "Wheeling considers it prime commercial property."

And he said noise impact already has been looked at in a separate study that was approved by the commission about five months ago.

"This study is not studying the impact of any other development than the relocation of those roads," he said.

Airport officials say the relocation, which would move the intersection about 500 feet west of its current location, is needed because the longest runway is too close to the intersection to meet FAA standards.

# Group forms to fight gangs in area suburbs

3-14-91  
 BY LARRY SMITH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new group looking to curb gang activity in several Northwest suburban communities has announced its formation.

The Regional Action Planning Project is a network of local governmental, educational and social service agencies designed to control and/or eliminate potential development of gang activity. Those agencies are in communities in Mount Prospect, Wheeling, Des Plaines, Prospect Heights, Buffalo Grove, Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village and Palatine.

Communities in Vernon and Elk Grove Townships and southern Lake County are also involved, Jim Whittington, associate principal of Wheeling High School and a spokesman for the group, said.

RAPP members hope to use the resources of each community and agency to have a more cohesive approach to confronting a rising gang problem in the region.

"The whole intent is not to re-invent the wheel," Whittington said.

Members of the group plan to separate their goals into three categories, Whittington said. Those categories are prevention, intervention and

suppression of gang activities.

The group has been discreetly meeting since June of last year, Mount Prospect Police Chief Ronald W. Pavlock, said.

"We've met about a dozen times," Pavlock said.

The group's mission is to be a united, multi-community alliance committed to working with individuals and systems for the purpose of eliminating those conditions which foster alienation, delinquency and gang development while promoting conditions which will ensure a healthy community environment for all

youth and their families," the statement reads.

One accomplishment the group has made so far is to define what a gang crime is, Pavlock said. A crime is considered gang-related when the act is done to benefit a gang.

Pavlock said a major benefit of the alliance is improved communications for resource sharing. Needs identified by one member agency may be met by the services of another. Agencies will also share areas of expertise and help one another reach community individuals for participation in programs, events and activities the group is currently developing.

# Group determined to build landfill despite foes

3-14-91  
 BY ANNE SCHMITT  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Leaders of a Northwest suburban garbage consortium agreed unanimously Wednesday to press on with plans to build a landfill near Bartlett, even if it means further court battles.

Calling the decision the only "responsible" course to follow, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County board voted to continue work toward opening the 142-acre landfill, slated for construction within a 530-acre site at the corner of Gifford and West Bartlett roads.

The board also authorized the agency to take the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Federal Dis-

trict Court if necessary to challenge its objections to the project that led to the rejection of the landfill proposal in January.

"We own a zoned and permitted landfill," said William R. Bailing, Buffalo Grove village manager and chairman of the executive committee. "But for an Army Corps of Engineers permit, we will be home." Other officials cited the group's already substantial investment of time and money in the landfill, so-called because garbage is baled before disposal in a landfill, as a reason not to abandon the Bartlett location.

"Our responsibility is to continue ahead to protect that \$16 million," said Elk Grove Village President Charles J. Zettek.

Des Plaines City Manager Larry Asaro cast an "yes" vote from that city, despite some dissension on the council over support for the project. The council is expected to vote next week on a resolution about the landfill plan.

Agency Director Williams Aboll said the Army Corps' denial has delayed the project at least a year. It could take two to three years for SWANCC to get a permit and construct the landfill, he said. Meanwhile, the agency plans to begin tree-clearing and installing underground water monitors on about 34 acres of the site. First, the agency must successfully resolve a pending lawsuit in Kane County Circuit Court that blocks SWANCC from clearing trees at the site.

# Court: Hoffman can't fire cop over glove dispute

3-9-91  
 BY JAMES P. BOZIKIS  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hoffman Estates acted too harshly when it fired the village's first black police officer in 1989 because she refused to remove a fingerless black driving glove while on duty, a Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled Friday.

Judge Francis Barth sent the case of former officer Florene Williams back to the village's police and fire commission — the body that fired her Aug. 2, 1989 — for "sanctions less than discharge," said Hoffman Estates Attorney Richard N. Williams.

Florene Williams has maintained that she was fired because of her

race, and she still has a \$1 million discrimination lawsuit pending in federal court. Last month, a Wheeling patrolman won a \$40,000 judgment in a racial discrimination lawsuit filed against his police chief.

But Friday's judgment on her dismissal means the fire and police commission would be required to impose a sentence no stronger than a 30-day suspension, after which Williams would be reinstated on the force and compensated for back pay.

"We're disappointed and we expect to appeal," attorney Richard Williams said.

But Florene Williams said Friday she was not surprised by the ruling. "I'm definitely glad it turned out

the way it did," she said. "It was just a matter of going through the courts."

Williams said she wants to be back working with the Hoffman Estates Police.

"Definitely, no question about that," she said.

In the 19 months since being fired, Florene Williams said, she has worked on and off doing accounting for a temporary agency. In that line of work, she said, she does not wear the gloves.

"If the job is not a driving job, no," she said. "They're driving gloves."

According to the village's attorney, Barth said termination is an ap-

propriate penalty for insubordination "on the street" — for example, if an officer refused to provide backup on a call. But Barth found Florene Williams' actions — although insubordinate — to be of a less severe nature, requiring a penalty no stronger than suspension, he said.

Barth refused to comment on the case.

Hoffman Estates Assistant Chief James Dutton said the ruling has no immediate impact on the department.

"We'll have to wait and see," Dutton said. "It would be premature for us to make any comment."



Florene Williams

# Wheeling outlaws brick mail boxes, other 'obstructions'

3-6-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Brick pillar mailboxes, boulders and flower planters are among the items that residents will have to remove from village parkways now that Wheeling trustees have passed an ordinance prohibiting obstructions on the public right-of-way.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said there are fewer than two

dozen brick mailboxes in the village, but the village's operation and maintenance workers have found at least 347 obstructions on parkways, including raised landscape planters, flower boxes, timbers, railroad ties, boulders, logs and planting berms.

And he said these structures create a public safety hazard.

"Anything that can cause damage should it be hit by a vehicle is unacceptable," he said.

Some residents have complained that light poles, fire hydrants and stop signs are also safety hazards, but Anderson said these structures are built so that they give way on impact. Also, those items aren't covered by the new ordinance.

Along with the ordinance, trustees adopted a new standard for mailboxes that regulates the post they sit

on and how far from the road they must be placed. The regulations will be given to anyone wishing to build a new home in the village and will be available for residents who have to change their mailbox.

"Most of the corrections are minor," Anderson said. "The mailbox may hang out too far into the street. It is not a big deal to move the mailbox back on the post. But if it is a

major brick mailbox it will have to be moved."

Residents who are in violation of the new ordinance can expect a notice from village hall sometime in the next few months.

"All obstructions in the village will be looked at but we are going to deal with the obvious obstructions first," Anderson said. "Everything will be looked at over time."

# City approves Wolf and Hintz roads study

3-14-91  
 BY LARRY SMITH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wolf Road just west of the current intersection. The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Marquardt Drive and bow west, slicing the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate left.

City Administrator Daniel L. Wentzloff said Fred E. Stewart, airport manager, was able to answer most of the aldermen's concerns at a Tuesday meeting.

Aldermen agreed last week to table a resolution approving the assessment at the request of 2nd Ward Alderman Warren G. Sunde. He said the assessment needed a report of how increased air traffic would affect the airport's neighbors and without that the study is incomplete. Sunde cast the sole

vote against the project Tuesday. Expansion of Palwaukee Airport will be the end result of the project, he said. The study had to be approved by both Prospect Heights and Wheeling and is currently being reviewed by both the Illinois Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration. "As soon as they say it's OK then we can start bidding on pieces of property in that area," Chickerno said.

Chickerno, who also serves as an airport commissioner, said it is important to get the project started because condemnation proceedings for some properties may mean the project could take as long as 5 years to complete.

The project involves moving Hintz Road to arc north and meet



The fate of corporate jets such as these at Palwaukee Municipal Airport often depends on economic conditions in some of the same ways as that of any other piece of company equipment. Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

# More corporate jets take to the air

BY JOHN MULLIN  
Daily Herald Business Writer

If the numbers are any indication, increasing numbers of local corporate executives are getting into "heavy metal."

That's the trade jargon applied to larger private jets owned or leased by corporations to spirit their top management, customers and other key personnel around the country and beyond.

Traditional hubs of private flying — Waukegan Regional Airport, Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, DuPage County Airport in West Chicago and Aurora Municipal Airport in Sugar Grove — all have seen their corporate business grow substantially dur-

Sunday  
spotlight

Business  
trends



ing the past decade.

An estimated 200 corporations in Chicago and suburbs own at least one airplane. Palwaukee now is the base for about 10 Fortune 500 corporations including Motorola. Waukegan, which christened a new control tower in 1988, is home to the planes of Square D, Baxter Healthcare and Abbott Laboratories.

Commercial real estate brokers, traditionally concerned with access to highways and rail-

roads, also have begun to ask more often about the size of jets that local runways can accommodate as they evaluate potential sites for clients.

"When I started here 21 years ago, we sold two semi-trailers of jet fuel a month, about 14,000 gallons," said Al Huisman, manager of the Waukegan airport. "Now we go through a load a day."

At the DuPage airstrip, there were 165,554 takeoffs and landings in 1982. Last year there were 216,891, and the tilt is toward business flying.

"Ten years ago, our traffic was about half business, half recreational," said Jim Keleher, director of community relations for DuPage County Airport. "Now our air traffic controllers

say it's about 75 percent commercial."

The Federal Aviation Administration and State of Illinois have allocated about \$40 million for expansion at the DuPage and Aurora airports.

"Basically we follow the economy and the economy has been good generally over the past 10 years," said Cassandra Bosco, manager of communications for the National Business Aircraft Association in Washington, D.C.

The NBAA represents businesses that own or operate their own planes for business purposes. Since 1975, its membership has increased from 1,300 to 3,000 companies, plus an addi-

See PLANES on Page 2

## PLANES: Corporate jets find happy landings in suburbs

Continued from Page 1

tional 3,700 subsidiaries.

Private corporate aircraft — with their lavish interiors and amenities — rank high among professional status symbols. Of the Fortune 500 companies, 332 operate their own aircraft.

But the flying offices can be more vulnerable to the budget ax than the office copier in a tight economy.

"It's a commitment on the part of the company, just like a computer or any other machine," said Ken Fuhrman, director of aviation services for Deerfield-based Baxter, which maintains a hangar and several aircraft at Waukegan. "It has to be justified and thought of as part of the total assets of the company."

Indeed, when the economy flagged last year, business at local airports went into a tailspin, too. Traffic at Aurora and DuPage was up in 1989 over 1988, for example, but fell off in 1990. And Palwaukee had its lowest level of activity since 1986, according to FAA reports.

Specific crises have heightened in-

terest by companies in owning or leasing aircraft for their exclusive use. During the Persian Gulf crisis, the number of overseas flights on scheduled airlines was reduced and some travelers feared possible terrorist acts against commercial airlines. Those factors, plus the specter of long lines and delays at the hands of airport security, sparked an increase in private corporate flying, NBAA's Bosco said.

"There was a surge of growth during the PATCO strike (the 1981 strike by air traffic controllers against the Reagan administration) and when the economy is good, people spend money on private aircraft," said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant manager of finance and administration for Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"With all the unrest in the world, corporate flying has become more appealing because so many more corporations are multinational," Fuhrman said.

Many corporations prefer a low profile for their flight programs, concerned that expenditures for

company aircraft might appear extravagant to shareholders or employees.

"On a strictly cost basis, comparing it to what you'd spend on commercial airlines, you can't justify it," Zonsius said. "But you have to take into account what you're paying an executive and what that time is worth."

"If an executive needed to go from Chicago to someplace like Mitchell, S.D., by commercial airline, he'd go to Minneapolis, then to Sioux Falls, then rent a car and drive in because the airport there isn't large enough to handle big jets. With a corporate plane, he goes straight there," Zonsius said.

Travelers can be driven from their offices right into the corporate hangar at a local airport, get out of the limousine and directly into the company jet, have the hangar doors rolled back and touch down in Paris, nonstop.

"We can go out and back to either coast and be back the same day," Fuhrman said. "This lets an individual employee be much more produc-

tive and not waste time with layovers, connections and delays."

The increase in private business air travel has put more planes in local air space. The added traffic is handled by creating "zones" around the air fields.

For example, the DuPage tower has control over aircraft within a five-mile radius and up to 3,000 feet. When planes move farther or higher than that, they are transferred to regional air traffic controllers.

"The added traffic doesn't pose any particular problems. They're worked in as part of the same air traffic procedures as other aircraft," said Chicago-based FAA spokeswoman Barbara Detmer, a former pilot and air traffic controller. "And corporate operations are very, very professional and they have been in place a long time, using pilots with a great deal of training, plus experience as commercial airline pilots."

Sunday Spotlight profiles an executive, a company or a business trend.

## Widening

Continued from page 5

(entire) day there is traffic. The rest of the time you can practically walk across it."

According to Cook County Highway Department numbers, Peters slightly underestimated the daily traffic flow on Lake-Cook Road.

On the east end of Lake-Cook Road near Sanders, the average daily traffic flow includes 37,000 cars and will increase to 54,000 by the year 2,010. Between Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights Roads on Lake-Cook, that average daily number is 37,000 and is expected to grow to 48,000 in 2,010. On the west end of Lake-Cook by Rand Road, currently daily vehicle numbers total 23,200 and are expected to climb to 30,000 in 20 years.

The above estimates take into account the eventual expansion of roads such as Willow to the south, Route 22 to the north and the Route 53 extension, according to Robert Hedrick, the chief engineer of transportation and planning in the Cook County Highway department.

"I think (the expansion) is very crucial," Hedrick said. "It's going to be very busy (on Lake-Cook Road) no matter what. It is busy already. We are trying to provide for that volume of traffic now and in the future."

Residents came to ask questions, give formal testimony and see exhibits of the proposed seven-mile road widening plan which would run from the Tri-State Tollway west to Rand Road. The county also gave a slide show presentation to illustrate the project.

The proposal includes having three lanes in each direction from Route 53 to the Tri-State Tollway; intersection upgrades at 17 locations; and bridge widening at four bridges along Lake Cook Road.

The entire project is expected to cost about \$18 million. A timeframe for the (Continued on page 13)

## Residents oppose Lake-Cook widening

By B.H. MERENS

COUNTRYSIDE

3-14-91  
Politicians, mothers and children, Buffalo Grove Village officials and area residents spoke out against the expansion plans for Lake Cook Road at a public hearing held in Wheeling on Tuesday.

Officials reported more than 100 people turned out in the first hour alone for the public hearing, which

ran from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Clubhouse on Milwaukee Avenue, about one mile from some of the proposed expansion.

"I'm against it. It's a waste of my tax dollars," said Mike Peters, an 11-year resident of Buffalo Grove. "I don't see a reason to expand it. Maybe two or three hours out of the (Continued on page 7)

## Clear choices in Wheeling

3-21-91  
COUNTRYSIDE  
Wheeling is used to party politics. There's always been a slate, always a slated party and often a rival party.

This year is no different. But while slated candidates may work well together after elected, residents this year should split their vote between parties, and choose incumbent **Judy Abruscato** from the Citizen's Action Party and incumbent **Anthony Altieri** and village clerk **Lois Gaffke** from the Upward Party for village trustees.

Abruscato, who was won election as an independent four years ago, has brought an essential critical voice to the board. She deserves to retain her seat.

Altieri, by contrast, has been actively involved in Wheeling for 28 years and helped turn out the wheeler-dealers that formerly inhabited Village Hall. He has valid ideas for the Tax Increment Financing District, if an appellate judge rules it valid.

Gaffke, village clerk, also possesses sizeable knowledge of the village, having observed the board's actions as a non-voting official.

Voters should choose Abruscato, Altieri and Gaffke for Wheeling trustee.

## Excessive false alarms trigger big fines, fees

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff writer

3-20-91  
Wheeling residents and business owners will have to pay for excessive false fire and burglar alarm calls under an ordinance passed by village trustees Monday.

The ordinance, prompted by a 14 percent increase in false alarms in the police department alone, sets a fine of \$50 for each false alarm between five and 10 in a permit year. That fine jumps to \$100 per alarm after 10. Alarm owners also will be charged a licensing fee of \$20 a year.

However, owners of new alarms will have a two-month grace period when no fees will be charged to "get the bugs out" of their system.

said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

At least one trustee thought that the fines should be charged for fewer than five false alarms.

"I think this number is a little high," said Trustee William A. Rogers. "I can live with it but I wonder if at some time in the future we will want to lower it."

But Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said he and Police Chief Michael F. Haeger thought the number would be adequate.

"There are so many variables," MacIsaac said. "Power surges, dust, personnel who don't know how to operate the system. The number we have is reasonable to respond to the number of errors that occur."

Last year, the fire department responded to 469 false alarms, 50 of which were set off intentionally.

Anderson said that the ordinance is aimed at people who do not maintain their alarm systems, causing them to malfunction.

"The intent is not to generate revenues," he said. "But to give people an incentive to properly maintain their systems."

Trustees voted to increase the licensing fee from \$10 originally proposed in the ordinance because \$10 would not cover the cost of paperwork and enforcement.

"There is no way we can actually charge what this is going to cost us," he said. "But we don't want people who don't have alarms to have to subsidize the program."

## Widening

Continued from page 7

project has not been given. Hedrick has said that the time for the project would depend on the availability of funding for it.

Wheeling resident Majorie Orza said she doesn't think road widening is the answer to traffic woes on Lake-Cook Road. She believes that better traffic management is the answer.

"We don't need a bigger road. We need a better way to get traffic moving," Orza said. She spoke of a need to synchronize the timing of stoplights through Buffalo Grove and she spoke of a need to reduce the number of traffic lights there.

"The traffic flow is unbelievable at rush hour

because of all the traffic lights," Orza said.

In a moment of candor, Irv Benjamin, county highway department assistant bureau chief in charge of design, explained that the public hearing "gave everyone an opportunity to see what is going to be done."

When questioned about his frankness, Benjamin said that the public input was important but that the need for the expansion is overwhelming.

"We're sensitive to the public. After all, we work for the public. We're not going to shove something down their throats," Benjamin said. "At this juncture, (the expansion plan) is

something we are looking at as a necessity to handle traffic as a result of the development that is taking place."

Benjamin noted people's concerns that Route 22 and Willow Road be expanded first but said that studies show that expanding those roads won't reduce the traffic crunch on Lake-Cook Road.

Hedrick said that while he strongly supports the expansion, it is far from being a done deal.

The final decision lies with the Cook County Board of Commissioners and isn't expected for at least six to eight weeks, Benjamin said.

# Police use restraint in high speed chases

COUNTRYSIDE  
By B. H. HERMES  
STAFF WRITER

When Cpl. Mike Millett decided against a high-speed car chase last week, his bosses at the Buffalo Grove Police Dept. applauded his decision. Millett knew who the offender was and decided chasing him wasn't necessary.

"I followed after Brown on Asbury until he turned south on Barclay," Millett wrote in his report. "Given the positive identification of Brown and the fact that Brown was driving in a way that could be life threatening, I decided not to engage in a high speed pursuit."

The recent death of an 18-year-old Wheeling youth in a high-speed chase in Indiana has renewed interest in policies governing

chases locally. (See related story this page.)

Both the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling Police Departments have strict guidelines regarding high-speed pursuits. They call for extreme care to be given when deciding to shine the revolving lights, crank up the siren and floor it.

"There is a greater awareness on the degree of endangerment not only to the police officers but to pedestrians, motorists and the person trying to elude police," said Buffalo Grove police Cmdr. Gary Del Re. "We don't ban chases, but they are strictly governed as to what is acceptable."

In Wheeling, the police department is operating under a recently re-written police manual which includes an updated,

detailed car chase policy.

"The agency must balance the necessity for pursuit or apprehension against the probability and severity of damage or injury that may result," Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said. "There is hardly any time of day on any day of the week when there isn't traffic on the roads out here."

## No deaths

Del Re said that while there have been accidents in Buffalo Grove during high speed chases, no one has died during any of them in the past 18 years. Since 1989, the Buffalo Grove department has been involved in 8 high speed chases, he said.

In Wheeling, there haven't been any deaths or serious accidents due to police-involved high speed chases in at least 23 years, Hermes said.

During the late 60s or early 70s, a police chase starting in Arlington Heights, Palatine or Wheeling might have run into Libertyville with half a dozen police cars from half a dozen communities taking part before it ended, Hermes said.

There wasn't anything to stop either the chase or the officers from joining in, he said. Today, physical development and liability slow things down, he added.

"It used to be that someone could practically lay down in the middle of Dundee Road and not have anything to worry about," Her-

mes said.

## Chase policy

Wheeling has a policy not to join in other communities chases, even if they come through town, he said, although they will lend assistance if it is requested.

Wheeling regulations stipulate how far an officer can carry on a high speed chase before having to receive permission to leave the village limits and continue following a suspect.

Hermes noted that the development of high technology in police work has lessened the need for chases because better communications throughout the state makes it easier to apprehend criminals. The (Continued on page 18)

## SUBURBAN REPORT

Shura, March 21, 1991

# Palwaukee's spending plan up 22 percent

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners passed a \$1.23 million spending plan for the airport Wednesday, up 22 percent from last year's \$954,000 budget.

The new budget, for the fiscal year that will begin May 1, 1991, includes capital expenditures of \$60,000 for a new fuel tank, \$14,000 for equipment and \$100,000 for pavement maintenance.

However, airport officials are expecting revenues of \$1.54 million, more than enough to cover expenses and build a contingency fund for any unexpected expenses.

About \$1.49 million of the revenues will come from airport opera-

tions. These include hangar leases, fuel storage fees and revenues from rental of T-hangers and tie-downs for smaller aircraft.

The airport was purchased by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights in 1988, with this being the second line-item budget that airport officials have put together.

Fred E. Stewart, airport manager, said that staff is still learning the process.

"Each year we gain experience and we get better," he said.

Stewart said that he hopes this year's trend of increasing revenue beyond what is projected carries over next year also.

"We increased revenues above what we anticipated by pursuing

aggressive lease agreements and actively collecting fees," he said. "And we managed to spend less than we thought we would."

Under the new budget, one more maintenance person will be added to the staff bringing the airport's number of full-time employees to nine.

Persomel expenses make up the largest chunk of the budget—\$406,455. Outside service fees, including engineering and legal fees, are expected to cost \$84,800. But there is a drop in legal fees of \$12,000 because airport officials last year paid off an outstanding balance.

The budget will be forwarded to both municipalities, which must also approve it.

Buffalo Grove police manual clearly states officers carry the majority of responsibility when engaging in a high-speed chase.

"The decision to begin, responsibility for continuation and method of fresh pursuit rests primarily with the individual officer(s) involved. Although the law does not prevent officers from using emergency speeds while engaged in pursuit, it does hold the officer criminally and civilly responsible for his/her actions," the manual reads.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### 3-20-91 Engineering contract OK'd for street repairs

Wheeling village trustees voted to pay an engineering firm no more than \$48,500 to oversee the 1991 street improvement program.

Baxter and Woodman Environmental Engineers of Crystal Lake will provide construction inspection and project management for improvements to Northgate Parkway. Construction is expected to begin in early May.

The street improvement program is financed by money from the village's motor fuel tax and road and bridge funds.

Baxter and Woodman charged the village \$40,772 for engineering consulting services on last year's street improvements. This year's agreement is identical to that agreement except for a six percent increase in average hourly rates.

### Cleaning costs increase by \$105

Trustees authorized the payment of an additional \$105 per month to the janitorial firm that cleans village hall so that an additional hallway can be cleaned.

Fire department personnel had been cleaning the 900-square-foot hallway and its two bathrooms that runs between the police department and fire department but Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that it was an oversight that the area should have been included in the original contract with Quality Care, Inc. of Arlington Heights but was inadvertently left out.

HERALD  
The additional cleaning will bring the monthly bill for cleaning village hall to \$1,645 per month.

### Gerhold recognized for NORTRAN work

Village President Sheila H. Schultz thanked Robert Gerhold for serving as Wheeling representative to the North Suburban Transit District (NORTRAN).

"We appreciate your commitment and dedication to the village in serving as its NORTRAN representative from 1987 to 1990," Schultz said. "NORTRAN may be mothballed but we are not going to mothball you."

NORTRAN's operations have been assumed by PACE in a move to make an overall bus transportation entity, but Schultz said that municipal representatives that used to make up the governmental body are still on standby to be called upon as needed.

### Resolutions kick off village parade plans

Trustees approved resolutions authorizing parades for Memorial Day and Independence Day.

The resolutions are needed so that the police department can apply to the state for permission to close roads during the parades.

Portions of Illinois Route 83 that run through the village will be closed for the Memorial Day parade.

And Dundee Road between Wolf Road and Elmhurst Road and parts of Elmhurst Road and Wolf Road will be closed for the July 4th parade.

# Deputy chief: installation of 911 system on schedule

Wed. 3/20/91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Equipment for the village of Wheeling's enhanced 911 emergency telephone system has been ordered and police department officials are expecting it to be delivered next week.

Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes recently told village trustees, acting as members of the emergency systems telephone board, that movement to the new 911 system is going according to schedule.

He said installation of the system is expected to be completed by April 24, giving Illinois Bell three months to test every telephone line in the village to make sure it is properly hooked into the system before the July 24 switch-over date.

Voters approved the Enhanced 911 system, which automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, last November.

As of March 12, all emergency service numbers, corresponding street names and address ranges were entered into the Illinois Bell data base. Any new phone numbers in the village will automatically be entered by Illinois Bell into the data base.

At the same time that Illinois Bell is testing the lines, the village will begin a campaign to educate citizens about the new emergency number.

"We have an elaborate plan to promote the system to the community," Hermes said. "Including activities at Wheeling Familyfest."

But trustees were also concerned that residents in pockets of Wheeling that are not incorporated into the village also be made aware that they will have to continue to dial a seven-digit emergency number.

"There are only a handful of areas that will be unaddressed by Prospect Heights 911 or us," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac. "If they call 911 they will get a recording giving them the emergency number."

Trustee James A. Whittington said he did not want people not in the corporate limits of the village to have to listen to a recording because the village did not inform them that they are not in the 911 system.

"I hate to think that someone will dial 911 then listen to a recording and then dial another number," he said.

The police and fire department non-emergency numbers will not change under the new system.

# Program brings crossing safety to Wheeling

Think you can beat that train across the tracks? Better think again, says a railroad crossing safety program coming to Wheeling for an all day seminar.

COUNTRYSIDE

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

3-21-91

You come to a railroad crossing and the lights start to flash but the gates haven't come down yet. It appears that a freight train is coming and you don't want to risk having to wait 10 or 15 minutes for it to pass.

The gates are descending and you decide to go for it. Good decision? No, but possibly your last.

In 1990, 56 people died because of that decision in Illinois and 317 people were involved in accidents caused by people failing to respect the speed, size and force behind an approaching train.

"That train is a hell of a lot closer and moving a lot faster than (people) realize," said Wheeling Police Dept. accident investigator Tom Lorenz. "When you decide to shoot across, that train is already on you."

## Lifesaver

Operation Lifesaver is a public education program run throughout the country, designed to reduce the number of crashes, deaths and injuries at rail-highway intersections. The program, with the sponsorship of the Wheeling Police Department, is holding an all-day seminar in Wheeling on March 27 that will focus on both the problem of railroad crossing safety and how to teach others to be careful.

"Peoples' confidence grows each time they cross at a railroad crossing safely" when a train is approaching, said Don Richardson, the state coordinator for Operation Lifesaver.

"People forget. People make mistakes," Richardson said. "What we are trying to do is keep the problem of railroad crossing accidents on their minds. We don't want it to happen to them."

## Pass the word

Operation Lifesaver trains police officers, bus drivers, truck drivers and anyone else who may be in a position to pass the safety word on to others. When the program began here 15 years ago, 96 people had



Pioneer Press File Photo

It may take time, but stopping for a train at railroad crossings is by far the safest course of action. Fifty-six people died last year after deciding to try to beat the train across.

died and 825 people had been involved in accidents in 1976 at Illinois railroad crossings.

While representatives of the program said it has contributed to the decline in Illinois railroad crossing accidents since its inception, they acknowledged their work is not done.

Lorenz said Wheeling has four railroad crossing intersections, at the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks and Camp McDonald Road, Hintz Road, Dundee Road and Willow Road.

"We've been real lucky" in Wheeling, he said. "I've never had a physical car/train accident at a railroad crossing in the 12 years that I've been here."

Accidents have occurred where the track cross the Palatine frontage road west of Wolf Road, but that intersection doesn't count as a regular rail crossing, he said.

## No accidents

Buffalo Police Sgt. Stuart Parets said his village only has two railroad crossings and hasn't had any accidents at them. "It's not an issue. Trains don't come through that often," Parets explained. "It's never been a (major) concern."

Lorenz said just last week, he wrote a fine for a gasoline hauling truck driver who chose not to stop at a railroad crossing in Wheeling. The gasoline trucks are required to stop at every crossing.

Lorenz was notified of the infraction by a railroad frequency radio he carries to keep tabs. The driver



Pioneer Press File photo

Trains are a lot closer than they appear, says Operation Lifesaver, a program to prevent railroad crossing accidents coming to Wheeling this month.

received a \$50 fine. The driver told Lorenz he didn't stop because he was in a hurry.

"These are preventable accidents," Lorenz said. "It is amazing the dumb things that drivers do because they don't want to wait. It can be

anybody from little old ladies to teen-agers."

Richardson stressed that most train-car accidents occur because drivers disobey the law.

"Very rarely do you find that a railway crossing acci-

(Continued on page 100)

## Safety

Continued from page 7

dent was the result of signals not working. It usually is due to driver error," he said.

And one main reason all these people look the other way at rail crossings, or don't look either way, is because they are too familiar with them.

"People don't pay attention to railroad crossings (because) they are just another landmark on the way to and from work," Lorenz said.

He noted that especially with freight trains, the schedules are rarely the same on a day-to-day basis. This makes it nearly impossible for any driving commuter to be sure that the tracks are safe to cross—unless they look each time.

While drivers and pedestrians need to be constantly reminded about railway crossing safety, Richardson noted that Operation Lifesaver also has to work on police departments to actively enforce traffic laws around the tracks.

"In the majority of police departments, it is not a high priority law," Richardson said of the regulation prohibiting drivers from crossing the tracks when a red light is flashing.

He explained that a flashing red light at a train crossing is like a flashing red light anywhere else. It means stop.

## Safety rules

Operation Lifesaver advocates the following safety rules for drivers traveling over railroad crossings:

- Watch for the round, advanced railroad warning sign and slow down when you see it. It means that you are approaching a railroad crossing.
- If you start over a crossing and the lights start to flash or the gates start to come down, don't freeze—keep going. The gates will only be behind you not in front of you. And trying to back up could cause you to stall your car's engine.
- Don't EVER attempt to race the train to the intersection.
- Allow a few seconds to pass after a train passes in front of you to make sure a second train isn't coming from the opposite direction.
- If your car is boxed in on the tracks or it stalls, get everyone out immediately. Make sure that a train isn't approaching and try to push the car off if it is stalled. If a train is approaching, move away from the crossing.

The Wheeling seminar is free, although pre-registration is requested. Interested parties can call 459-2632.

# Crabhouse owner asks board OK for garage

Thurs. Mar. 21, 1991

The owner of Bob Chinn's Crabhouse and his family will be parking their cars in a garage near the restaurant if the Wheeling village board goes along with the plan commission's approval of the plan.

Plan commission members voted recently to grant Robert Chinn, owner of the restaurant, an amendment to their restaurant special use permit to build the garage. Robert Chinn, owner

of the restaurant at 393 S. Milwaukee, wants to build a six car garage for members of his family who work at the restaurant.

One parking space will be lost if the garage is put up. Frank DiAngelo, general manager, said the owners would be "merging their parking spaces to one centralized location", rather than taking up six spaces around the parking lot. The owners also

want to eliminate damage that has occurred to their cars while in the parking lot.

In approving the amendment the commission also approved the architectural design and landscaping plans for the garage, which has been designed to match the restaurant.

The garage will be built with the same brick that was used to build the restaurant and while the shingles will also match, they

will be made out of metal.

Village Planner Mark Janeck said the village has received complaints about Crabhouse employees parking on Mohrs Avenue across from the restaurant.

DiAngelo said he would inform employees that they could no longer park across the street but should use the parking lot. Employees will be informed of the new parking policy in staff meetings and by notices enclosed in paychecks.

# Wheeling unleashes changes in animal ordinance

Thu. March 22, 1991

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although the average Wheeling pet will not be affected by changes in the village's animal ordinance, pit bull terriers will have to leave town.

Under the ordinance, passed by trustees this week, it became illegal to keep a "dangerous or vicious" animal and owners will have 24 hours to get the animal out of the village. Definitions of dangerous also in-

clude animals owned for fighting, animals that attack or bite without provocation, and animals that because of their size, are capable of hurting or killing people.

"We do not know that we have any pit bulls in the village now," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "And we might not necessarily know unless someone calls us."

The Wheeling Board of Health, village attorney and village sanitarian

have been working on the changes for about three years.

"This was necessary legislation to ensure the health, welfare and well-being of the residents of Wheeling," said Bruce Portnoy, health commissioner. "It puts owners of potentially dangerous animals on notice that they must exercise prudence and care."

All dogs and cats over four months old are supposed to be licensed with

the village and the \$5 annual fee does not change with the new provisions.

The ordinance also sets, for the first time, a limit on the number of animals that can live in any one household.

Anderson said that the previous ordinance may have limited the number of cats or dogs a household could have, but this ordinance limits the number of total pets over four months old to four.

## Restaurants present plans for approval

Herald - 3-24-91

The village of Wheeling may soon have another restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue if plans for a delicatessen meet with Plan Commission approval Thursday.

Freidman and Associates are asking commissioners for permission to tear down a home on the property on the west side of Milwaukee Avenue near Mors Avenue and put up a restaurant that will seat around 30 people.

The Plan Commission must grant a zoning change from residential to commercial and approve the developer's site plan and appearance plan for the building.

Appearance is usually handled by the village's appearance commission but because Milwaukee Avenue is considered a sensitive area, developments are handled by the Plan Commission.

And developers have taken into ac-

### The top meeting

**Who:**The Wheeling Plan Commission  
**Where:**Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road  
**When:**7:30 p.m. Thursday.

count a projected widening of Milwaukee Avenue. Plans call for the building to be set far enough back from a widened road so that parking would not be affected.

Approval of another restaurant is also on the agenda for Thursday.

Ben Mui, owner of a Chinese take-out restaurant now in Center Plaza at Dundee Road and Wolf Road, is looking to move his restaurant to a vacant building just west of the Wheeling post office on Dundee Road.

He plans to remodel the building to seat 72 people. Carry-outs would also be available at the new location.

The Plan Commission will also consider adding another set of town houses to the village's housing offering.

# Wheeling race is test of Schultz' leadership

By Jack Houston

Six trustee candidates are vying for three seats on the Wheeling Village Board in a race that could be interpreted as a midterm referendum on the job performance of Village President Sheila Schultz.

Three of the trustee candidates are from Schultz' Wheeling Upward Party and three are from the newly-formed Citizen's Action Party.

Schultz "has done a magnificent job," said Patricia Walsdorf, president of a Wheeling Township senior citizens advisory group. "But she has a death grip on the Village Board."

Walsdorf blames Schultz, who isn't up for re-election for another two years, for what she called the village's indifference to the needs of senior citizens and minority groups.

Both Schultz and her chief opponent on the board, incumbent Trustee Judy Abruscato, admitted there are no big issues dividing the candidates in the April 2 municipal election.

For Abruscato, running with Michael Lynch and David DeVito, the primary concern is whether there will be more trustees to challenge Schultz and her party faithfuls. Abruscato recalled how she cast the lone dissenting vote against the village's recent 31 percent water rate increase.

"There's always been one party, until I came along as an independent," she said. "Now I've found two others."

The candidates have been going door-to-door with campaign literature. There are no plans for them to meet face-to-face in a forum.

Lois Gaffke, the village clerk and Wheeling Upward Party trustee candidate, said the main

## Campaign



issue is whether voters want "to maintain the high standards" of the past. "There's not a lot of dissent."

Gaffke is running with Edward Main and incumbent Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr.

Schultz contended she is no more a leader of the Upward party than the candidates who have received her party's endorsement.

"The candidates of that party are leaders in their own right," Schultz said. "The reason I'm supporting them is because I recognize municipal government is increasingly complex and demands leaders who can deal with those complexities."

Abruscato, 56, is a 25-year resident of the village and a bank officer at the First National Bank of Wheeling. Lynch, 37, a seven-year resident, is a safety engineer for Casualty Insurance Co. and past president of the Wheeling Jaycees.

DeVito, 34, a native of Wheeling, is a commercial insurance underwriter for Dann Bros. of Northbrook.

Gaffke, 42, a resident since 1977, is a former village plan commissioner and a vice president of Henry Boysen Co. Inc., a family-owned Libertyville well drilling firm.

Main, 46, a resident since 1975, is immediate past president of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce. Altieri, 52, a resident since 1963, is a former plan commissioner and a project engineer for Fluid Management Limited Partnership in Wheeling.

## Appellate ruling clears way for Wheeling downtown plans

3-28-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Four Wheeling business owners are running out of options for preventing the village from condemning their property to make way for a shopping center now that the Illinois Appellate Court has reversed a lower court judge who said the village had not met the criteria for doing so.

A Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled in 1988 that Wheeling had not met the state criteria for establishing a tax increment financing district around the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, halting village plans to condemn the properties that now house Tien Tsin Restaurant, Dunkin' Donuts, Wheeling Auto Repair and Drieske's flower shop.

But the village appealed that decision to the Illinois Appellate Court, which, after a year of deliberating, recently ruled in favor of the village.

"We are very happy about the decision," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "But it is too bad that we have had to wait so long for what

was pretty apparent. The decision from the judge was very strong."

TIF districts commonly are established to improve a blighted or run-down areas. Property taxes are frozen at pre-development rates and extra tax dollars generated by the improvements are used to repay loans for the project.

Village officials had originally hoped to buy the properties from their owners. However, when that failed, officials moved to take the land by condemnation. That was when the four property owners filed suit, maintaining that their land was not blighted.

During the court process, plans for an \$8.7 million shopping center have been on hold.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he has contacted the developer originally chosen for the project, Bradford Corp. of Arlington Heights, to get the project moving again. He said it is likely the village will stick with its original retail plans.

Erwin Drieske, owner of Drieske's florist, said he will appeal.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 3-28-91

# Greased pig contests now outlawed

Wheeling's strict new animal ordinance doesn't stop at pit bulls.

*CountrySide*  
By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER  
3-28-91

A new animal ordinance in Wheeling has made it illegal for pet owners to have a pit bull terrier but the law also outlaws other unique pets.

For instance, poisonous spiders, cows and horses are not allowed to be kept in Wheeling residences. The same goes for sheep, goats and horses.

While people may still keep dogs or cats at home, the village's ordinance states that, "It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor more than four of any type or combination of animals over the age of four months."

The above clause does not apply to fish. And bird lovers are allowed to keep up to six birds at a time.

An animal that causes "excessive or untimely noise causing annoyance and discomfort to surrounding neighbors" is breaking the law.

While a neighbor may feel like striking out at a barking dog or whining cat, it is not a good idea. The ordinance speaks directly to the cruelty of animals.

"No person or owner may abandon, cruelly beat, tor-

ment, overload, overwork, or otherwise abuse animals in a manner to cause unnecessary suffering," the ordinance reads.

It also states that pet owners must provide plenty of quality food and water for their pets, along with adequate shelter and protection from the weather. The law also calls for animals to receive humane treatment and veterinary care "when needed to prevent suffering."

Baby chicks or ducklings can't be sold or given away as pets in Wheeling. Local law also stipulates that chicks, ducklings and/or other fowl can't be dyed or colored and sold as novelty items.

In addition, the law prohibits any type of staged animal fight or greased pig contest.

Dogwalkers should make sure to clean up any solid waste produced by their pets. The law states that pet owners who own land are not allowed to let the waste accumulate on their own property.

"The accumulation of animal deposits means the presence at any one time of more than three distinct deposits of animal excrement," the ordinance states.

People who choose to break any provision of Wheeling's animal code could face a daily fine ranging from \$25 to \$500.

# No more pit bulls

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents who have pit bull terriers for pets are harboring fugitives due to a recently amended animal ordinance passed by the Village Board.

"(Residents) can't have pit bulls anymore," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We're concerned that we have some protection to minimize the chance that anybody is going to get hurt from a pit bull."

Anderson explained that the village isn't planning to go after pit bull owners but that if anyone is found keeping a pit bull they could face legal proceedings.

"We're not going to know (about any pit bulls in town)

unless it comes to our attention through the licensing process or an incident (occurs)," he said.

The recently amended animal code defines a pit bull as, "Any pit bull terrier, which shall be defined as any American Pit Bull Terrier or Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog, or any mixed breed of dog which contains as an element of its breeding the breed of an American Pit Bull Terrier or Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier as to be identifiable as partially of the breed of American Pit Bull Terrier or Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Bull Terrier."

# CountrySide WHEELING TRUSTEE

3-28-91

**Anthony Altieri, Jr.**  
Address: 36 Laurel Trail, Wheeling  
Occupation: Project Engineer for Miller Manufacturing Corp., Addison

Experience: Village Trustee since 1983, Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, Plan Commission Chairman for seven years, Chair, president and treasurer of the Wheeling Jaycees  
Age: Not given



Altieri

Altieri supports continued noise abatement efforts at Palwaukee Airport, and said he would pursue effective stormwater management through stream maintenance, flood control ordinances, and completion of the diversionary channel. He supports encouraging active participation in the village recycling program.

**Judy Abruscato**

Address: 125 Wayne, Wheeling  
Occupation: Personal Banking Officer, First National Bank of Wheeling

Experience: Village Trustee for four years, President of the Wheeling Fourth of July Committee for five years, Past President of the Wheeling Lioness Club, Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals  
Age: 56



Abruscato

Abruscato supports improving garbage collection in the village, and cleaning up the appearance of the town. She opposed developments that would add further strip shopping centers on Milwaukee Avenue. She opposed the proposed utility tax and an increase in the garbage collection fee. She has assisted in implementing and promoting various social service projects.

**Lois J. Gaffke**

Address: 217 Shadow Bend Drive, Wheeling  
Occupation: Village Clerk

Experience: Village Clerk since 1989, Plan Commission member for three years, Co-Director of FamilyFest 1989-1990, Member of Walt Whitman PTO  
Age: Not given



Gaffke

Gaffke supports developing the downtown area, using Sportmart as a valuable anchor. She said further noise abatement is needed at Palwaukee Airport, and feels flight patterns could be changed to buffer the noise of takeoffs and landings over residential homes in Wheeling. She said she would keep the lines of communication open with residents.

**Michael Lynch**

Address: Safety Loss Control engineer for Casualty Insurance Co.

Experience: Member of the American Society of Safety Engineers, former President of the Wheeling Jaycees and still an active member, Vice President and Chair of the Wheeling Fourth of July Committee.



Lynch

Lynch opposes the utility tax. He feels the village needs a youth program and supports a more cooperative relationship with the village's neighbors. He is credited with having raised support for the acquisition of the Wheeling Police Department's Canine Unit.

**Edward H. Main**

Address: 925 Pebble Drive, Wheeling  
Occupation: Director of Business Development for the First National Bank of Lincolnshire

Experience: Wheeling Township Trustee since 1986, four years on the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, two as chair, Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Park District, Immediate past president of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce  
Age: Not given



Main

Main supports bringing commuter rail service to the village to alleviate traffic congestion. He supports continuing to foster professionalism by village staff, and continuing the fiscal and public safety policies that have merited national recognition.

**David DeVito**

Address: 638 Merle  
Occupation: Business partner in a specialty metal fabrication and auto building firm

Experience: Wheeling Fourth of July Committee, Seven year resident of Long Grove  
Age: Not given



DeVito

DeVito said he would review all village ordinances and update those that are no longer needed. He supports cleaning up Milwaukee Avenue and believes the annexation of the Walmart property was a smart move. He supports improving the garbage collection system and feels trustees should side with the taxpayer in keeping expenses to a minimum.

# Airport assessing damage

Friday, MAR. 29, 1991

By AMY CARR and BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials spent much of Thursday moving airplanes damaged in Wednesday's high winds, while still trying to assess the total damages sustained in the blustery spring storm.

No cost estimate was available Thursday, but officials said the airport itself would not be liable for any damage expenses because the storm was an "act of God."

At least six aircraft were dam-

aged, five of which were totaled, Wednesday when 85 mph winds whipped through the suburbs.

The wind flipped one plane at the Wheeling airport onto its roof and scooted it 156 feet from its original resting place, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager/finance and administration.

On Thursday, airport employees moved the damaged aircraft to "safer" areas within the airport. However, the structures cannot be removed from Palwaukee until insurance investigators inspect the damage, Zonsius said.

# 2-party system back in board race

3-28-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A quiet return to the two-party system gives Wheeling residents six candidates to choose from for three seats on the village board on election day.

Each party's slate is headed by an incumbent trustee. Judy Abruscato, seeking her second term as trustee heads the Citizens Action Party and Anthony Altieri, seeking his third term as trustee, heads the Wheeling Upward Party.

Abruscato is joined on her slate by Michael Lynch, past-president of the Wheeling Jaycees and David DeVito, a newcomer to politics.

Altieri is joined on his slate by Edward H. Main, Wheeling township trustee and chairman of the Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners and Lois J. Gaffke, village clerk.

Each candidate wants to represent the village of 29,900 people for the next four-year term as village trustee, and regulate an annual budget that next year could top \$22.6 million.

Although both parties are waging an extensive door-to-door walking campaign for votes, the campaigns have been noticeably void of public forums and debates.

And several items that could have been perceived as issues in this election have been dealt with by the current village board over the past couple months.

In announcing the formation of the Citizen's Action Party, Abruscato said that garbage removal would be one of the bigger issues of the campaign. But the village board early

## Wheeling village board

Six candidates for three seats, four year term



**Anthony Altieri:**  
52, seeking third term on the village board, he is a project engineer.



**Michael Lynch:**  
37, seeking first term on the village board, he is a safety loss control engineer.



**Judy Abruscato**  
56, seeking second term on the village board, she is a personal banking officer.



**Lois J. Gaffke:**  
42, seeking first term on the village board, she is serving her first term as village clerk.



**Edward Main:**  
46, seeking first term on the village board, he directs business development for a bank.



**David DeVito:**  
34, seeking his first term on the village board, he owns his own business.

this month authorized Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal to offer a subscription service to any resident who wants to have garbage picked up twice a month during the yard waste season.

And while all the candidates agreed that the village's current ordinance granting senior citizens a 20 percent discount on cab fare is not working and pledged to review the ordinance if elected, the village board has already directed staff to rewrite the ordinance.

If elected, the Citizens Action Party candidates have pledged a comprehensive review of village ordi-

nances to check their usefulness, applicability and enforceability.

They say they will also embark on a public relations campaign informing residents what services are available to them through the village.

Although as a whole the ticket may be short on political experience, Abruscato is the only one to have previously held elective office, the ticket does offer up community service experience.

seemingly short on political experience, the If elected, the three Citizens Action Party candidates would bring some community service expe-

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD

rience to the village board.

Abruscato is president of the Wheeling Fourth of July Committee and director of the Wheeling Lioness Club.

Along with his experience with the Wheeling Jaycees, Lynch is vice president of the Wheeling Fourth of July Committee.

But Wheeling Upward Party candidates also have their share of community service accomplishments and considerably more political experience.

Altieri has also served as president of the Wheeling Jaycees and is a member of Wheeling Amvets Post 66. Gaffke has served as co-director of Wheeling Familyfest for the past two years and Main is a past president of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce.

However, unlike Lynch and DeVito, Gaffke and Main have some political experience under their belts.

Besides being a township trustee and chairman of the village's police and fire commission, Main served for six years on the Wheeling Appearance Commission. And, before her run for village clerk, Gaffke was a member of the Wheeling Plan Commission for three years.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz has endorsed the Upward Party candidates who, if elected, have pledged to bring rail commuter service to Wheeling, upgrade residential and redevelop some commercial areas in the village and achieve stormwater management.

# Survey: Candidates turned off by utility tax

March 29, 1991 (Friday)

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

All six candidates for trustee in the village of Wheeling are against levying a utility tax on residents, according to results of a survey the Wheeling Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons conducted.

And while the questionnaire asked the candidates to address issues of concern to seniors — taxicab discounts and use of the Pavilion Senior Center — it also touched on issues that affect all residents, such as reviving the youth commission and the amount of money the village spends on legal fees.

Patricia Walsdorf, AARP community service chairman, said about 40 seniors were involved in drafting questions for the candidates to answer.

"We had a meeting and talked about the problems we feel we face in the community. We discussed 15 things and came up with six problems we felt were most important," she said.

And top on that list is the repeated refusal by village officials to let

AARP use the Pavilion Senior Center at 199 N. First St. Officials say that AARP cannot use the center unless they have \$1 million in liability insurance.

Walsdorf said insurance would cost the local AARP \$800 annually that it does not have and should not have to pay because it serves the group of people that Pavilion, supported by taxpayers, caters to.

And the candidates of the Citizens Action Party seem to agree with

Walsdorf.

Judy Abruscato, Michael Lynch and David DeVito all said that since the center was built and is run with taxpayers' money it should be open to any senior activity.

However, candidates Anthony Altieri and Lois Gafke said that village hall is open for use by the AARP and would probably better serve the group.

On the question of legal fees, Walsdorf, citing the TIF district battle

and the village suit to prevent the police pension fund from offering mortgages, said the senior group feels that the village is becoming too litigious.

The survey asked the candidates if they would "press for an investigation ... of how much is being spent on legal fees."

The candidates all agreed that legal fees should be watched, but none were willing to "press for an investigation" of current practices.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling reels under 31 percent water hike

3-30-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A recent 31 percent jump in Wheeling water rates has prompted the Citizens Action Party to call for a review of village fiscal policies.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who is running for a second term on the village board, and heads the party, was the only trustee to vote against the recent hike.

"A 31 percent increase blew my mind," Abruscato said. "We should be raising our fees at increments that will be easier for our residents to handle."

She said trustees should have upcoming needs for money brought to their attention during the annual

budget hearing so they can make plans for money that will be needed in upcoming years.

It has been village policy to raise taxes and service rates only as it becomes needed. And although the village board held several public hearings on the water rate increase, public turnout to the hearings was low.

At that time Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the low level of concern about the increase expressed by residents showed that "while they may not like it, they understood it."

And Trustee Anthony Altieri, who is running for his third term

on the village board, said Abruscato is using the water rate issue to garner votes.

"It is unfortunate that she didn't think of this three years ago," he said.

"Every year we discuss the budget and she has not said anything. It seems opportunistic for her to grab onto this during an election year. I could have voted against the increase too but I have a responsibility to see that things in this village are done correctly."

Altieri said he will continue to support a policy of raising money only when it is needed.

"Why charge people for services they are not receiving at that point?" he asked.

# Wheeling planners reject proposal for new restaurant

Friday, March 29, 1991  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

deny the restaurateurs' site plan and request for a special use permit.

Grigory Fridman, owner of a Niles delicatessen, asked the commissioners to approve plans for a 4,500-square-foot delicatessen across from Bob Chinn's Crabhouse.

However, some commissioners said that the 35-seat restaurant was "too tight a use" for that site. "I have a problem with the size of the building and the layout of the

Wheeling plan commissioners said no to another restaurant along the village's restaurant row Thursday night.

Although commissioners voted unanimously to rezone the property on Milwaukee Avenue from residential to commercial, they voted 3-2 to recommend that the village board

parking area," said Chairman Paul Easterhold.

And Commissioner Otis Hedlund said that a "restaurant is not an appropriate use for the space because it is too intensive."

But Commissioner Steve Walanka, who voted against denying the special use permit, questioned what would be an appropriate use.

"I would like to find out what would be an appropriate use for

tomers, but they were not opposed to the plan.

"I am not opposed to this plan as far as its aesthetics," said Rick Re-naly. "But there is one big problem — traffic."

Architect Orest Baranyk, who represented Fridman, said that he will make a presentation to the village board in hopes they will over-rule the plan commission's recommendation.

property along a row of restaurants if it is not a restaurant," he said.

Six restaurants are already located within a half mile of the proposed delicatessen and the area is highlighted by village officials who say it draws diners to Wheeling.

Residents from Mohr Avenue, which borders the site on the north, were concerned about an increase in traffic as a result of the restaurant which would cater to carry out cus-

## Quiet campaign wrapping up in Wheeling

4-7-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

### ELECTION '91

A quiet campaign season ended with a whisper in Wheeling over the weekend as both parties fielding trustee candidates let Easter pass without additional campaigning.

The six candidates up for three seats on the village board have covered the neighborhoods with literature and visited many people in a door-to-door campaign. But no public candidate forums were held.

It is the first election for the Citizens Action Party formed by incumbent trustee Judy Abruscato. Running with her are Michael Lynch and David Devito.

"All campaigning by us was finished by 2 p.m. on Holy Saturday," she said. "We have put 11,500 pieces of literature out in the village and met at least 80 percent of the residents by knocking on doors."

The Citizens Action Party's campaign approach is reminiscent of Abruscato's 1987 campaign in which she walked the village to garner votes.

If Abruscato's slate is elected, a new village board could emerge as she is often the lone dissenting vote on issues facing the village board.

The other incumbent running in this election is Anthony Altieri. He

is joined on the Wheeling Upward Party ticket by Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke and Wheeling Township Trustee Edward H. Main.

Gaffke said her party also respected the Easter holiday by not campaigning. She estimates that the Upward Party has put 9,000 pieces of literature out in the community.

"We have visited all but about four or five of the precincts," she said. "We are calling in our polling sheets and will make some additional calls."

The Upward Party has the backing of Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who has put out a message for voters that was distributed with their party literature.

## Wheeling doles out funds in budget approval

4-2-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees unanimously approved a \$21.7 million spending plan Monday, including \$90,000 that will be allocated to five social service agencies.

Trustees voted to continue to fund Horizons Children's Center, Omni Youth Services, Resource Center for the Elderly, the Salvation Army and Shelter, Inc.

However, two agencies presenting first-time requests for funding from the village — CEDA Northwest and Northwest Suburban High School District 214 Community Education — were turned down.

Trustee James Whittington asked that Omni Youth Services

and the Salvation Army be funded at their full amount requested because last year's increase was frozen.

"Part of last year's freeze came from my concerns at the hearings," he said. "I have kept in touch with the Salvation Army and Omni and am happy to report that much of what they do is to our benefit."

Omni Youth Services will receive \$65,000, up 5 percent from last year and the Salvation Army will receive \$5,500, up 4 percent from last year.

The budget, up only .21 percent from last year's revised spending plan, also includes \$4,000 to cover anticipated costs of a proposed

senior citizen taxi fare subsidy plan.

However, despite one trustee's wish, the budget does not include money to create three new battalion chief positions in the fire department.

Under the proposal, a battalion chief would supervise both stations and supervise at emergencies and fire calls. Currently an acting lieutenant serves as supervisor while also participating in any firefighting.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that no new personnel were included in the budget because of uncertainty in the economy and property tax reform. But he said that the proposal will be looked at again next year.

## Planners favor town house development

4/5/91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners recently approved a town house development along Buffalo Grove Road, although plans for the homeowners association that would manage the development are sketchy.

Developer Thomas Kelly said plans call for the 12-unit complex to be set up like a condominium complex with owners retaining no outside property. But he said he had not yet decided if the town houses could be purchased as investments and then rented out.

Commissioner Frank Protti asked Kelly to consider how many units would be lived in by their owners and to make provisions for this in the homeowner association charter.

"Ten years down the road you could end up with another apartment complex," he said.

The three-bedroom town houses will be built on a parcel on land, just under two acres, that is bordered by Tahoe Village town houses and the Mallard Lake Apartment complex.

Each 2,000-square-foot town house will have a two-car garage and two 1/2 baths. Kelly said he expects them to sell for between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Because the land is designated for park use on the village's comprehensive plan, Kelly will make a cash donation to the park district if the Village Board approves his plan and building permits are issued.

## TIF Plan

An Illinois Appellate Court judge has ruled in favor of Wheeling's Tax Increment Financing District at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The decision overturns a lower court ruling that had found in favor of several businesses and property owners, who argue the district does not meet the state TIF qualifications of a "blighted area." Village officials said this week they were delighted with the ruling.



Supplied by Village of Wheeling

# Wheeling incumbents doing well

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

Incumbents Anthony Altieri and Judy Abruscato appeared to have held on to their seats on the Wheeling Village Board.

Village Clerk Lois Gaffke was running ahead of the pack for the third seat, being vacated by Village Trustee James Whittington, who chose not to run for re-election.

Preliminary totals Tuesday evening showed Abruscato with 846 votes, Gaffke with 734 votes and Altieri with 729 votes.

The election pitted two parties against each other in a battle for the four-year trustee terms. Altieri, a two-term incumbent, was the anchor of the Wheeling Upward Party, which also

included newcomers Gaffke and Main. Abruscato, who ran as an independent four years ago, recruited Michael Lynch and David Devito, colleagues on the Fourth of July Commission, to round out the Citizens Action Party.

The Citizens Action Party was hoping to gain a foothold on the board, but apparently failed, according to the preliminary totals, which showed only Abruscato doing well in vote totals.

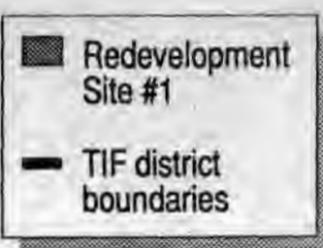
Issues during the campaign included the need for railroad service through the village, business development in the Dundee Road/Milwaukee Avenue Tax Increment Financing district and village garbage collection.

Candidates also spoke out about noise reduction at Palwaukee Airport and the importance of storm water management.

During the campaign, Altieri praised the two-party system in Wheeling. While he said it was good for politics, he also noted that it wouldn't affect board relations after the election.

Abruscato said she represents an independent voice on the board and wants to continue in that role.

Gaffke, village clerk since 1989 and a three-year plan commission member, said she looked forward to attending meetings and speaking out on issues as a board member. She said that her two years as clerk granted her a great education about the village board and she looked forward to being able to speak out on issues that she had been silent on in the past.



## TIF Plan

Wheeling's Tax Increment Financing District, recently given a green light by Cook County appellate court, covers more than a mile of property along Milwaukee Road.

Pioneer Press graphic

# Wheeling TIF plan upheld

By C.A. Abbinanti

Ending a six-year long court battle, a Cook County appellate court recently ruled the Village of Wheeling properly created its tax increment financing (TIF) district.

The ruling came four years after a lower court found in favor of the landowners within the TIF district.

"We were expecting the lower court decision to be reversed all along," said Jim Rhodes, Wheeling's village attorney.

The fight stems back to 1985, when Wheeling initially formed its TIF district, which stretches over slightly more than a mile of property along Milwaukee Ave. A TIF district is set up to spur commercial development in what is labeled a "conservation" or "blighted" area. Once an area has been designated as a TIF district, the assessed valuations of the properties are artificially frozen.

The taxing bodies that extend into the TIF district continue to receive taxes, but at the locked in rate. The difference between the frozen base and the increase in

assessed valuation, or the tax increment, is allocated to a special fund. The pooled funds are then used to pay the public costs of redevelopment, including land acquisition.

According to Rhodes, the case arose when the village filed eminent domain actions against five property owners in the Sportmart shopping center, on the northwest quadrant of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

"Sometimes the owners get involved, sometimes they don't," said Barry Springer, who represented the village in the lower court. "Usually they don't."

Exchange National Bank and the other property owners did get involved, and filed a motion to dismiss. They contested the village had abused its power and the area did not meet the conditions for a "blighted area."

## Worst light

In the trial court, the village provided both documentation and expert witnesses to show that the area quali-

fied, but Rhodes said the judge "took the case in the worst light possible for the village."

"He held we had not properly formed the TIF district and didn't have the right to condemn the properties."

After lingering at the appellate level for over two years, the court ruled in favor of the village on March 22, and remanded the case back to the trial court. "The delay and the decision have been difficult to understand," said Ward Fisher, an attorney for one of the landowners. He added that the appellate court ruled on the evidence presented in the lower court. This type of judgment is not within an appellate court's boundaries, he said, and he anticipates the landowners will appeal the decision to the Illinois Supreme Court on that basis.

If the property owners don't request an appeal, the village can condemn the properties and proceed with their redevelopment plan. Rhodes said the drawn out court battle has already made the TIF project suffer.

# Trustees give green light to fire engine funds

By BONNIE BOOTH

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees agreed to spend \$219,000 for a new fire engine this week, the first move in a new capital equipment program that will replace the fire department's equipment in a timely fashion.

Trustees gave the initial go-ahead for a committee to be formed to put together specifications for a new engine, after touring the fire department and looking over the equipment last fall. At that time Chief Keith S. MacIssac recommended the village begin a program to replace a fire engine every five years.

Currently, there are four en-

gines in operation, the oldest one — purchased in 1969 — will be replaced by the new engine.

A committee made up of three firefighters, one lieutenant, the fire captain and the chief spent several months working on specifications for the engine, which will be built by Sutphen Corp. of Amlin, Ohio.

Some trustees had wanted a consultant to work with the committee but MacIssac said that the fire department was its own best consultant.

"Naturally, we are excited because we are getting a new engine," said Fire Captain Ralph Perricone. "But we are also excited because it is the product of a

committee. It was good for the firefighters to get involved."

The committee also reviewed the five bids the village received for the engine.

The committee recommended the second lowest bidder because the lowest bidder, at \$213,000, submitted insufficient information and the committee could not properly evaluate their proposal.

However, the cost of the engine will be lower than original estimates which had the price tag at around \$25,000.

Because the engine is being custom made, it will be eight months to a year before firefighters get a first hand look at the result of their committee's work.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Incumbents offer status quo in Wheeling

By BONNIE BOOTH

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will not see many changes in village board policies with the re-election of two trustees and the election of the village clerk to the board.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato, the top vote-getter with 878, said she will probably continue to be the lone dissenter on some issues that face the board.

"On many of the issues that I have come before the board, I have voted alone," Abruscato said. "I think that will probably continue."

Abruscato was the only trustee to vote against a recent 31 percent water rate increase.

## ELECTION '91

Village Clerk Lois J. Gaffke received 773 votes and incumbent Anthony Altieri received 782 to gain the other two four-year terms on the board. Both are members of the Wheeling Upward Party and were endorsed by Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

A new village clerk will be appointed by Schultz with the approval of the trustees.

Altieri said because of the low voter turnout, he would not inter-pret his victory as an endorsement of the village board, but he will continue to vote with the majority on most issues.

"I try to serve the people the

best I know how," he said. "Apparently they liked it and put me back in office."

Although the other two candidates on Abruscato's ticket — Michael Lynch and David Devito — placed fifth and sixth in the voting, she said her newly formed Citizens Action Party will be around to compete for elected office in the future.

"The boys did an excellent job," she said. "They did well for new corners and had a good showing. It helps build a base for our organization."

Abruscato said she will work to carry out Citizens Action Party goals, including a comprehensive review of village ordinances, during her next term.

# Ex-Wheeling clerk to join incumbents

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Former Wheeling village clerk Lois J. Gaffke won a seat on the Wheeling village board Tuesday, joining victorious incumbents Judy Abruscato and Anthony Altieri in gaining the three, four-year seats on the board.

Gaffke credited the support of Village President Sheila H. Schultz in helping to persuade voters her way. Unofficial totals from all 24 precincts Tuesday night indicate she came in second, with 773 votes.

Abruscato, the top vote-getter, won her second village board term with 878 votes. Altieri got 762 votes and is headed into his third term.

Still, the candidates all were disappointed by the low number of residents who took time to vote Tuesday.

"With the poor voter turnout I wouldn't be so bold as to say that this is a mandate to do anything," Altieri said. "We worked very hard and I'm disappointed to see such a poor turnout."

Abruscato, who ran as an independent in 1987, had visions of starting a new era in Wheeling politics with the formation of the Citizens Action Party. But the other two candidates on her ticket, Michael R. Lynch and David DeVito, fell to defeat with 579 votes and 547 votes, respectively.

Altieri and Gaffke ran with Wheeling Township Trustee Edward H. Main, who garnered 598 votes on the Upward Party ticket. The Upward Party was backed by Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

"I would say that Sheila's backing

## Wednesday FULL COVERAGE



**Daley  
an easy  
winner**

Additional coverage of  
Chicago and suburban  
races begins on Page 4.

was a benefit," Gaffke said. "But I found it rather unusual that some people tried to make this election a mid-term referendum on her job as village president."

Abruscato, 56, is considered to have high popularity with senior citizens. She is director of the Wheeling Lionesses and is president of the Wheeling Fourth of July committee.

"I have a high visibility in the community, and I think I have given the people the confidence they need to know there is somebody out there who listens to them," Abruscato said Tuesday.

Abruscato has criticized the hefty, 31 percent increase this year in Wheeling water fees, which is expected to cost the average homeowner another \$100 a year. She said Wheeling should have planned for the projects by gradually raising water fees instead of hitting residents with the big increase all at once.



**Northwest  
journal**  
By Christine  
Winter

# Wheeling wary of porkers as pets

Laddie, the pot-bellied pet pig of Chicago condo fame, might not have fared so well in Wheeling. A tough new ordinance there makes it illegal to keep any poultry, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses or similar animals within the village limits.

It also outlaws pit bulls, even mixed-breed pit bulls, along with carnivorous animals and poisonous spiders. Even when animals are cute and cuddly, there are limits: no more than four adult animals or six birds. No head counts are necessary for fish.

Pit bull lovers have been complaining, but village sanitarian Dan Adams said Wheeling carefully researched the section on dangerous and vicious animals, and felt pit bulls fit the category. What about those already in residence? "We won't go looking for them," he said. "But if we get complaints, that's another matter."

Residents not only must clean up after their animals on public property, they can't allow "more than three distinct deposits" to accumulate on their own property. Adams said the village got specific about the number of droppings to encourage people to clean up promptly before their yards "fill up to the detriment of their neighborhood."

"A lot depends on the size of the animal," he said. "With a Great Dane, three might be too much; with a poodle, there might not be a problem. Investigators will have to use common sense."

It is also illegal to hold a greased pig contest in Wheeling. Although Adams said he has never heard of any greased pig contests in his suburb, the village wants to forestall any activities that might be cruel to animals.

Wheeling residents will see a slight reduction in their village tax bill now that trustees have voted to abate a small portion of the 1990 tax levy.

The \$300,000 abatement will come from the general obligation bond and interest fund levy of \$2,680,687. Money in that fund is used to pay off bonds the village has used to finance capital improvements.

"We have been abating in this fund for the past several years," said Robert W. Flalkowski, director of

Finance. "The balance of funds generates an investment return sufficient to cover expenditures."

Flalkowski said that the owner of a house with a market value of \$100,000 can expect to save about \$16.

Before the abatement, with a tax rate of \$1.16, a Wheeling homeowner living in the average priced house of \$100,280 would have paid about \$278.42 in property taxes to the village.

Trustees voted to abate \$388,000 of the Tax Increment Financing District Levy immediately after passing the entire levy in November.

At that time, they talked about abating more of the \$6.2 million levy, up 30 percent from last year, if the village continued to receive money from the Illinois State Income Tax Surcharge. Under Gov. Jim Edgar's proposed 1992 budget, the village would receive \$285,817 compared to last year's \$582,317.

But even though the village could receive some money, Flalkowski said there is only a "very slim chance for any further abatement."

Village President Sheila H. Schultz was not yet ready to rule out the possibility of another abatement and she said she was pleased that once again the village would be able to reduce its levy, even if it is a small amount.

"If the money should become available, abatement is still a possibility," she said. "People say we always raise but never go the other way - so this is one way to balance that."

# Village abates \$300,000 from bond tax levy

By Bonnie Booth  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

# Police blame crime rise on a personnel shortage

4-9-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

last year proves the importance of that unit.

The tactical unit, which Haeger said should be operating again by the end of the summer, is assigned to areas of the village that need the most attention based on analysis of crime reports.

For example, if several burglaries were to occur in a certain section of town, the officers would patrol that area. They may be in uniform, plain clothes or undercover and driving squad cars, unmarked cars, walking or riding a bicycle. The officers may be assigned to any shift, depending on the task.

Haeger said the department has been steadily hiring to bring the number of officers in the department back up. But these people do not have the experience to move directly into a tactical unit.

"They have to go through basic and field training before they can get out on the street," he said.

The number of reports of less serious crimes, including deception and criminal damage to property, dropped 3 percent.

Overall, Part One offenses — including assault, robbery and battery — increased 10 percent.

"In the first year of the tactical force, 1989, we saw a drop of 13 percent in Part One offenses," Haeger said. "The rise in those crimes again

Burglaries were up 26 percent in 1990, from 122 in 1989 to 154. The biggest increase was in burglaries of property valued at over \$300. They jumped 43 percent from 72 to 103. Burglaries from motor vehicles were up 35 percent, from 193 to 260.

"We had a shortage of personnel," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger. "We absorbed the tactical unit into patrol."

The tactical unit was disbanded last year when the six officers that make up the plainclothes unit were needed to man patrol cars.

# Wheeling yard waste disposal rules in effect

Mon. April 8, 1991  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Today marks the start of the second week of yard waste disposal season in the village of Wheeling.

Under the program, garbage pickup is reduced to once a week and yard waste is only collected on the same day as recyclables.

This is the second year for the program, mandated by last summer's change in yard waste laws that prohibited refuse haulers from taking yard waste to landfills.

The program will be in effect until

Nov. 30.

Village trustees voted earlier this year to offer a subscription service to those residents who want to continue to have their garbage picked up twice a week.

Under that plan, yard waste and recyclables would continue to be picked up on the residents' regular day but another day of refuse pickup would be added.

Residents who want the service can call Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal at 520-7200 to sign up. The cost is \$2.95 per month.

# Plans move ahead for Lake-Cook gas station

4-10-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists heading east on Lake-Cook Road will be able to get gas on the south side of the road, now that the Wheeling village board has approved plans for a Mobil mini-mart at the corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads.

Currently there are no gas stations on the south side of Lake-Cook between Route 53 and Milwaukee Avenue, a seven-mile stretch.

The gas station will occupy about one acre at the northwest corner of the 37-acre future home of a Wal-

Mart Department Store and Sam's Wholesale Club. Trustees gave Wal-Mart Inc. the go-ahead for the two stores in January.

While there was some concern that Mobil would have difficulty getting the sewer and water to the station because it will be in Lake County, Robert C. Kenny, attorney for Mobil, said an agreement had been reached with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to provide water and sewer to the site.

There will be two entrances to the mini-mart and car wash. One will be

off of Lake-Cook Road and the other will be off an access road that will be built on Weiland Ave to serve customers of the two stores.

"This is the culmination of four years of work," said Kenny. "We feel that we and Wal-Mart will have a homogeneous development."

Before approving the new station, Trustee Elizabeth Hartman wanted to know what plans Mobil has for an

abandoned gas station at the corner of Schoenbeck and Dundee roads.

Chuck Wagner, real estate director, said recent plans to sell the site had fallen through but there is another prospective buyer who is in the automotive business but is not planning on using the site as a gas station.

The gas station will be open 24 hours.



William Cokenower, owner of Cokenower Tree Experts, surveys the damage from the high winds that hit his business.

Cokenower said he is still amazed he and his coworker emerged from the wreckage unscathed.

Danielle Brown/Pioneer Press

*Countryside 4-4-91*

# Funnel cloud lashes Palwaukee airport

The National Weather Service says no tornado touched down in the area, but it sure looked like one to William Cokenower.

By ARNOLD GRAHL  
MANAGING EDITOR

William Cokenower was staring straight at the funnel cloud when it started ripping shingles off a building at Palwaukee Airport like a machine gun rattling bullets out of its chamber.

"It was coming straight at me. It was like I was looking down the barrel of a rifle," said Cokenower, who was at work at his business, Cokenower Tree Experts, at 220 Industrial Lane, last Wednesday when the storm hit.

Cokenower yelled to his buddy, employee Lonnie Horton, who was working on a chainsaw, to seek cover, and they both ran toward what they presumed

enower said.

## Freight train

"It sounded just like a freight train. It took everything off. It blew the whole back wall right out. We were standing in the bathroom, one wall between us and it, pushing against the wall hoping it wouldn't blow away. The corner was all that was left standing, maybe three feet on one side and six feet on another.

"I still don't really comprehend it," he said.

The funnel that destroyed Cokenower's business was part of a storm that wreaked considerable havoc in the area, knocking down trees and power lines, tearing off sections of roof, and knocking out power to some areas. Warning sirens went off in Buffalo Grove, and officials at Palwaukee Airport said at least six airplanes were torn from their moorings and damaged.

The storm also tore roof sections off of Hangers No. 9 and 10, and caused minor damage to various other buildings at the Airport, located between Wheeling and Prospect Heights on Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road.

Airport officials said they were doubtful an actual tornado touched down at the airport. Michael Zonsius, assistant manager of finance and administration, said airport officials saw nothing that resembled a funnel cloud and the air-

port's tower reported no sightings.

"We were right here looking out the window. Although we didn't see the actual damage occur, we didn't see anything and the tower did not see anything."

"If a tornado had touched down, it would have taken a heck of a lot more airplanes," Zonsius added.

Louis Ginger owns one of the airplanes totalled by the storm, a Cessna Cardinal RG. He said he had tied his plane down with heavy chain, but apparently other planes blew into it, and the combination of wind pressure and stress from the other planes broke his chain. He estimates the plane will cost a couple thousand dollars to replace.

"All the damaged planes were in one location. Four of them blew over and three of them were partially damaged," Ginger, a Glenview resident, said.

"I spoke to an eyewitness who was there and he said the sky darkened as the storm reached the airport and lightning, thunder, heavy rain and hail began to come down. He parked his station wagon in front of his plane in an effort to protect it."

## No sign

Ginger said the witness, whose plane was not damaged, also did not see a funnel cloud or anything that resembled one.

But Cokenower is con-  
(Continued on page 8)



High winds knocked branches and power lines down all over Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

**Related Story**  
**Next Page**

was the safest, strongest part of the structure, a bathroom with three brick walls. In the five seconds that it took them to run across the 30 or 40 feet of garage space, the funnel was upon them.

"The garage door was bending in and out. Just as we got in the bathroom the whole thing exploded," Cok-

# Road relocation aids firefighters

4-11-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect.

And thanks to Palwaukee Municipal Airport's plans to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads, Wheeling firefighters are getting extra practice fighting house fires.

The houses are abandoned and sitting on property the airport has purchased for the relocation. Airport officials let the firefighters set fire to the abandoned buildings, giving them a chance to get hands-on training fighting fires.

"We don't get a lot of fire calls anymore," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac. "This is a good

way to keep in practice."

And on a recent three-day training exercise, firefighters from the villages of Buffalo Grove and Mount Prospect also got some hands-on practice in the art of firefighting.

Wheeling has mutual aid agreements with both municipalities and the joint exercises are required under those agreements.

"It is good for the firefighters from the three towns to be working together," MacIsaac said. "They get to meet each other and learn who they can count on in the middle of the night."

Buffalo Grove Fire Department Training Officer Paul Tierney agreed.

"It is good to have this interaction," he said. "This is the first time Wheeling and Buffalo Grove have had a live burn together, and if a real situation arises it will go more smoothly."

And with Buffalo Grove officials opening a third fire station in May, planning for a fourth and hoping to increase their number of full-time firefighters to 80 over the next five years, Tierney said the exercises are necessary training for his department.

The Wheeling Fire Department also uses the exercises to test new equipment or chemicals that improve firefighting techniques. This time around, the firefighters tested a

new foam that sticks to wood instead of running off.

"The foam is very expensive," said Ralph Perricone, Wheeling fire captain. "With the practice, we will know when it would work better than water in a real fire situation and be able to use less."

The training group was divided into three teams. Each team had the chance to practice suppressing the fire, ventilating it and rescuing one "victim" from the burning building.

"We have to keep going over everything," Perricone said. "If we train long enough when we are in an actual fire situation we won't have to think, we can just do it."

# Wheeling planners approve pool facility

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents came one step closer to swimming outdoors next summer after Wheeling Plan commissioners on Thursday gave their approval to the Wheeling Park District's family aquatic center.

Park district officials are hoping that with prompt village board approval of the plan, the 17,000-square-foot facility can be ready for opening in summer 1992.

"This is not a traditional swimming pool in the sense they were built in the 1960s and '70s," said Claude E. Rogers Jr. of Leisure Concepts and Design Inc. of Mount Prospect. "They were competitive and limited in recreational value."

The pool, which will be built on Dundee Road between village hall and Wickes Furniture Co., will have five water slides, a diving board and lanes for lap swimming.

Calling it a "concrete beach," Rogers said the pool will begin at zero-depth.

"It will have a lot of shallow water and be as easy as swimming in a lake," he said.

A sand volleyball court, sand play area with playground equipment, grass for sunning and adults-only spa also will be part of the 3/4-acre site.

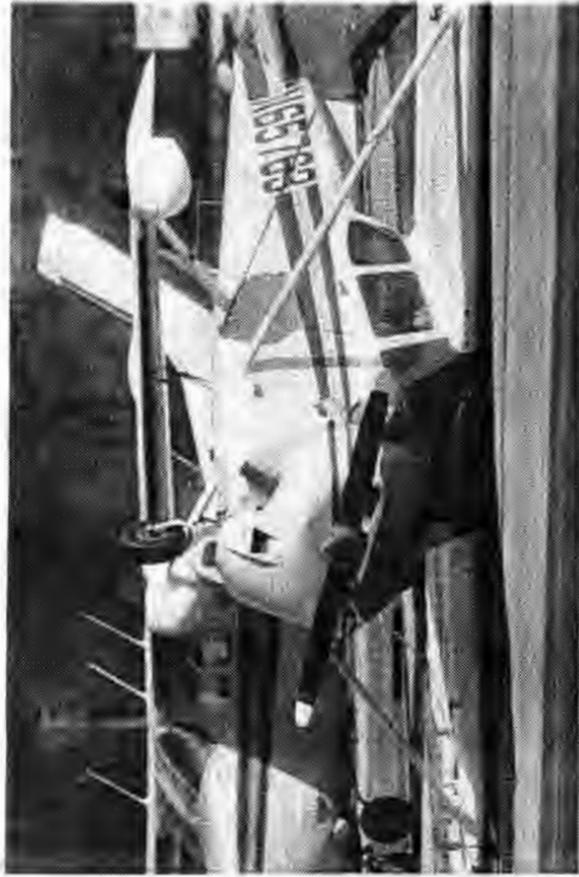
Commissioners also approved plans for a 48,000-square-foot recreation center to be built in the same park district complex. Until park district commissioners de-

cide how to raise money to run the recreation center, though, there is no timetable for its completion.

Before approving the two centers, plan commissioners asked what would happen with the Koeppen farm buildings that now sit on the north portion of the property.

"If they are not going to be used, I would not like to see abandoned buildings sitting there," said Paul Eisterhold, chairman of the plan commission.

Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, said that the Koeppens would be allowed to farm the property for at least one more season. But he said that when the house and barn are no longer used, they will be torn down.



By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The storm Wednesday tipped this airplane at Palwaukee Airport belly-up.

## Decision to send students home raises questions

Elementary School District 21 officials drew criticism this week for sending students and staff home last Wednesday just prior to the storms which hit the northwest suburbs around 4 p.m.

Celina Watts and Mary Hilgenberg, brownie troop leaders who hold meetings at Booth Tarkington School in Wheeling on Wednesdays after school, were among teachers informed at approximately 3:30 p.m. that the school was being closed for the day to both students and staff.

Tarkington is located near the Indian Trails Library, approximately 3 miles from Palwaukee Airport where extremely high winds caused damage estimated at \$10,000.

Watts said she has close to 10 girls in her troop and was upset about the way the district handled the situation.

"The girls were going crazy. Their teachers told them that they couldn't stay there," Watts said. "The girls were hysterical because they were told to leave."

"They made a mistake. The school didn't want to be responsible for the kids. That's what I think. We were safer in the school than we were out of the school," she said.

Hilgenberg, a PTA vice-president, painted a slightly different picture. While she stated that she questioned the decision to send everyone home, she added that her 20-plus brownies weren't spooked by the experience.

"It was a little chaotic but everything was fine. Some of the kids were upset (but) none got too panicky," Hilgenberg said. "I didn't

necessarily agree with (the decision to close the school). My only regret was that someone didn't make a decision sooner. You have wonder who makes these decisions and who they make them. It could have been expedited a little better if they'd called earlier."

Hilgenberg said she drove some children home after reaching nearly all of their parents or guardians to tell them school was closing and the brownie meeting had been cancelled.

She said that she looked at the situation from a parents' perspective and that most parents would want their children home when a major storm system is in the area.

School district officials could not be reached for comment.

Last week, Wheeling police took in approximately 20 damage to property reports as a result of the storm. The damage estimates ranged from \$100 to more than \$50,000.

At Shure Electronics, 945 S. Chaddick, the winds reportedly took off part of a roof and blew parts of it into 45 cars in the parking lot, resulting in more than \$50,000 worth of damage, according to the police report.

Priester Aviation reported roof damage at Palwaukee Airport of \$10,000.

"It could have been worse," Hilgenberg said. "It could have come in our direction. Then it would have been a whole different ballgame."

## Airport Continued from page 7

vinced what he saw was a tornado.

"I definitely saw the tip of a funnel. It dipped down and touched the roof of the building, and started shaking shingles off to both sides," he said. "It didn't come down very far, it stayed high. But she was moving."

"It only lasted 20 or 30 seconds, after that, everything was dead still and the sun was out," he said.

After the storm passed, Cokenower emerged dazed from his wrecked building and began to access the damage. He said he lost many of the tools in the building and a tree chopper was damaged. He has no insurance for the tools and contents of the building.

None of the trucks used by his 10 to 12 employees were in the building at the time. "We'll bounce back, you just got to make do," he said.

Cokenower says his company clears land for new developments and street projects for the state. Also damaged near the airport was the Palwaukee Motor Inn at 1090 S. Milwaukee Ave. Employees there report that portions of the roof blew off and landed into the swimming pool and fences around the tennis courts were knocked down.

## Wheeling renews its recycling agreement

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees renewed their recycling agreement with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal Monday night and discussed options for informing citizens about what is recyclable and what is not.

Recycling coordinator Lee E. Adelman showed trustees plastics — including a cup and a strawberry container — that are not recyclable but ended up in the recycling drop-off center behind village hall at 255 W. Dundee Ave.

"What's here is not malice," Adelman said. "It is zeal, but it is damaging the value of the center." He said the center is almost to the point where it is no longer prof-

itable to maintain, but the waste management company is willing to make a continued attempt to educate the public about what can be dropped off there.

Adelman also said a new recycling container that could be used at multi-family housing developments could eliminate some of the problems at the drop-off center.

"Having a sign — just prior to dropping the stuff in — with a list of items that are acceptable would be helpful," said Trustee Elizabeth Hartman.

Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal takes plastic pop bottles, milk jugs, fruit juice jugs, bleach and fabric softener containers, windshield washer solvent jugs and liquid laundry detergent con-

tainers. Adelman said single-family homeowners quickly learn what items are accepted by the recycling trucks.

"A single-family homeowner learns quickly because they put it out and it is still there when they come back," said village president Sheila H. Schultz.

Under the agreement, recycling pickup rates for newspaper, clear and colored glass, metal and aluminum cans and the plastics, will remain at \$1.95 per month for once-a-week collection.

Trustees also renewed their agreement with Buffalo Grove Industries to let Goodwill Industries collect reusable household goods once a month.

# Wheeling TIF battle isn't over

By David Iyata

It was described as a David against Goliath legal battle, a fight by a handful of merchants against Wheeling to stop the village from condemning their businesses for a new shopping center.

The Davids prevailed at the trial level, but Goliath just won on appeal.

The Illinois Appellate Court reversed a 1988 Cook County Circuit Court ruling that had barred Wheeling from going after the properties. The appellate panel ordered the condemnations to proceed.

Erwin Dreiske, a florist whose business of the last 38 years is endangered, vows to continue the fight in an appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.

"They've condemned my property for one-quarter to one-fifth of what it's worth, and now they're trying to put me out of business," Dreiske said.

"Mr. Dreiske is an 89-year-old man who has worked all his life as a florist," said his attorney, Thomas L. Ruth Jr., Barrington. "He lives next door... so Wheeling is not only taking his livelihood, but his home."

Wheeling Village Atty. James Rhodes explained that using its eminent domain power was the only way Wheeling could assemble a number of small, disparate tracts in various states of unsightliness, if not disrepair, to create a large enough parcel to interest commercial developers.

Rhodes said that the recent Appellate Court decision affirming Wheeling's rights was im-

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 4-8-91

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### 21 liquor licenses receive approval

Wheeling trustees, acting as members of the liquor control commission, approved without condition, 21 liquor licenses for establishments in the village.

Seven more businesses were granted liquor licenses on the condition that background checks of new managers or owners are in order.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said there had been no patterns of underage drinking or problems, other than an occasional disorderly conduct call, at the businesses serving liquor in the village.

### \$7,800 approved for 911 system

Trustees approved spending an

additional \$7,800 for installation of the Enhanced 911 emergency telephone system.

The money will be used to install three additional trunk lines for the system. The lines are needed because the emergency system will be serviced by more than one telephone exchange and central office.

Village officials expect the 911 system to be up and running in mid-July.

### Local groups honored by the village

Village President Sheila H. Schultz made several proclamations recognizing various groups in the village.

Girl Scout Leaders Day will be April 22, Police Week will be May 12 through May 18, May 1 will be Law Day U.S.A. and "Meeting

Life Successfully Day," and April 26 will be Arbor Day. "I know people wonder why we do this," said Schultz after issuing the proclamations. "It is important to recognize the people and organizations that mean a lot to the community when they have a special time."

### Village to ask for rehab grant funds

Trustees agreed to ask Cook County for \$100,000 under the community block grant program to continue the village's single-family residential rehabilitation program.

Under the program, some residents would be eligible for no-interest loans to fix up their homes.

The program, in its 10th year, has helped 15 homeowners make improvements on their homes.

# Wheeling

Continued from page 1

portant not just to the village, but to "a lot of people in the municipal community who were awaiting this decision for guidance" with their own redevelopments.

But Ruth said, "It's unfortunate government has gotten to this point. A condemnation proceeding generally is for a public purpose, and if they were taking his property to widen Route 21 [Milwaukee Avenue], you couldn't quarrel with that. But to take Mr. Dreiske's business to sell to someone else for another business is hard to appreciate."

Dreiske and the owners of a neighboring Dunkin' Donuts, Wheeling Auto Repair and Tien Tsin Restaurant have resisted Wheeling's efforts to take their land northwest of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Mark A. LaMantia, a Chicago attorney who argued the property owners' case before the Appellate Court, said that Dunkin' Donuts has yet to decide whether to also file an appeal. Wheeling Auto and Tien Tsin were not represented by counsel before the Appellate Court.

The village designated the area a tax increment financing or TIF district in 1985, sold \$4.5 million in tax-exempt TIF bonds to fund land acquisitions in 1986, and brought condemnation suits against the merchants in 1987.

But the project has been on hold since 1988, when a trial court held that the area wasn't blighted enough to be a TIF district. An appellate panel last month disagreed, reversed the trial court and ordered the condemnations to go ahead.

That decision cheered officials in Wheeling and in other communities who feared similar legal challenges from disgruntled property owners.

To take advantage of tax increment financing, a community declares an area blighted or in danger of becoming blighted. A community then sells TIF bonds to raise funds for infrastructure improvements or to otherwise subsidize construction, and uses the new property taxes generated by development to pay off the debt.

Tax increment financing helped spur the redevelopment of downtown Arlington Heights. Elgin hopes to use this vehicle to attract investors to its South Grove Redevelopment Area. Shopping centers in Prospect Heights and Rolling Meadows are TIF projects, as is the North Loop Redevelopment in

downtown Chicago.

"We're very pleased with the decision," Donald F. Eslick, executive director of the Illinois Tax Increment Association, Chicago, said of the Appellate Court action.

"We feel that it upholds what we believed all along—that people who challenge the legitimacy of a TIF district have the obligation to produce clear and convincing evidence to show that the actions of a municipality were inappropriate," Eslick said.

"From our aspect it's important because it finally gets the redevelopment of Milwaukee Avenue under way," Rhodes said.

Many of the parcels in the TIF district were subdivided more than 100 years ago and were too small by themselves for modern commercial development, he said.

"Many businesses along Milwaukee Avenue sit almost on the street line. We have problems with the right of way, where utilities will be placed, and with the number of curb cuts [driveways] onto the street and what that does to traffic."

But people like Dreiske aren't buying any of that.

"They want to get rid of us so they can build some cheap discount stores," Dreiske said.

# Wheeling may extend recyclables contract

The Wheeling Village Board will consider extending its agreement with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal Co. for collection of recyclables and reusable household goods when it meets Monday night.

Under the agreement, rates for pick up of recyclables, including newspaper, clear and colored glass, metal and aluminum cans and certain plastics, would remain at \$1.95 per month and be picked up once a week.

From April 1 to Nov. 30 the recycling day would also be yard waste pickup day. Pickups would be between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.

To participate in the program, residents need a recycling bin to place curbside for emptying each week. The bins can be obtained at Village Hall, 255 West Dundee Road.

Although Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal officials have indicated a decrease in the market price of recyclable goods — especially newspaper — they would continue to return a portion of the profit of the sales to

the village.

The waste disposal company would continue to service the village's recyclables dropoff site behind Village Hall.

Trustees also will consider renewing their agreement for the pickup of reusable household goods, including clothing, accessories and shoes, toys, books, linen, tools, cooking utensils, small working appliances and electronic equipment.

Currently, Goodwill Industries collects these goods in cooperation with

the disposal company during the first full week of each month on recyclable day.

### The Top Meeting

Who: The Wheeling Village Board

Where: 255 West Dundee Road

When: 8 p.m. Monday



Christina Szurlo, 4, of Wheeling talks with P.C. the police car. The robot is used to familiarize children with the police department.

Daily Herald photos/Gilbert R. Boucher

## Firefighters, public have fun at open house

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About 1,500 people attended the Wheeling Fire Department's first open house in 12 years last weekend, getting a first-hand look at how the department serves the community.

Visitors watched firefighters rappel down buildings and simulate dealing with a leaky vehicle, and had a chance to look at the department's equipment and visit with the firefighters.

While adults watched films on fire safety in the home, children got hands-on lessons in the stop, drop and roll fire put-out procedure and how to exit a burning building, in the children's fire safety house.

Children visiting the fire safety house also received a plastic fire helmet and a metal fire department badge.

McGruff the crime dog and P.C. the police car were also on hand to talk with kids about safety.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the purpose of the open house was to let residents know the department does more than fight fires and to give the firefighters a chance to have some fun with the residents.



Wheeling firefighters Jeff Hoff, 40, and Jim Gran, 37, demonstrate rappelling from the top of a firetruck. The two are members of the department's technical rescue team.

# Bomber exhibit might fly at Palwaukee if it comes free

4-18-91

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials agreed Wednesday to consider hosting a visit from the Arizona Wing Air Force B-17 Bomber Exhibit, providing it doesn't cost the airport anything.

The Arizona Wing Confederate Air Force would like to bring the bomber and a crew of up to eight for a visit in late summer.

And although they ask the airport to pick up the tab, the hotel costs and transportation during their visit, commissioners are hoping to get the Prospect Heights Convention Bureau to foot the bill.

Commissioners also will explore getting a local hotel to donate the rooms.

"I think this would be really nice," said Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno.

"But I am reluctant to pay money. That is not a correct precedent. I am sure the convention bureau can work it out. They have the funds available, and it seems to fit their purpose."

The Confederate Air Force would bring the restored World War II bomber "Sentimental Journey" for a four-day visit to the airport. A \$3 fee would be charged for entrance to the exhibit.

And once the fee is paid, visitors

would be able to go inside the airplane.

"I'm old enough to know what a B-17 is, so I may appreciate it more," said Fred E. Stewart, airport manager. "But I think this is a wonderful opportunity."

The airplane was donated to the Confederate Air Force in 1978. It took four years to restore the airplane, which was taken on tour beginning in 1982.

The "Sentimental Journey" visits

an average of 60 cities and towns each year.

The 46-year-old airplane is one of about 13,000 B-17s built during World War II. Only eight are restored to flying conditions in the United States, and there are only 40 B-17s left worldwide.

"This is basically a fund-raising effort to support the amount of work put into restoring the aircraft," Stewart said.

# Crime increases in absence of tactical unit

4-20-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An increase in certain types of crime within the village of Wheeling shows the value of the police department's tactical unit, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger says.

Offenses including assault, robbery and battery — known as Part One offenses — increased 10 percent last year when the tactical unit was disbanded because the six officers that made up the unit were needed in patrol cars.

In 1989, the first full year the tactical unit was operating, overall crimes reported dipped 4.4 percent. And Part One offenses plunged nearly 14 percent.

"The rise in these crimes again last year proves the importance of that unit," said Haeger.

When operating, the group of plain-clothes officers focuses on areas of the village that need the most attention based on analysis of crime statistics.

For example, if several burglaries were to occur in a certain section of town, the officers would patrol that area. They may be in uniform, plain clothes, or undercover; and they may be driving squad cars, unmarked cars, walking or riding a bicycle. The officers may be assigned to any shift, depending on the task.

But in 1990 a shortage of police of-

icers, due to disabilities, led to the temporary disbanding of the unit.

And the result was a 26 percent increase in burglary, from 122 in 1989 to 154. The biggest increase was in burglaries of property valued at over \$300; those jumped 43 percent, from 72 to 103. Burglaries to motor vehicles were up 35 percent, from 193 to 260.

And while certain crimes increased because of the loss of the unit, arrests for other offenses went down.

Liquor control act offenses, including sale of liquor to and possession of liquor by a minor, went down 70 percent, from 62 in 1989 to 19 in 1990.

"Tactical unit officers can sit outside liquor establishments and watch for violations to occur," Haeger said.

The number of reports of less serious crimes, including deception and criminal damage to property dropped 3 percent. Overall, crime in the village was up 11 percent in 1990.

Haeger said the tactical unit should be up and running again later this year and stressed that at no time during 1990 was the village short of patrolmen. "Although the tactical unit was down, the field units were never down in strength," he said.

Haeger said that 39 of the department's 40 patrolman positions are now filled.

## Wheeling Police Department Crime Statistics

Crime	1990	1989	Percent Change
Murder/voluntary manslaughter	0	0	0%
Involuntary manslaughter	0	0	0%
Criminal sexual assault/aggravated	4	7	-42%
Criminal sexual assault/attempted	0	0	0%
Robbery	7	4	+75%
Assault/aggravated	20	25	-20%
Burglary/forcible	79	46	+71%
Burglary from motor vehicle	261	195	+34%
Theft over \$300	126	119	+5%
Theft under \$300	380	380	0%
Motor vehicle theft	49	65	-24%
Arson	5	3	+66%
Deception/forgery/fraud	124	121	+2%
Stolen property/possession	10	8	+25%
Criminal damage to property	624	518	+20%
Deadly weapons	20	21	-5%
Sex Offenses	24	23	+4%
Gambling	0	0	0%
Offenses involving children	172	183	-6%
Cannabis control act/possession	41	83	-51%
Controlled substance act	15	15	0%
Hypodermic needle act	5	0	+500%
Liquor control act	19	62	-70%
Driving under the influence of alcohol	171	159	+7%
Disorderly conduct	407	522	-22%
Resisting or obstructing police	32	38	-11%
Unlawful restraint	3	2	+50%
Violation of orders of protection	11	11	0%
Grand totals	574	519	+11%

Source: Wheeling Police Department

# Wheeling village board looking for clerk

4-25-91  
By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling is looking for someone who cares about the village, and is willing to sit through board meetings and not offer an opinion about anything.

In other words, the village is accepting applications for a new clerk.

"Sometimes you sit (at meetings) and you think, 'boy, am I glad that I don't have to vote on this.' (Other times), you think you could provide a different point of view," said Village Clerk Lois Gafke.

Gafke has been the village clerk for the past two years. She recently won election to a seat on the village board, leaving the village looking for a replacement from among its residents.

The main job of the clerk, Gafke said, is to assist Village President Sheila Schultz with her duties.

Other job responsibilities include attending every village board meeting and taking formal minutes.

"No one expects War and Peace from the clerk but there is a certain standard expected," Gafke said.

She stressed that organization skills and an interest in the workings of village government are two of the most important qualifications for the post.

The clerk also serves as the local election official, custodian of the village seal and documents and signatory on most village documents.

In addition to attending village board meetings, the clerk attends all Liquor Control Commission,

Emergency Telephone Systems (911), and budget meetings. The clerk also attends quarterly meetings of the Fire Pension Board.

"A well-organized village clerk can expect to spend eight to 12 hours a week plus meetings (doing the job)," Gafke said.

Sometimes the village clerk receives calls at home from residents with questions but for the most part Gafke said the job doesn't involve much contact with the public.

The clerk receives \$3,000 a year and is paid once a month.

Letters of application should be sent by May 10 to: President and Board of Trustees, Village of Wheeling, 255 East Dundee Road, Wheeling, Ill., 60090.

# Police, fire panel studies impact of new disabilities act on hiring

4-26-91  
By JOHN BURNS  
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners may have to change its hiring procedures thanks to a new federal law prohibiting employers from giving medical examinations to prospective employees.

The new Americans with Disabilities Act, effective in 1992, prohibits an employer from giving medical examinations to applicants until after they have been hired, a law that poses problems for the commission. Applicants for police and fire department jobs are now given physical examinations as part of the testing process.

"According to the statute, you cannot give someone a medical exam during the testing process," said Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes. "You test for ability to perform first. Then you determine whether or not the person is medically able to perform the required duties."

Village officials said the physical nature of police and fire training programs makes physical examinations an essential part of hiring procedure and that police and fire departments will have to restructure testing requirements unless the federal statute can be changed. As it stands, the statute will not only cause delays in hiring and cost these departments money, officials said.

"The issue is going to be whether or not we're going to need new rules and regulations to straighten this out before the act takes effect next year," Rhodes said.

The commission also looked into other areas of policy, including the lowering of passing grades on promotional exams from 75 percent to 70 percent, as well as establishing a maximum age for hiring.

Village Manager Joni L. Beaudry said some jobs, including police and fire department positions, may end up being exempt from the act so the commission will hold off making any definite changes in policy for awhile.

# Former police officer asks for hearing in higher court

4-27-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A former Wheeling police officer is asking the Illinois Supreme Court to help him get his job back now that a lower court has refused to hear his appeal.

Richard R. Imber was fired from his \$34,812-a-year job after the Wheeling Fire and Police Commission found him guilty of battery and two gambling charges brought by Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who sought the dismissal in January 1989.

A Cook County circuit court judge upheld the firing in January 1990 and Imber's attorney, Thomas McGuire, asked the Illinois Appellate Court to overturn that decision.

But the appellate court recently decided not to hear the case because Haeger was not named in the original lawsuit filed against the commission.

"In 1990 the Illinois Supreme Court came down with a decision saying that both the board and the chief have to be named," said

McGuire. "And then in 1991, the appellate court dismissed the case because we did not name the chief in our 1989 case. We are asking the Supreme Court to say their decision is prospective, not retroactive."

McGuire said that he should hear within 30 days if the Supreme Court will hear the case. If they rule in Imber's favor, the case would be turned back to the appellate court for review.

Although Imber could not be reached for comment, McGuire said he still wants his job back.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the village is confident the decision to fire Imber will hold up.

"We still stand by our position," he said. "I am confident the Supreme Court will not hear the case."

The gambling charges stemmed from three incidents between May 1988 and January 1989 at Vivian Lee's, a Wheeling restaurant. After a fight there in January 1989 Imber was also found guilty of battery.

# False alarms ring up bill

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

4-25-91  
*Country side*  
An alarm comes in at the Wheeling police station. Odds are, the alarm is false, but one or two squads are dispatched immediately.

"It's not that (false alarms) are such a pain in the side. They just prevent the officers from addressing other patrol issues," said Wheeling Police Cmdr. Eric Larson. "Every time you go, you've got to treat (an alarm) as real and when it's not, you just thank your lucky stars."

Officers in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling thank a lot of stars.

Since 1989, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove police have answered 8,452 alarms. Less than one-half of one percent of them involved an actual crime, police said.

In Wheeling, there were 2,264 alarms in 1989. All but six were false calls. In 1990, there were 2,323 alarms and 13 valid calls. Through March 15 of this year, there have been 373 alarms. All but 1 of them have been false calls.

In Buffalo Grove, there were 1,498 alarms in 1989; 1,575 in 1990; and 419 so far this year. Police estimate that less than one percent of these alarms have been valid, although exact numbers aren't available.

The police departments routinely send two squad cars to answer an alarm. This procedure takes a minimum of 15 minutes. In Buffalo Grove, it costs approximately \$178 to answer each alarm.

"The false alarm call is just a waste of money and time. Nothing gets accomplished," said Buffalo Grove Deputy Chief of Staff Services Arthur Voigt. "You'd like to see your officers out helping others instead of chasing mechanical failures."

To try and recoup some of the cost, Wheeling recently enacted a false alarm ordinance which charges residents and businesses \$50 per alarm after five false alarms in a 12-month period. After 10 false alarms, the fee increases to \$100 per false alarm.

Alarms set off by severe weather or power outages aren't included.

In Buffalo Grove, the village board recently amended its alarm ordinance to

increase its fee schedule.

In the past, the village billed false alarms at \$25 per incident. Under the new law, alarm owners are allowed two false alarms in a six-month period and then are charged \$50 per alarm up to five; \$75 per alarm up to nine; and \$150 per alarm for any over 10.

"I am really concerned about where we are going with the future of alarms," Voigt said, adding that technology has made alarms affordable for most homeowners and more alarms mean more false alarms. "We're going to be chasing down more false alarms, wasting more time (and) accomplishing less."

In addition to paying for false alarms, each village has an annual licensing fee. In Buffalo Grove that fee is \$10 the first year and \$5 each year after. In Wheeling, that fee is \$20 each year.

"We're not after revenues," Voigt said. "We are trying to cut down on false alarms. (We want people to) put in something (so) simple that children can operate the things."

While revenues aren't the goal in Buffalo Grove, they are expected. The 1992 fiscal year budget calls for \$40,000 to be raised by false alarms. That number is up from \$17,500 in fiscal year 1991 and \$14,000 in fiscal year 1990.

"It is almost a revenue item that you'd love to collect zero on, but that isn't going to happen," said Buffalo Grove Finance Director William Brimm. "There will (always) be false alarms and (we) will continue to take in money."

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove aren't unique in their revenue collection ordinances for false alarms. According to a Northwest Municipal Conference Survey on false alarm ordinances, 22 of 23 communities who responded stated they had similar laws.

Those communities include: Arlington Heights, Barrington, Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Glenview, Hanover Park, Highland Park, Inverness, Lake Forest, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Palatine, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights, Roselle, Schaumburg, Skokie, Vernon Hills and Wilmette.

The only community which stated it didn't have a false alarm ordinance was Northfield.

## Paint job to spruce up Palwaukee hangars

4-26-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport will get a bit of a facelift this spring when the four buildings that house small aircraft are painted.

The airport will pay a Hoffman Estates firm, Dennis McInerney Inc., \$17,600 to paint the buildings, where 37 airplanes are stored.

The hangars, on the south end of the airport along Palatine Road, have been called unsightly by airport commissioners and efforts last fall to get the hangars painted were unsuccessful.

At that time, few companies wanted the work and the lowest price quoted was about \$38,000.

But the third time turned out a charm for commissioners when 21 bids were received.

"We wanted to paint earlier," said Commissioner Anthony Altieri. "But we didn't get a lot of bids. The prices were far more favorable this time. Frankly, those hangars are quite an eyesore. This should improve the appearance of the airport."

The Federal Aviation Administration originally directed the airport to demolish all of the T-hangars, but because the airport needs to offer pilots covered storage

space, officials struck a deal with the FAA and only the five build-

ings nearest the runway were torn down last fall.

In preparation for the painting, the remaining hangars have been repaired by airport maintenance staff. During the painting, expected to begin in May and take about 30 days, aircraft will be stored at another location on the the airport grounds, according to Michael F. Zonsius, assistant manager of finance and administration.

Eventually, airport officials hope to tear down all of the T-hangars and build new ones on property north of the airport that is now the Twin Drive-in Theaters. However, that move is at least five years down the road, according to Zonsius.

## Wheeling searching for a new village clerk

4-27-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents, who are at least 18 years old, and are interested in serving as village clerk have until May 10 to send their resume to village hall.

The village board is looking for someone to serve as clerk until April of 1993, filling the unexpired term of Lois J. Gaffke who was elected vil-

lage trustee earlier this month.

And although she will take over her duties as trustee at the May 6 village board meeting, village officials have lined up an interim clerk until a new one is found.

The clerk is responsible for taking minutes at village board meetings and then transcribing and publishing those minutes along with seeing that they are kept at village hall.

It is also the duty of the clerk to

seal and sign village documents that are going to other municipalities or agencies.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said it is hard to estimate how much time the clerk's job takes on a weekly basis.

"Like other elected officials the actual time requirements are hard to estimate," she said. "There are many things the clerk does that serve the village. We like her to at-

tend clerk's association meetings and represent the village board at other functions. It is hard to pin down the number of hours it takes."

After May 10, interview times will be set up and any trustee can participate in the interview process. The clerk will be selected by Schultz but her appointment must be affirmed by the village board. The village clerk is paid \$3,000 per year.

Executive Editor: Peter Neill  
Deputy Executive Editor: Alan P. Henry  
Editor/Bureau Chief: Carol Goddard  
Managing Editor: Arnold Grahl

## Alarming trends

4-25-91  
*Country side*  
**N**o one likes being awakened at 3 a.m. by a prank call. In much the same manner, police and firefighters grit their teeth when the alarm bell sounds, officers jump in their squad cars or fire engines and race across town to discover yet another electrical malfunction has triggered a false alarm.

Both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove have adopted or toughened their penalties for false alarms, but the burden is on alarm owners to cut down on the number of wasted emergency responses.

In Wheeling alone last year, there were 2,323 alarms. Only 13 were the real thing. In Buffalo Grove, the police or fire bells sounded 1,575 times, with less than 1 percent of them valid.

The numbers of alarms are staggering; the resulting chaos costly. Every false fire alarm costs about \$500, while false police alarms rob the village of about \$100, Wheeling officials say.

The proliferation of affordable alarm systems over the years has not helped the situation, either. The alarm system has been so abused that many alarm owners have developed a blase attitude about false calls. At a hearing before the board in support of Wheeling's new law, Police Chief Michael Haeger relayed a tale of how one property owner told officers he pulled his alarm to test how fast they would respond to the call. Such an attitude must end.

Both villages have taken their own steps to limit false alarms. Buffalo Grove, which has had a regulation on the books since 1977, increased its fine last year from \$25 to \$50, with a penalty up to \$75 after five false alarms. Wheeling adopted an ordinance last year which fines alarm owners \$50 after the fifth false call.

It's too early to measure the Wheeling law's impact. Unfortunately, no amount of fines is going to do the trick by itself.

Both towns need the help of alarm owners. Businesses and homeowners must keep their alarms in top repair and have them serviced immediately when problems develop.

# Planners cringe at more stores on Route 83

4-29-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While Wheeling plan commissioners admit that multi-family housing may not be what belongs on the southwest corner of Elmhurst and McHenry roads, they don't want the corner to be developed as another general commercial district, either.

Habilis Inc., a Palos Hills developer, asked the plan commission to rezone the property from residential to commercial use.

And although village staff members object to putting commercial buildings on the 1-acre site, some plan commissioners said that they would not object to some type of

commercial or office development on the property.

Village Planner Mark Janeck said a private entrance to Colonial Condominiums goes through the site, 180 feet from the intersection. He said that driveway should be taken out if the developers want to put up commercial buildings.

"Normally, 500 feet is required between an entrance and a major intersection," he said. "Allowing residential traffic to go through a commercial area like this is just not done. Usually, the residential traffic has its own entrance."

Representatives of Habilis said that they would like to put two 3,000-square-foot buildings that would house professional people, medical supply stores or computer

stores. The buildings would be on either side of the entrance to the condominiums.

Commissioners suggested the developers petition for zoning that would allow offices and some, but not all, commercial uses. But William Grobbs, one of the Habilis partners, said that zoning would be too narrow.

"There are a number of types of uses that are not heavy retail but not office, either," he said. "We want to leave our options a little more open."

Plan commission Chairman Paul E. Eisterhold urged the developers to get together with Janeck and work out a compromise zoning and appear again before the commission in four weeks.

# Centennial panel to raise funds

4-30-91  
By ROBIN SWANSON  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling Centennial Commission members will make their first push for money at this year's Wheeling Familyfest, selling personalized pins, ponchos, sunglasses and history books.

Commission members are hoping their booth at Familyfest will serve several purposes, including raising funds for the centennial celebration, educating the public about the history of Wheeling, generating interest in the centennial and recruiting new volunteers to help plan and carry out the celebration.

Although there is some confusion about what type of booth the commission will have at Familyfest, they hope it will be an information booth rather than a game booth.

Committee members have made rough plans for some of the centennial events, scheduled to take place over an 18-month period and end with a parade and time capsule ceremony on Aug. 7, 1994. A family barbecue and picnic will end the day.

Fund-raising plans also include an 18-month calendar that will lead up to the celebration which will focus on "Glancing Back, Looking Ahead."

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Sprinkler system required for new school

5-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Plan Commissioners put a kink Thursday in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21's plans for the new Whitman Elementary School when they required that the building have a sprinkler system.

Although the State Fire Marshal does not require sprinkler systems in school buildings, the village of Wheeling building code does. Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said that he approved preliminary plans for the new building, at 133 S. Wille Ave, with sprinklers and was surprised to see that final plans no longer included them.

"The site plan was approved by

my staff on agreement it would be sprinkled," he said. "As such it would not require fire lanes, additional water mains and fire hydrants. We feel this is an inappropriate site plan if the building is not sprinkled."

But Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said that district officials felt the district's 24-hour monitoring system, including heat, smoke and motion detectors, was adequate. He said that it would cost around \$70,000 to install sprinklers in the \$3.69 million building.

"Given the nature of school finances and requirements we have to meet, we are comfortable with where we stand," he said. "Our first and foremost method of defense is the monitoring system."

But MacIssac said sprinklers would help bring a fire under control faster. In addition, because there is not enough room to get the village's 40-foot ladder truck around the south side of the new building, the sprinklers are necessary, he said.

Commissioners voted to require the sprinkling system in the new building despite comments from DesCarpentrie that fire trucks cannot make the turn on the east side of the current building, which does not have a sprinkler system. DesCarpentrie said the district was opposed to moving the building 30 feet north to make room for a fire lane because it would lose playground space.

# Subscribers to see a change in TCI's lineup

5-6-91  
By ANNE SCHMITT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

TCI of Illinois subscribers will lose two old channels, but they'll gain four new ones and a different channel lineup starting in June.

TCI is making the changes for several reasons, said TCI marketing manager David Briggs. First, he said, customers should find the order convenient because it will group together those channels offered under the expanded basic service.

It also will make it easier for the company to control service.

"If you don't want it, it will be easier for us to remove those channels," Briggs said. "We would be able to filter out those channels all

in one group." That should save the company money in the long run, he said.

"If we can control those costs, obviously it will help us control our rate increases," Briggs said.

The company plans to send subscribers revised channel listing cards and a free issue of the cable television guide, he said. Channel order may be different in different communities, he said.

Among the municipalities TCI serves are Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg, Streamwood and Wheeling.

Expanded basic service, which will cost an additional \$1.25 after July 1, will include six channels,

rather than the current five — AMC, Arts and Entertainment, ESPN, TNT, USA cable and Court TV. The new channel, Court TV will broadcast trials from across the country, as well as legal education programs.

Under the new schedule, TCI will add the Comedy Network and drop the J.C. Penney Channel, a shopping network, and TBN, a Christian programming channel. It will be replaced with VISN, which offers inter-denominational programs.

The company also will offer ENCORE, an optional channel that will range in price from \$1 to \$4.95, depending on the other services a customer has. The channel will air movies from the 1960s to the 1980s.

# Financial worries threaten aquatic center

5-7-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Trustees postponed approval of the Wheeling Park District's \$4.5 million aquatic center Monday night amid concerns about the financial viability of the project.

Trustee Judy Abruscato expressed concern that the aquatic center's revenue might not cover expenses. But Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, said that surveys of other family aquatic centers, especially one in Lisle, show that the center should generate about \$40,000 in revenues.

Trustees were being asked to approve plans for the aquatic center

and a \$4 million community recreation building along with a third phase including more parking, for the park district property on Dundee Ave. between the Wheeling village hall and Wickes Furniture Co.

But, uncomfortable with the fact that a referendum would be needed to fund operation of the recreation building, trustees directed village and park district staff to further discuss funding plans.

"There seems to be a lot of question about financial liability," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

"We have asked a lot of the same questions that you probably asked yourselves," Trustee William A. Rogers told the park board commissioners, all seven of whom

were present. "And you have come up with a lot of good answers."

Park Board President Thomas Webber told the trustees that the park board stood united behind its plans.

"We as a board and staff have worked very hard with the architects," he said. "We have a united board here this evening. We have asked a lot of the questions you asked and come up with some good answers. The Heritage Park facility has been inadequate for 10 to 15 years. We want to do something to serve the entire community."

Park district officials had hoped for approval of the aquatic center plans Monday so that the center could open by the summer of 1992.

# Dist. 21 to discuss Whitman school sprinklers

5-1-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 officials, taken by surprise by the Wheeling Plan Commission's decision to require a sprinkling system in plans for the new Whitman Elementary School, have not decided whether they will comply with that requirement, School Board President Barrett R. Peterson said the board will have its first chance to discuss the issue this week.

"We will discuss our options on Thursday," Peterson said. "There are several possibilities. The obvious one is to put in sprinklers. We could also move the building 30 feet north so fire trucks can get around back."

Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said the school board has not considered asking the Wheeling village board, which will have final say on the site plans, to override the plan commission.

Trustees are expected to consider the issue in mid-May. And Peterson said he hopes an agreement can be worked out that will suit both the school district and the village.



### An oath of effort

Lois Gaffke, left, is sworn in as a Wheeling trustee by Village President Sheila H. Schultz. Tony Altieri Jr. and Judy Abruscato also took the oath of office Monday night. Schultz declared May 8 "Gaffke Appreciation Day," in honor of Gaffke's work as village clerk.

Daily Herald Photo/Kenneth Goldman

5-7-91

## Pilots, Palwaukee panel agree on lease changes

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After hearing concerns from pilots who lease space at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport, members of the airport's finance and administration committee agreed to make some changes in the lease for tie-down spaces.

Airport officials have been working on the lease, originally a 12-page document now down to two pages, for eight years.

But pilots were concerned that the lease, for outdoor storage at the airport, is too restrictive, because it states that the space can be used only for storage of aircraft.

However, Fred E. Stewart, airport manager, said that aircraft owners would be able to perform certain preventive maintenance jobs on planes.

"The intent was so people could not store boats, house trailers or other items on their spaces," he said.

Stewart also said that at least 29 maintenance jobs that the Federal Aviation Administration says do not

have to be performed by a certified mechanic can still be done by the owner.

"Everything the feds say an owner can do to his aircraft, he can still do," he said.

Some pilots also wanted airport officials to set an annual fee for the tie-down spaces. The airport now can raise rates after giving 30-day notice to tenants, but the airport commission has not raised the rates in several years.

"I would like to get notice of what rent would be for the next 12 months," said Steen Munter, a Palatine resident who rents space at the airport. "It would be a benefit to people out there who are trying to work on a budget."

But commissioners decided against setting rent a year at a time.

"Essentially we want to specify the fact that this is a month-to-month lease," said Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno. "We are allowing people to terminate their lease with a 30-day notice, so why should we lock in a price for a fixed period? Typically, raising fees is part of the annual budget process."



Artist's rendering of the proposed Wheeling Park District Family Aquatic center showing sand volleyball courts, pool, sunning area and water slides.

5-8-91

## Village puts brakes on aquatic center plans

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials were surprised when the Wheeling Village Board postponed approval of their family aquatic and community recreation centers because trustees were concerned about their financial viability.

And they say that how they pay for the \$8.5 million dollar project is not the Village Board's concern.

Park board commissioners went before the village board to get a zoning change and site plan approval but trustees barely touched on the plans while they had many questions about how the park district would fund the first two phases of the project.

"We were there for a zoning varia-

tion and site plan approval," said Commissioner William D. Mattes. "They hardly asked any questions about that. The financial structure is our responsibility."

Park board commissioners had hoped to get approval of the aquatic center, which will be built from bond revenue, so that construction could begin this spring. A delay in construction could mean that the aquatic center, which will include a pool, five water slides, sand volleyball courts and sunning areas, could not be open in time for the 1992 season.

"I know this seems like a delay and it is a delay," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "But this whole project has been done very quickly — it is a big project, it deserves time."

But Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, said he is not sure what questions the village wants the park district to answer before the project can proceed.

"I am trying to find out as soon as possible, what the questions are so that we can address them," he said. "My understanding is that they (trustees) want a recital of the questions they asked Monday night, and the answers we gave to see if they have enough information or need to ask more questions. It strikes me as a Catch-22. And there is no timetable."

Bavougian said that operation of the aquatic center will be paid for from money the center is expected to make, and that money to run the community recreation center would

have to be raised through a tax increase that would have to be approved by voters.

And Schultz said because the Village Board and the park district are often considered interchangeable by taxpayers it is important for trustees to understand the financing plans.

"We as a village get questions and complaints about everything," she said. "It is to everybody's advantage that we understand."



Kathy Marie Lopez examines the falling ceiling in one of the abandoned buildings. The house still holds the possessions of its previous owner.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

## Abandoned buildings become kids' hangout

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of abandoned buildings on Wolf Road in Wheeling has become a local hangout for children and neighbors are concerned that the buildings, while unsafe for children to play in, may also become a haven for gang activity.

Only one of the buildings, an abandoned house, can be seen by passing motorists. But behind it, there is another house, garage and shack. While one of the houses is boarded up, the other three buildings — all in a state of disrepair and still containing refrigerators, mattresses and other items left behind by someone — are open for anybody to walk through.

Kathy Marie Lopez, a resident of the Capri Terrace Apartments, said she first became aware of the building when her children "brought home a bunch of tools" from one of the buildings in early March.

But when her daughter told her a child had been hit by a falling board in one of the buildings, she called the Wheeling Police Department and

**"My kids have been there. And that means other kids are going to find out about it and if I let this go, something is going to happen — a child is going to get hurt."**

— Kathy Marie Lopez, a resident of Capri Terrace Apartments

asked them to investigate.

"My kids have been there," she said. "And that means other kids are going to find out about it and if I let this go, something is going to happen — a child is going to get hurt."

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said community service officers investigated the property earlier this week and the owner has been contacted and asked to secure the buildings.

He also said that the officers indicated there was no evidence of gang activity.

"There was nothing in the memo from my staff about graffiti," he said. "If there were signs of gather-

ing I'm sure they would have been in the report."

But Lopez, who was a member of Mother's Against Gangs when she lived in Chicago, said some early signs of gang activity are present around the buildings and residents living near the buildings have seen gang members there.

And while there is no gang-symbol graffiti, some obscenities and racial slurs have been spray-painted on one of the buildings.

"One time I found a full case of beer in here," Lopez said. "And vandalism, graffiti — those are early signs."

Because the buildings are tucked

out of sight, Lopez had to bring the situation to the attention of village officials, who do not regularly patrol the village looking for abandoned buildings.

"Sometimes the police department makes us aware of these kind of situations," said Thomas Fennell Jr., building, housing and zoning administrator. "We also rely on citizens to call us."

Michael Klitzke, community development director, said his department is checking the buildings twice a day until the owner secures them, by boarding them up. Community Development will make checks to see that it remains secured. And Fennell said if the buildings are not secured "within the next few days" the village will notify the property owner that they are going to board up the building and charge him for it.

The 14 acres the buildings sit on are slated to be purchased by Joseph Freed and Associates for a 39-house subdivision. And if the village board gives final approval to the project next month, the buildings could be gone by the middle of the summer.

## Palwaukee plan gets off ground

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Water used to clean some contaminated soil near the Palwaukee Municipal Airport could be flushed down storm sewers on the airport now that commissioners on the finance and administration committee have given tentative approval to the plan.

If the Environmental Protection Agency grants the necessary permits to Preister Aviation, previous owner of the airport, the water could be dumped into the storm sewer sometime this summer.

"The water would be purified before it is released," said Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno. "The whole process has to be approved by the EPA."

Officials from Preister found the small amount of contaminated soil last fall, when making insurance testing inspections. Preister still operates a service station, with gas and mechanics on duty, on the airport.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said the contaminated soil is a result of every day use of the 30-year-tanks and not the result of leakage.

Under the process, the soil will be stripped clean using air and water and then put back into the ground. The runoff from the cleaning process will then be cleaned and discharged into the sewer.

Chickerno said Preister Aviation will have to dig a trench to the sewer system and will be responsible for replacing any ground and landscaping uprooted in the process.

# Crime and police budgets: A suburban 'balancing act'

BY DAN ROZEK  
and LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

When it comes to protecting your town, how many cops are enough?

In Arlington Heights, officials trying to answer that question studied their own force and looked at neighboring police departments before deciding to add five officers this year.

"Arlington Heights is low as contrasted to a number of suburbs around us," said Village President William O. Maki.

In nearby Mount Prospect, police union officials recently released a study showing the number of officers per 1,000 residents is among the lowest in the Northwest suburbs.

Besides quibbling with the survey results, village officials say there is no money for more officers — and none were added.

"There's only so much money in the pot," said Mount Prospect Village Manager John F. Dixon.

Across the Northwest suburbs, officials and police administrators an-

nually square off in the spring for sometimes heated budget battles to determine how much police protection is affordable.

Even when there's no squabbling, it's a tough call to make, police and village officials acknowledge.

"It's definitely a balancing act," said Streamwood Village Administrator Robert Bockwinski, whose town is hiring one new officer this year, although police officials asked to hire five. "It's based on what your needs are — what do we need and what can we afford?"

Every town draws the line in a different place, but most consider the same elements when they make their decisions.

Many at least look at staffing guidelines established by law enforcement associations. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, for example, recommends municipal departments have 1.5 officers per 1,000 residents.

"There isn't a golden rule by which police agencies staff," said

See POLICE on Page 4



## Policing the Northwest suburbs

Rankings, per 1,000 population

Police officers		Crimes	
1. South Barrington	4.42	1. Prospect Heights	54.7
2. Barrington Hills	4.28	2. Schaumburg	50.2
3. Elk Grove Village	2.93	3. Rolling Meadows	48.9
4. Rolling Meadows	2.39	4. Elk Grove Village	42.0
5. Schaumburg	1.93	5. Hanover Park	40.9
6. Barrington/Inverness	1.87	6. Palatine	39.9
7. Des Plaines	1.84	7. Des Plaines	37.1
8. Hoffman Estates	1.82	8. Streamwood	36.9
9. Palatine	1.80	9. Arlington Heights	36.4
10. Wheeling	1.76	10. Mount Prospect	34.0
11. Buffalo Grove	1.70	11. Hoffman Estates	30.9
12. Bartlett	1.54	12. Bartlett	30.7
13. Streamwood	1.48	13. Wheeling	30.7
14. Arlington Heights	1.39	14. Barrington/Inverness	28.7
15. Mount Prospect	1.31	15. Buffalo Grove	20.6
16. Hanover Park	1.21	16. South Barrington	15.4
17. Prospect Heights	1.18	17. Barrington Hills	14.5

Note: Police officer rankings based on 1990 Census and 1991 officer counts; crime figures based on 1993 statistics

Source: Illinois Department of State Police, Daily Herald interviews, U.S. Bureau of Census

## POLICE: Features invalidate population-based figuring

Continued from Page 1

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Hager, who also serves as president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. "You're not understaffed if you're below that (FBI) level."

Many towns have specific features that skew the national guidelines to the point that they're worthless, some police authorities say. Those specific circumstances also make it difficult to compare police forces in neighboring suburbs.

Based strictly on statistics, for example, Elk Grove Village seems to have a large number of officers with nearly three per 1,000 residents. That statistic is deceiving because the village is home to a 4,000-business industrial park that almost triples the town's daytime population, said Deputy Chief Raymond Rose.

"That now is kind of an antiquated way of looking at what you need," Rose said of the staffing guidelines.

Mostly, administrators and police chiefs say they have to consider internal factors — the number of police calls, the type of programs they want to implement and even public pressures from citizens.

"There are going to be many, many factors that come into play: crime stats, population demographics, income," said Schaumburg Police Capt. Clifford Johnson. "Every community has to weigh and evaluate its needs."

The addition of a few new officers

typically is not needed to change an unsafe town to a safe one, say police. Instead, adding officers gives towns more flexibility to deal with problems and to add new law enforcement programs, they said.

"We're not down on our patrol staff, and our investigation staff is adequate," said Streamwood Deputy Police Chief Larry Knoll. "We ask for more people to perform more programs."

In Arlington Heights, the five new cops are needed to increase the department's ability to pursue investigations, provide counseling in the juvenile units and boost the size of the department's tactical enforcement bureau, officials said.

Schaumburg authorities — who saw the size of the police department boosted by 23 officers in 1989 and 1990 — say the additional officers give the department a greater ability to respond quickly to problems.

Officers were added to the department's special operations group and its narcotics unit, Johnson said.

"We're able to do more in-house," said Johnson. "There are many more problems we can focus on without going outside (the department). We don't have to run around to other departments to put things together."

Those additional programs and services have to be balanced against the cost of the additional cops needed to perform them. Residents' concerns about rising local taxes also complicate the equation, Maki said.

## Wheeling gives store a chance to reopen

By Kathie Mitchell

When Vince Canale planned to change his business address, he never expected to be shut down for more than two weeks.

But the owner of Vince's Carpet in Wheeling saw two weeks turn into six, and for a few tense minutes at a Wheeling Village Board meeting this week, it looked as if six weeks could become forever.

But the board finally came through with a temporary license so Canale could open his new showroom, though trustees didn't guarantee they won't make him close it later.

At issue is whether Jerry Collins, owner of the Collins Fireplace & Patio Shop, can lease a portion of his newly renovated building at 561 W. Dundee Rd. to Canale.

Village building department employees told Collins he could, providing he made some changes to the building. So Collins, who had already spent two years getting permits for the expansion of his building, agreed to add a firewall and a bathroom and make other improvements at a cost of \$15,000, he said.

But no one ever mentioned that Village Board approval was needed, according to Collins. At least, not until Canale, who had sold his old building at 61 S. Milwaukee Ave., and moved out March 15, applied for a change of address on his business license in April.

That's when Village Manager

Craig Anderson noticed something was wrong. According to village ordinance, Collins needs a special-use permit if he is going to lease a part of his building, which turns it into a shopping center, Anderson said.

"It's been tough," said Canale, who intended to open in the new location April 1. He estimates he has lost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 while being closed. He said two of his carpet installers have quit and he has had to go to clients' homes with carpet samples while he has been without a showroom.

Canale has been in business for 15 years. If the board hadn't allowed a temporary business license, he would have gone bankrupt, Collins said. "He's not a big business person. He's got a wife and kids to support," Collins said.

"It was certainly unfortunate the situation occurred," Anderson said.

But Trustee William A. Rogers accused Collins of hiding his plans for a tenant when he was seeking board approval for expansion of his fireplace business. "I feel somewhat deceived. I'm not pleased," he said.

Collins, who blames the village for the situation, said he now has to submit new drawings to the village and pay an application fee for the special-use permit.

"I've done everything they have asked me to. I've built everything first-class," Collins said. "Somebody should have said something months ago."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 5-9-91

## Wheeling Ill. 83-Lexington stoplight approved

After more than a year of discussion with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the village will be able to install a traffic signal at Illinois Highway 83 (Old McHenry Road) and Lexington Drive.

Village officials just approved a \$23,000 contract to pay for the temporary traffic signals. Village Manager Craig Anderson said both the village and IDOT, which has jurisdiction over Illinois 83, conducted traffic studies that show the intersection warrants traffic lights.

But IDOT would not approve the installation of temporary signals unless permanent signals could be put up within a year. IDOT plans to improve the intersection and install permanent lights probably in "four or five years," Anderson said.

After a year and a half of discussion between IDOT and the village, IDOT recently agreed to allow the village to install the lights at its own expense, Anderson said.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 5-11-91

# Wheeling chief answers call with changes

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire Department has seen several changes since Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac took over at its helm a little over a year ago.

Firefighters are working with a contract for the first time in four years, a new fire engine has been ordered and firefighters are getting some hands-on practice by holding training exercises in houses slated for demolition.

And while he looks back on his first year with satisfaction, MacIsaac said he cannot take all the credit for pulling the department together and getting it back on the move.

"A lot of the guys were looking for a change," he said. "They have been cooperative and the village board has also been willing to make changes."

MacIsaac came to the village after serving as Lake Zurich's fire chief for about two years. He said the transition from that growing village to the more stable atmosphere in Wheeling was an easy one to make.

"I wore 20 million hats in Lake Zurich," he said. "One day I was the building inspector, the next day something else. Here I have time to devote myself to being responsible for the department."

But he said although he had negotiated a contract with Lake Zurich firefighters, he was unprepared for the contract situation that confronted him when he came to Wheeling last April.

Talks between the village and firefighters had broken down and both sides were considering arbitration as the only way to settle the dispute.

And while MacIsaac is credited by



Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac did not break with tradition when he ordered a new fire engine for the department. It, like this one, will be yellow. Daily Herald Photo/Dave Torga

both village officials and firefighters with bringing the two sides to agreement in November, he said that he had help.

"I can't take all the credit," he said. "If the guys hadn't wanted to make it happen it wouldn't have happened."

The agreement runs through April 1993, but MacIsaac said he still spends one-third of his time dealing with union issues.

"The negotiations ended but the talks still go on," he said.

MacIsaac, 32, said he has been in-

terested in fire safety since he was a youth living in Mount Prospect. He participated in the fire cadet program at Forest View High School in Arlington Heights.

He worked with Monstanto Chemical Company for five years before returning to Mount Prospect as their first fire protection engineer in 1984. When the Lake Zurich job opened he "made the jump."

"I always wanted to manage a fire department," he said.

MacIsaac's vision for Wheeling included bringing the department back to the cutting edge of fire safety.

"I'm always looking for ways to improve service and educate the public," he said. "We've lost our edge and I'm trying to bring us back to being a forerunner in technology."

"My favorite part of this job is the feeling you get when things go really well in an emergency," he said. "I just feel really proud of the department."

But most of all, he said his job is fun.

"I do that job that every kid in the United States wants to do at some time or another," he said. "And I get to do it everyday."

# Wheeling trustees questioning plans for recreation complex

By Kathie Mitchell

Wheeling's Village Board is finding that plans for a big new swimming pool complex and recreation center are a big chunk to swallow.

The park board has asked trustees to approve the site plan for the 86-acre project so it can proceed with the first phase, a \$4.5 million aquatic center.

But the trustees have put off a vote until they get some answers about the later phases of the plan.

For instance, they ask, what will happen to the land if voters refuse to approve the sale of \$4 million in bonds for Phase 2, the 54,000-square-foot administrative and recreation center?

And what would happen to land scheduled for athletic fields and parking in Phase 3 if authorities decide against a construction project that would take it out of a flood plain?

The park district has already bought the site south of Dundee Road and east of Boehmer Avenue, next to the Village Hall and Heritage Park. And it has enough bonding authority to pay for the pool complex, the park district's first outdoor swimming facility.

"This community has been lacking in facilities... for a long time," said Karop Bavougian,

director of parks and recreation.

Bonds would pay for construction of the aquatic center and user fees would pay the operating costs, Bavougian said. The center is expected to generate about \$180,000 in annual revenue with expenses at \$130,000, he said.

The plans include a zero-depth pool, with a gradual slope like a beach; four water slides; waterfalls; lap lanes; sand volleyball courts; a sand play area for children; and an adult area with lounge chairs and a spa.

But Phase 2, the recreation center, is more doubtful. The park district's bonding authority doesn't stretch far enough to pay for it, so the \$4 million in bonds would have to be approved by the voters in November. If it isn't, the center would be "put on the shelf," Bavougian said.

The exact cost to homeowners has not yet been determined, he said, but he estimated that most would pay about \$30 per year for the recreation center.

If it is built, the recreation center would include administrative offices; a gymnasium; preschool rooms; a nursery; a multipurpose room with a stage; an arts and crafts room with a kiln for ceramics; a health club area; and a jogging and running track.

The land scheduled for Phase 3 of the park plan is in a flood

plain and can't be developed. Plans to use it for recreation or parking depend on whether a diversionary channel under consideration by the village is built. The channel would move Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Creek and free the park land for use for recreation or parking.

At the Village Board's meeting last week, Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said that before voting on the site plan to let the pool complex proceed, she wants to see a contingency plan for the rest of the site if voters refuse the bond sale for the recreation center.

And Trustee William A. Rogers said he wants to know more about the financing of that building. "I'm concerned about this second phase," he said.

Park officials promised some answers, though Bavougian warned that pending legislation to cut park districts' taxing authority might endanger the project if it is delayed too long. Village Manager Craig Anderson said it is possible the board might be ready to discuss the matter at its next meeting May 20.

The Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals have recommended that the village approve the project.

# Wheeling says development not issue in annexation suit

By Amy Carr  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A lawsuit filed by Wheeling officials against the village of Buffalo Grove was not instigated with the hopes of quickly developing the 20 acres the two towns have locked horns over, Wheeling officials say.

Buffalo Grove leaders have questioned the timing of a lawsuit filed by Wheeling over the 20 acres at the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads.

Buffalo Grove officials, objecting to Wheeling's decision to change zoning on the property from residential to commercial,

annexed the parcel in January just days after Wheeling annexed the same land.

Wheeling officials and Roland Schwund, the owner of the land, have repeatedly told neighbors surrounding the parcel that there are no immediate plans to develop the land commercially.

But Buffalo Grove officials are not convinced this is the case. "It seems like the village and the owners, in spite of what was said, are very anxious to settle this issue — probably for the purpose of development, but we don't know that," Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling said.

Staff writer Bonnie Booth also contributed to this story.



# Wheeling trustees questioning plans for recreation complex

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director of parks and recreation.

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Park officials promised some answers, though Bavougian warned that pending legislation to cut park districts' taxing authority might endanger the project if it is delayed too long. Village Manager Craig Anderson said it is possible the board might be ready to discuss the matter at its next meeting May 20.

The Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals have recommended that the village approve the project.

## Aquatic center, rec building get green light

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District commissioners voted Monday to go ahead with plans to borrow \$9.75 million to pay for construction of a family aquatic center and recreation building.

The park district will borrow money through the sale of bonds, to be issued in about 30 days, but the money will only pay for construction of the two centers — not operating costs.

District officials expect revenue from the aquatic center to pay its operating expenses and they are contemplating a tax-rate hike to pay for ongoing costs of operating the recreation building.

Although one commissioner was worried that construction costs for the two projects might be higher than \$9.75 million, director of parks and recreation Karop Bavougian said he was confident the bond sale and interest from park district investments would cover the cost.

And Tom Busby, superintendent of finance, said that contractors for both projects should be selected by mid-November and their prices locked in.

"We feel we have taken a realistic approach to square footage cost, furnishing costs and architect's costs," Bavougian said.

Park district officials are expecting the 3.5-acre aquatic center — which will have a 17,000-square-

foot pool, adult spa area, children's play area, sand volleyball courts and a concession stand — to cost about \$4.5 million.

The recreation building containing classrooms, park district offices, a gymnasium and an indoor running track is expected to cost about \$4 million.

Last week, village trustees postponed approval of the project until their questions about financial viability could be answered. The trustees also wanted community reaction to the outdoor swimming pool.

Park board president Thomas Webber said that the more than 150 people who viewed the drawings of the project at last week-end's "Take Time for Fun" festival were supportive of the center.

## Village questions parks' aquatic center plan

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board has asked the Wheeling Park District to answer six questions about the district's proposed family aquatic center and recreation building, before trustees will consider approving the plan.

Among the issues that trustees want park board commissioners to address are funding, liability insurance, security, demand for the aquatic center and improvements to the Heritage Park fieldhouse.

Trustees also want to know if the park district has an alternate design plan in case the recreation building is not constructed.

Park district officials voted re-

cently to borrow money, through the sale of general revenue bonds, for construction of the two centers on land that now makes up the far west portion of Heritage Park at 222 S. Wolf Road and the recently acquired 18.5 acres along Dundee Road between the village hall and Wickes Furniture Co. But they say they will need voter approval, through a referendum, for a tax-rate increase to run the recreation building.

Park District commissioners have spent more than a year working on the project and some have said the financing should not be the village's concern.

"We've done our homework," said Commissioner Greg L. Kin-techi. "And I think we did it

right."

In a letter outlining the six questions, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson explained the village's position.

"Because this project has the potential for significant impact on our community, as well as the fact that the village of Wheeling must accept some responsibility for any new development in our community, there is a need for assurance that this project will indeed be successful and viable for many years in the future," he said. Park board officials are expected back before the village board May 20.

"We are dealing with the questions right now," said Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation.

## Northwest

### Wheeling

## Village approves school addition

An addition to Twain Elementary School, 515 E. Merle Lane, has been approved by the village.

The expansion will add more than 30,000 square feet to the school, including 11 classrooms and a gymnasium.

The \$3.4 million cost will be shared by School District 21; the Wheeling Park District, which will use the gymnasium; and the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization.

The park district will pay \$400,000 for its share of the gymnasium, said William Senne, director of operations for District 21. The special education organization's share has yet to be determined, he said.

Some of the new classrooms will be used for special education pupils now attending Berkeley School in Arlington Heights, which is being closed, Senne said.

Saying that cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes given by the Wheeling Fire Department are a necessary community service, Wheeling trustees will soon consider charging a fee to people wanting to learn the life-saving technique.

Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac recently told trustees that Wheeling is one of the few communities in the area that still conduct CPR classes and several of the students that take the classes are from other municipalities.

"Several fire departments we talked to said they refer everyone who calls them to Wheeling," he said.

Last year about 1,800 people took classes given by Wheeling firefighters.

Under the proposed fee schedule, students would pay \$10 for the standard five-hour class, and \$5 for annual recertification. People wishing to get certification to become an instructor

would pay \$25, with a \$10 recertification fee.

MacIsaac said there are no actual costs associated with the classes, and that while many of the classes can be taught by firefighters while they are on duty, on occasion an extra firefighter must be called in to teach.

"Under the new contract we have to pay overtime to personnel who come in on off time," he said. "There are times when we drop to 10-man minimum shifts. And we don't want to reduce on-

duty strength. That is not a good way to operate, so we have an off-duty instructor."

Wheeling firefighter Tom Coumley, who has been teaching CPR for 10 years, urged trustees to begin charging the fees, rather than do away with the program.

"We see citizens on the street doing CPR when we get there," said Coumley. "They are saving lives. If they didn't do it, we would be taking people to the morgue rather than the hospital."

Trustees to consider charging fee for CPR

# Farmer trying to keep land together

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Roland Schwind's family moved to Wheeling prior to the Great Depression. His wife Betty has family ties to the village dating back to 1850. They want to stay in the community.

However, a current legal battle over 20 acres of the Schwinds' farm land may move some of the family's land to Buffalo Grove.

The property in question lies at the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland Roads. Both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove have annexed the land.

Legal technicalities will be in question when the villages have their day in court today. Buffalo Grove is seeking a continuance to obtain more time to prepare its case.

Wheeling annexed the land first. Buffalo Grove then annexed the land, claiming that Wheeling did not have a proper claim to the property.

The Schwinds don't care much about the legal technicalities. They say they just want to maintain their farmland in the same town that their descendants did.

"It makes you feel bad that you own it and can't be where you want," Betty Schwind said in a telephone interview Monday. "We want our farm in one community."

However, the issue is more involved than that.

## Wal-Mart

In late January, Wheeling annexed two pieces of the Schwind property, divided by Lake-Cook Road and next to Weiland Road. The board followed this action by approving plans for commercial developments on the southeast piece, a

Wal-Mart and Sam's Discount Warehouse.

Wheeling's annexation agreements with the Schwinds granted them commercial zoning for both the northeast and southeast corner parcels; which is what upset officials and residents from neighboring Buffalo Grove.

6  
It makes you feel bad that you own it and can't be where you want.

Buffalo Grove claims its natural southern boundary line is Lake-Cook Road, and they say they don't want commercial growth at the northeast corner.

The master plan in Buffalo Grove includes the Schwind's northeast parcel and targets it for residential/office zoning. Current village plans also include a water station on approximately four acres of land there.

"No property owner has the absolute right to depreciate the value of another (person's) property," said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling. "It is our contention commercial property at that location would hurt the property values of homes in that area."

The Schwinds said they have no plans to develop the northeast parcel. Roland Schwind

said he plans to start planting soybeans on the land next week.

## Just a farmer

"I'm a farmer. I even have mixed emotions about seeing Wal-Mart developed," Schwind said. "It is a matter of economics. If this land (had been) supporting itself, I never would have sold (it). Wal-Mart allowed me to hold on to some of my farm land a little longer."

Economics is precisely the issue that worries Balling.

"It will be an irresistible temptation to spin off that property for commercial development," Balling said.

But Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village only complied with the Schwinds' wishes.

"The Schwinds wanted to bring their whole farm into Wheeling. At least that's what they told us. And we were happy to do it," he said.

Anderson acknowledged hearing rumors a few months ago that the Schwinds had plans to put a Target department store up on the northeast parcel but he said no one ever talked to him about the plans.

Balling said Barbara Baran, the Schwind's attorney, discussed commercial development plans with him.

"If he wants to be a farmer forever that's fine," Balling said. "But he wants to be a developer."

Baran, reached at her Chicago office, said plans for a commercial development never were discussed. She said she inquired about the possibility of commercial zoning on the land and that Balling indicated Buffalo Grove did not want this.

# Chickerneo won't stay on Palwaukee panel

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Citing a wish to pursue personal interests, Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioner Carey L. Chickerneo recently announced he will not serve another term on the commission.

Chickerneo, who has been a commissioner since 1987, including a one-year stint as chairman, will keep his seat on the commission until Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford appoints someone to take his place.

"My term as commissioner expired March 31," said Chickerneo. "I would like to devote more time to my family and private enterprises."

Chickerneo, a local attorney who often deals in real estate, said as a public official he always had to consider whether his actions could be considered a conflict of interest.

"I don't see anything forthcoming that would be a problem," he said. "I just want to spend some time being of service to myself and my family."

The decision to leave the commission is the second decision to leave

public office that Chickerneo has made this year. After serving as third ward alderman on the Prospect Heights City Council, he decided not to seek election to the seat in April. He was appointed to the position in 1989, when Jerry Meyers, then 3rd Ward alderman, became acting mayor.

And although he is taking a break from public office for now, Chickerneo did not forever rule out public service.

"It's too hard to say," he said about the future. "I will miss the ability to contribute to the communi-

ty. I've done my community service for now."

The commission is made up of eight members, four appointed by the mayor of Prospect Heights and four appointed by the village president of Wheeling. Chairmanship of the commission alternates each year between the two municipalities, co-owners of the airport.

"We're going to miss you for a lot of reasons," Commission Chairman Dan Quiry told Chickerneo. "When I came back on the commission, and you were sitting here, you made me feel welcome." 1/2

# Village review is next step for library parking lot plans

Plans for a new parking lot at the Indian Trails Public Library are moving steadily forward, with trustees directing their architect to get ready to go to the village of Wheeling for approval of the plans.

The new parking lot, to be built north of the library, at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road, will increase patron parking from 77 to 142 spaces. Employee parking will also be increased from 23 to 35 spaces.

Under the plan, expected to cost \$193,870, a new entrance from Schoenbeck road into the north end

of the existing parking lot will be added. Entrance to the library is limited to the south end of the lot now.

A drive-up book drop may also be added to the new parking lot. Library staff has recommended, partially based on preliminary comments from the Alternative Services Task Force's Focus Groups, that the library have a new book drop.

The architects will also look at a new location for bicycle racks, now at the northwest corner of the parking lot. Patrons and library staff

have expressed concern about the distance from the library entrance and the fact that bicyclists have to walk or ride across the busy parking lot.

Some board members said it might be best to delay the construction of the parking lot until after hearing the final recommendations of the Alternative Services Committee on how to improve library services. That report, based on feedback from 12 focus groups, is due to the board in early July.

But Board Member John P. Lo-

vetere said the parking lot expansion is an issue that should be kept separate from any plans to add on to the building.

Plans for a new parking lot began last year to meet the current needs of library patrons. Plans for the new lot have been designed to allow for some expansion of the building, library officials said.

And Trustee Richard C. Tripp pointed out that the building was also designed to allow for upward expansion.

## Village sells surplus items

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Several bicycles, jewelry, and two partial cans of WD-40 lubricating oil are just some of the items that can be purchased Saturday at the village of Wheeling's surplus auction.

The auction, required by law, is held annually to sell off unclaimed, lost or stolen merchandise in the possession of the police department and other surplus village-owned property.

Viewing of the items up for sale will begin at 9 a.m. at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The auction will begin at 10 a.m. Robert W. Flalkowski, director of finance, said money made from the auction is put into the village's general revenue fund. Last year about 100 people attended the auction, spending about \$2,000.

Some of the other items to be sold are tools, gas masks, silver nickels, cassette tapes and car stereo equipment.

While there will not be an opening bid price for most of the items, Flalkowski said that village officials have set a minimum price for some of the items.

Flalkowski said the auction will run as long as people are around to bid. Any items that have not been auctioned will be saved until next year, except items that were not bid on will be disposed.

# Wheeling rec center hinges on tax increase

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board gave approval Monday to the Wheeling Park District Plan for a family aquatic center and community recreation building, but trustees reserved the right to see alternate plans for the land should the recreation center not be built.

While the aquatic center is expected to make enough money to support itself, park district officials said they will not build the recreation center unless voters pass a referendum authorizing the increase of taxes to operate it.

Trustees earlier this month expressed reservation about the financial feasibility of the project.

Park district officials voted recently to borrow money, through the sale of general revenue bonds, for construction of the two centers on land that now makes up the far west portion of Heritage Park at 222 S. Wolf Rd. and the recently acquired 18.5 acres along Dundee Road between the Village Hall and Wickes Furniture Company.

Park board President Thomas Webber said that the park board had done its homework regarding finances.

"We are asking you to have confidence in us to do the job we are elected to do and approve our request," he said.

The \$4.5 million aquatic center will have a 6-foot depth swimming pool, refreshment stand, sand vol-

leyball court, sunbathing area and water slides.

Plans for the recreation center call for a gymnasium, indoor running track, classrooms and administrative offices.

And although trustees are concerned about the financial liability of the plan, they pointed out they are not against providing activities for Wheeling's youth.

"Some people feel we do not want to have anything for children," said Trustee Judy Abrusca. "That is not so. Our main concern is not only for the viability of the project, but to ensure residents that they will not have to bear a heavy burden to afford this."

"My concern is for everyone in this village."

# Wheeling Fire Department to charge for CPR classes

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Most people don't think twice about what they are doing when they breathe. But if someone is giving CPR to another, breathing is all they think about.

CPR—Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation—is defined as "a procedure designed to restore normal breathing after cardiac arrest that includes the clearance of air passages to the lungs, heart massage by the exertion of pressure on the chest and the use of drugs."

It is a skill that almost anyone can learn, if they take the time to learn.

Due to a rising enrollment and costs of equipment, the Village's Fire Department is going to start charging \$10 for the classes after offering them free to both residents and non-residents for the past 18 years.

"I don't think that you can put a value on saving someone's life," said instructor and Wheeling firefighter/paramedic Tom Counley. "Ten dollars is a lot of money but this class teaches you something you can use

for the rest of your life."

He noted that almost 2,000 people have taken his courses through the Wheeling Fire Department in the past two decades. Counley said he has 24 documented cases of graduates using CPR to help save a person's life.

"We're saving lives because of (this class)," Counley said. "I don't think there is anything more important than that."

The CPR course uses films and "breathing" mannequins to teach people how to clear air passages and force air into someone who has stopped breathing. The costs for materials isn't cheap, Counley explained.

The mannequins range in price from \$400 for infant size, to \$500 for juniors and up to \$1,600 for adult sizes. Movies cost \$400.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said that Wheeling CPR courses are popular with non-residents because nearby towns are not offering the class or have cancelled their courses. The growing numbers mean a growing expense, he said.

"All of the sudden we are serving a lot of people who

aren't Wheeling residents," Anderson said.

Counley said he doesn't care where people are from. He just wants the public to have CPR skills.

Counley's students have come from Wisconsin and Indiana. They include airline personnel, ski patrol members and aerobic instructors. They also include members of the public who want to learn a life-saving skill.

"We don't have a red S on our shirt and we're not going to save everybody. We're human and people have to help us," Counley said about paramedics and others in life safety roles. "The people on the street. They are the most important part of our life support system."

If someone has stopped breathing, even if they are only a mile from a fire station, it will take at least five minutes from the time a person phones for help until that help can start making a difference, Counley said.

"That's a lot of time," Counley said. "CPR keeps people alive to allow us to arrive and take over with more advanced treatment."

# Group seeks to put park plan on referendum

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About 40 Wheeling residents are circulating petitions in an attempt to force the Wheeling Park District to get permission from voters before borrowing \$9.75 million to build a family aquatic center and community recreation building.

Lonnie Schnaitmann, a member of Friends of the Taxpayer, formed in 1982 to defeat the last park district referendum, said the group is hoping to collect about 1,200 signatures. A total of 988 signatures is needed to send the bond issue to referendum for voter approval.

"We are not knocking the park," said Schnaitmann. "We just feel

people should have a choice on whether they want \$9.5 million spent."

Park district commissioners voted last week to borrow the money, through the sale of general obligation bonds, to pay for construction of the two centers. Park district officials expect the aquatic center to generate enough revenue to pay for itself. And they have already said they will have to get voter approval — through a referendum — to raise tax rates for operation of the community center.

Park district commissioners say the tax rate increase referendum will allow voters to have their say about the recreation building.

"We are providing the community with the choice by getting this

money," said Commissioner Fran Melamed. "We have to go to referendum for the community to decide if they want to pay to operate the recreation building. Borrowing the money affords people the choice."

Thomas Busby, superintendent of finance for the park district, said selling bonds would not significantly affect the taxpayer because the bonds could be paid off by keeping the bond interest tax rate at 17 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

"As the equalized assessed value of property in the district goes up the amount of money paid by taxpayers will also go up," he said. "But the rate would remain the same."

# Wheeling, Buffalo Grove vie for same land

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to confine the number of strip shopping centers in the village, Wheeling plan commissioners voted recently to keep the southwest corner of Elmhurst and McHenry Road vacant — at least for a while.

Commissioners voted 3-2 to reject a request from Palos Hills-based Habliss Inc. to rezone the property from residential to commercial.

And although they realize it is unlikely the one-acre site will ever be developed for residential purposes, they were not willing to take the chance that more retail stores could end up on the land.

"I would like to see something there," said Paul Elsterhold, commission chairman. "I think every commissioner would like to see something there, but this is difficult."

Representatives of Habliss were asking for a general commercial zoning that would allow almost any type of retail operation on the site, but they said the two 3,000-square-foot buildings proposed for it would not house general retail stores or restaurants.

The representatives claimed that the buildings and a limited number of parking spots would not create a traffic problem.

"We don't think bars and restaurants will be attracted to our buildings," said Bill Grobpe. "We won't get much browser traffic. We are looking to specific needs — doctor, dentist, travel agent, insurance man."

But when commissioners suggested changing the zoning to office use rather than general commercial, Grobpe and partner Frank Costra rejected the idea.

"I'm not here for beautification of your corner," Costra said. "I'd like to do that, but I'm here to make a profit. Either I can put something on that corner or you are going to look at weeds for the next 10 years."

In their first attempt to change the zoning, Habliss failed to reach an agreement with village planner Mark Janock, who recommended against the zoning change.

A Des Plaines circuit board company may cancel its plans to move to Wheeling after the Wheeling Village Board denied a request for reducing its property taxes.

Circuit Service applied for a Class 6(b) exemption, which is intended to lure industry and would have allowed it to pay a reduced tax rate for eight years if it moves into the building at 333 Alice St. About \$216,000 in property tax revenue would have been lost if the company had been granted an exemption.

But the board voted Monday night to deny the exemption. President Sheila Schultz cast the tie-breaking vote when the board split 3-3.

Village officials had said the company was likely to purchase the facility even without the exemption. But Marc Simon, an attorney for Circuit Service, said the company may decide not to do so because of the board's decision.

A recent move by the Wheeling Park District to annex a controversial piece of property along the north side of Lake Cook Road looks like Buffalo Grove Park District officials, who were also planning to annex the property, by surprise.

And the Buffalo Grove Park District says it will consult its attorney to see if it has any legal recourse.

"This is the first we've heard of it," said Michael A. Rytko, director of parks for the Buffalo Grove Park District. "We planned to go ahead with the annexation on the 28th. We will check with the recorder and make sure Wheeling filed everything properly."

The Wheeling Park District annexed the property after being approached by the Roland Schwind family, owners of that property and 37 acres on the south side of Lake Cook Road that are the future home of a Wal-Mart Department Store and Sam's Wholesale Club.

"The Schwind family approached us and asked us to annex the property around the first of May," said Thomas Webber, Wheeling park board president.

The Buffalo Grove Park District published its intent to involuntarily annex the property April 25. The village of Wheeling annexed the south parcel with little fanfare in late January. But the north parcel is now the subject of a lawsuit involving Wheeling and the village of Buffalo Grove.

In a similar situation, the village of Buffalo Grove stated its intent to involuntarily annex the property and the village of Wheeling went ahead with a voluntary annexation. When Buffalo Grove went ahead and annexed the property anyway, Wheeling filed suit, asking the village to show its reasons for annexing the property.

Whether the park districts will end up in court is unknown.

"We border the property on three sides," Rytko said. "But if the Schwinds voluntarily annexed to Wheeling, I'm not sure there is much we can do about it."

# Wheeling plan commission denies zoning

Wheeling  
Company denied  
tax exemption  
5/22/91

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# Park district to install sand volleyball court

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sand volleyball enthusiasts will not have to hit the beach to enjoy their favorite pastime after installation of a court in Childerley Park in Wheeling in mid-June.

Park district officials expect to pay about \$4,800 for the court which will be just behind the playground equipment at the south end of the

parking area at the park, on Old McHenry Road.

Chamber Park, on Wolf Road, was also considered as a home for the sand volleyball court but was rejected by park board commissioners.

"We have designated Chamber Park as a passive park with summer music concerts and the historical museum," said Park Board President Thomas Webber. "We didn't

feel an activity like volleyball would fit in. It is active, loud and draws a different mix of people."

Webber said that commissioners hope to develop Childerley Park into a picnic area, eventually putting up a covered pavilion and sand volleyball would fit in much better there.

Arnie Biondo, superintendent of leisure service, said that the court will be open the same hours as the park, until 10 p.m. nightly, but there

will be no lights around the court.

He said although the park district gets occasional requests for sand volleyball leagues, there are no plans to form a league — at least for this summer.

"Sand volleyball has been real popular in other communities," he said. "It is popular with high school kids who don't want structured activity."

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### \$4,410 approved for centennial panel

Village of Wheeling trustees voted to include \$4,410 in their 1991 budget for expenses of the centennial committee.

While working on plans for the centennial celebration in August 1994, the committee is also working on fund-raising for the event which they hope will include a parade, time capsule ceremony and family picnic.

Expenses for this year include \$3,780 for their Family Fest fundraiser where they will sell personalized pins, ponchos, sunglasses and history books.

The expenses are to be offset by an estimated \$5,000 from fund-raising and contributions from the village of Wheeling and the

Wheeling Park District.

### New radios approved for police department

The Wheeling Police Department will spend \$7,404 to replace radio equipment.

Each year the department replaces old or worn out radios. Because of lower prices, this year, the department will purchase eight radios instead of the six previously requested and still spend \$376 less than the amount budgeted for the radios.

### Soccer tournament kicks off May 25

Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed May 25, 26 and 27, Wheeling Park District

Soccer Weekend.

The park district is expecting teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin and nearby communities to participate in the three-day tournament at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road.

### Village denies tax-exemption

Trustees voted 4-3 to deny a property tax-exemption to a businessman wanting to relocate to the village.

Theodore J. Mau, president of Circuit Service, Inc., was looking for the exemption, which would have reduced his property taxes for eight years.

But village staff said the building he wants to move into at 333 Alice St. does not meet Cook County's definition of abandoned

and it seemed that Mau would move into the building even if he were not granted the exemption.

### Police dept. receives accreditation certificate

Mount Prospect Police Chief Ronald Pavlock presented Schultz and the Wheeling Police Department with a certificate of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

The police department became the 14th accredited law enforcement agency in Illinois last fall.

"It is a little bit scary when you are waiting to receive final word (on accreditation)," said Schultz. "This is a very well deserved source of pride for every member of the community."

# Burn victim gets ticket to camp

BY TED GREGORY  
and BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The past year has been a painful one for Wheeling burn victim Jim Allen II and he's facing some challenging months in the future.

On Saturday, Wheeling firefighters eased the pain a bit for Allen, an 11-year-old sixth grader at Mark Twain Elementary School, when they donated \$600 to send Allen to a pair of camps for child burn victims.

Firefighters submitted the check when Allen stopped by

with his family for a tour and to say thanks.

"We wanted to support Jim and we wanted to support the burn camp," said Wheeling firefighter Mike Burns, tour guide and one of the coordinators of the effort.

"We consider this camp a great opportunity to continue to help victims after the fire's out," Burns added. "It's just a natural arrangement."

Allen was severely burned last April at his home in Mississippi when the gas weedeater he was starting exploded. Shortly after the accident, his family moved to Wheeling.

The boy has been in and out of hospitals all year while undergoing skin graft surgery. He will miss the entire school year starting this fall while receiving more surgery.

Before then, he'll be enjoying summer camps in Estes Park, Col., and Ingleside, Ill, thanks in large part to Wheeling firefighters. The Ingleside camp, set for June 29-July 5, is the first burn camp in Illinois.

In addition to campouts, hikes, boating, archery, fishing, horseback riding and other activities, the camps offer programs aimed at helping victims strengthen their fragile confidence.



Jim Allen II holds up a piece of firefighting equipment, helped by Wheeling firefighter Joe Mariotti. Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 5-24-91

## Wheeling Sprinkler system now in school plans

An emergency sprinkler system will be included in the plans for a new Whitman School, 133 S. Willie Ave.

The system, which school officials estimate will cost \$75,000, was not part of the original \$3.8 million building plan presented to the Village of Wheeling.

But following recommendations from the Plan Commission and village staff, Wheeling trustees this week approved the building plan with the condition that sprinklers be installed. Sprinklers are not necessary for schools under the state fire code, but the village requires them in new buildings.

# Residents' calls flood in when village siren sounds

5-30-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Wheeling sounded its emergency warning system in March, the police department switchboard lit up with calls from residents wondering what was going on.

It was a sign that the system works, maybe too well.

"I think the system works," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "It gets people's attention and then they call in. We had many, many, many calls at the switchboard that day. But it was unfortunate because it also tied up our emergency lines."

That day severe winds, reaching speeds of 85 mph, tore through parts

of the village, damaging several airplanes at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. And Wheeling has not had to sound the warning since then.

Anderson said notification of an impending storm comes to the police department from the National Weather Service through a computer. Once the notice is received, radio room personnel contact a "command person" who makes the decision about whether to sound the alarm.

The police chief, fire chief or a watch commander from either department is authorized to make that decision. And they do not have to

wait to hear from the National Weather Service to sound the alarm. "We try not to sound the alarm unless a severe storm is imminent," he said.

"And it is left up to local authorities. In March, Buffalo Grove sounded their alarm and when we looked at our conditions the chief felt the storms were imminent and sounded the alarm."

The signal, tested monthly, runs for about three minutes, giving off a wailing sound that gets louder and softer as it moves from a low pitch to a high pitch. Anderson said the village does not sound an all-clear signal when the danger has passed.

Confusion sometimes crops up over whether or not to sound the sirens.

When thunderstorms rushed through the area earlier this month, some towns decided to sound the warnings while others chose not to do so.

Arlington Heights, Barrington, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Schaumburg all sounded sirens, but Des Plaines did not.

Most of the towns in the Northwest Central Dispatch System — Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village and Mount Prospect — sound sirens in unison, said Doug Edmonds, director of NWCDS. But the rest of the municipalities make their own decisions when it comes to sounding warning sirens.

The discrepancy is prompting a push to standardize the way Cook County communities sound sirens.

A regional conference, slated for June 5, is expected to address some of the glitches in the siren program, Lechner said.

"You don't want to play wolf with the sirens, but you can't always wait for the information to disseminate," Edmonds said.

"It's a human judgement that must be made," Rodewald adds. "Does it look to be headed to our community? There has to be a decision."

That's because the sirens — installed as civil defense measures in the 1950s in case of nuclear bomb attacks — only have two tones and they are difficult to distinguish.

"In the Northwest Central Dispatch, what may be an all-clear in one community may not mean the next community is clear," Lechner said.

Residents should rely on weather-band radios to tell them when it's safe to leave their sheltered area. After a tornado, the most important thing to look for is damage to gas

lines or electrical outlets, Lechner said.

It also is important to notify family or friends that you have reached safety so local authorities don't waste time trying to find people, Lechner said.

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## Residents confused

See SOUNDS on Page 3

## SOUNDS: Residents unsure of meaning

Continued from Page 1

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## Annexation pits Wheeling vs. Buffalo Grove

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Roland Schwind asked Wheeling officials to annex his 20-acre farm and family home into the village, he assumed the routine request would go off without a hitch.

He was wrong. Instead, the property became embroiled in a heated game of tug of war between the villages of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling — a game that now has two more players with park districts in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove having annexed the land as well.

All four parties have their reasons for wanting the land and all four have their reasons for believing their annexations are proper.

The fact that the Schwinds want to be a part of both the village of Wheeling and the Wheeling Park District adds credence to those annexations, officials there say. But Buffalo Grove and Buffalo Grove Park District officials argue that the land is surrounded by Buffalo Grove on three sides and that the Wheeling annexations may have been flawed.

Buffalo Grove's interest in the land stems from the pleas of residents who oppose Wheeling's decision to zone the property for commercial development.

Like the villages, the park districts stand to gain tax dollars from the property if and when it is developed commercially or otherwise.

Wheeling already has filed a lawsuit against Buffalo Grove over the annexations, and with so many interested parties, this boundary battle could prove costly to taxpayers in each community.

But for the group of Buffalo Grove residents fighting to protect their neighborhood from commercial development, the costly attorney fees may all be worth it.

"If all of this effort means that Wheeling sits down with Buffalo Grove and a compromise on the usage is worked on that is acceptable to the residents, than all of this is worth it," said Buffalo Grove resident Terry Robins, who helped orga-

# Petitioners push to force park vote

5-30-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of Wheeling residents attempting to force Wheeling Park District commissioners to get voter approval before borrowing \$9.75 million to build a family aquatic center and a recreation building say they have more than half of the signatures they need.

Lonnie Schnaitmann, a member of Friends of the Taxpayer, formed in 1982 to defeat the last park district referendum, said about 700 people have signed petitions requiring commissioners to get approval from voters on the November ballot before selling municipal bonds to finance construction of the two centers.

And although only 988 signatures

are needed, Schnaitmann said she hopes to collect at least 1,200 in case any of the signatures are ruled invalid.

"We have had a really good response," she said.

"We just explain that it should be put on the ballot so everyone has a choice. But it is surprising the amount of people who don't want water slides."

Schnaitmann said the group is not against the park but just feels voters should make the choice.

Park district commissioners voted earlier this month to borrow the money, through the sale of general obligation bonds, to fund the construction of the two centers.

Park district officials expect the aquatic center to generate enough

revenue to pay for itself. They have already said they will have to get voter approval — through a referendum — to raise tax rates for operation of the community center.

They say that referendum will allow voters to have their say about the recreation building.

But Alberta Kloeck, one of about 45 people circulating the petitions, and wife of a park board commissioner, said voters should have the choice before the centers are built.

"The fact that we are not being allowed to vote is my real gripe," she said.

"We do not discuss the park or facility with people, it has nothing to do with the buildings, it is a matter of principle."

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"If all of this effort means that Wheeling sits down with Buffalo Grove and a compromise on the usage is worked on that is acceptable to the residents, than all of this is worth it," said Buffalo Grove resident Terry Robins, who helped organize an opposition effort 75 to 100 people strong.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said he recognizes the potential cost to taxpayers and is willing to give up the fight to keep the land in Buffalo Grove if Wheeling officials will compromise on the commercial zoning for the land.

"In a period where budgeting is so critical, I'm sure it would be appreciated by our residents if we could save money on attorneys fees," Mathias said. "It's more important to our residents how it is developed, not who claims it."

Though not completely ruling out the possibility of negotiating with Buffalo Grove, Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the issue is in the hands of the court.

"The annexation was done properly," she said. "Any question of claim will be decided by the court."

At the same time, park officials are hoping to avoid legal action.

Buffalo Grove Director of Parks Michael A. Rylko said he was not aware the Wheeling Park District had filed its annexation ordinance in Lake County at the time the Buffalo Grove ordinance was filed on Wednesday. The Wheeling ordinance was filed on May 21.

Rylko said he will wait to see what will happen, but if Wheeling's voluntary annexation was completed first, the Buffalo Grove Park District likely would not contest the annexation, Rylko said.

Amid all the confusion, the Schwinds are going about their business and continuing to farm the popular piece of property. At least for the time being there are no plans to develop the land.

# Police chief appeals race bias ruling

5-24-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Saying he feels he is not guilty of racial discrimination, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has appealed the decision of a U.S. District Court in a lawsuit brought against him by a village police officer.

Haeger is asking the Illinois Appellate Court to overturn the February jury decision in a case filed against him by Police Officer Robert Pressley, who for 11 years was the only black officer in the department. He charged that Haeger withheld raises, condoned racial harassment and doled out more severe punishments for wrongdoings to Pressley than to white officers.

"I still feel that I didn't do anything wrong," Haeger, who is also head of the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs, said. "I was acting properly."

But a jury agreed with Pressley and awarded him \$40,000 in compensatory damages. Judge Paul E. Plunkett ordered Haeger to pay \$177,000 for Pressley's attorney fees and \$10,000 for court costs.

William Kurnick, Haeger's attorney, said he is appealing both the decision and the award.

"We feel that the judge's orders to the jury were incorrect," Kurnick said. "The other issue is that we maintained that personal matters between employer and employee cannot be subject to a lawsuit under

civil rights statutes but should be handled by the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), but that legal theory was rejected by the judge."

In response to the appeal, Alan M. Freedman, attorney for Pressley, said he will ask Plunkett to order the village to put up an appeal bond of \$500,000 to cover legal fees to this point plus any new costs incurred by Pressley during the appeal.

Earlier this week, trustees asked the village attorney to draw up a resolution stating the village will pay any judgment against Haeger and his attorney's fees. Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she is not sure

See HAEGER on Page 3

## HAEGER: police chief appeals decision

Continued from Page 1

how much of the cost the village's insurance would cover.

The lawsuit stems from a 1982 incident, in which Haeger pursued charges of illicit sexual activity against Pressley, even though he believed the charges were false. A village commission later ruled there was no evidence to pursue the charges.



Michael Haeger



Robert Pressley

# Palwaukee land deal approved

5-30-91  
 BY B. H. MERENS  
 STAFF WRITER

The two villages that oversee Palwaukee Airport are gradually purchasing land that will be knit together like pieces of a puzzle to allow a long awaited road widening and intersection expansion project at the airport.

The Wheeling Village Board has approved the \$1.5 million purchase of land at the northwest corner of Hintz and Wolf Roads, one of approximately 21 parcels still to be bought before the road widening and intersection expansion project can begin, according to Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart.

The City of Prospect Heights, which oversees the airport through an intergovernmental agreement with Wheeling, postponed a vote on the matter at its last meeting because it lacked a map pinpointing the exact location of the property. But City Manager Dan Wentzloff said the city is planning to vote on the matter at its June 3 meeting.

"We have approved the purchase of every parcel (involved) so far," he said.

The property is a 13-acre site being held in trust by First American Bank. It is the largest single piece of property involved in the \$16 million project, Stewart said.

Stewart said six of the other parcels are involved in condemnation proceedings, which means the construction project won't start until sometime in 1992. The parcels involve residential, business and open space properties.

Once all the land is secured, engineers will

move two bridges which cross the Wheeling drainage ditch. One bridge is located on Hintz Road east of Wolf Road and the second bridge is located on Wolf Road north of Hintz.

"They have to be relocated to where the new roadway is going to be," Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "The bridges are going to be in entirely new locations from where they are now."

The bridges will be moved to coincide with the movement of Hintz Road approximately 1,000 feet north between Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road and with the movement of Wolf Road approximately 1,000 feet west between Palatine and Hintz Roads.

The intersection of Hintz and Wolf Roads is going to be expanded to four lanes in all directions and a traffic light will replace the stop sign which currently exists there.

The project is designed to meet the FAA's extended runway safety area standard, Stewart said.

"There's got to be a prepared constructed area beyond the dimensions of the runway that will support the weight of an aircraft using the runway," Stewart said. He added that the requirement is designed as a safety measure. The project is not designed to facilitate a runway expansion.

Prospect Heights and Wheeling, co-owners of Palwaukee Airport, will utilize Federal, State and Airport revenue funding to finance the project designed to comply with Federal Aeronautics Administration standards regarding open space near runways.

## North suburbs

### Palwaukee funding to be increased

A \$7.2 million allocation for Palwaukee Airport in Wheeling and Prospect Heights is part of a \$121.5 million statewide airport improvement plan announced by Gov. Jim Edgar for 1992.

The plan, which lists priorities for where the state will spend federal, state and local funds, also includes \$1.15 million for runway construction and a new field generator at Waukegan's airport.

Most of the Palwaukee money will be spent on land acquisition and planning for the road relocation.

The allocation represents a 1.5 percent increase over the amount being spent in 1991 on airport improvements. Ninety percent of the money comes from federal funds.

Through 1996 the state plans to spend \$553.7 million on expansion and improvements at the 77 public airports.

# Wheeling board OKs pool plan

By Kathie Mitchell

Wheeling residents could be cooling off in the pool by next summer, now that the Village Board has approved a \$4.5 million aquatic center.

But whether residents also get a new \$4 million recreation center will be up to them.

The Village Board approved a site plan Monday that includes an aquatic center and a recreation center. But park officials say they won't build the recreation center if voters don't approve a plan for a property-tax increase to operate and maintain it.

The swimming pool and recreation center are part of a proposed three-phase plan for 86 acres south of Dundee Road, east of Boehmer Avenue and west of Wolf Road.

The park district already has given legal notice that it intends to sell \$9.75 million in general obligation bonds to build the two facilities.

Wheeling trustees were not easily convinced that they should approve the site plan. After tabling the topic at their May 6 meeting, the trustees spent 90 minutes Monday discussing it again.

They questioned finances and how the land scheduled for the recreation center would be used if voters reject the proposal.

"Our main concern is not only for the viability [of the project] but also to ensure that residents won't have a financial burden," said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

In the end, trustees unanimously approved the site plan, with the stipulation that if the recreation center is not built the park district will return to the village with an alternate plan for use of the property.

Aquatic center revenue from concession stand sales and pool passes are expected to pay for operation of the water park, but the district cannot afford to run the recreation center without increasing taxes.

Park Board President Thomas Webber said an increase of 10 cents per \$100 assessed value in the district's operating fund tax is expected to cover operating costs.

The average cost to Wheeling homeowners would be \$30 per year, he said. The district will ask voters in November to approve the increase. If voters say no, the park district will ask again in an April referendum.

"This community is in dire need of a recreation facility," Weber said. However, if voters ultimately don't agree to pay for running the facility, the district won't build it, he said.

# Wheeling won't have to pay bond, judge rules

5-31-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling will not have to post a \$500,000 appeal bond while Police Chief Michael F. Haeger appeals a U.S. Circuit Court decision in a lawsuit brought against him by a village police officer, the judge in the case ruled Thursday.

Haeger is asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit to overturn the February jury decision in a case filed against him by police officer Robert Pressley, who for 11

years was the only black police officer in the department.

Pressley charged that Haeger withheld raises, condoned racial harassment and doled out more severe punishment for wrongdoings to Pressley than to white officers.

The jury awarded Pressley \$40,000 in compensatory damages. Judge Paul E. Plunkett ordered Haeger to pay \$177,000 for Pressley's attorneys fees and \$10,000 for court costs.

But trustees are expected to pass a resolution stating the village will pay

any judgments against Haeger and his attorney's fees, when they meet on Monday.

Alan M. Freedman, Pressley's attorney, said he wanted the appeal bond because the village has been "dragging its feet" in the case and he is afraid they will do everything possible to keep from paying the money if they lose the appeal.

"The judge did say he would hold the village in contempt of court if they didn't pay in the end though," Freedman said.

And Village President Sheila H.

Schultz said the money is not the issue.

"I think the emphasis on the amount of money may be misplaced," she said. "I think the verdict was incorrect."

Freedman said he plans to file some appeals against the circuit court decision too, including asking the federal court of appeals to reinstate the racial discrimination case filed against the village.

The village, originally a co-defendant, was exonerated by Plunkett early in the trial.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Officials hope to calm waters with forum

6-1-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hoping to set the record straight on their plans for a family aquatic center and recreation building, Wheeling Park District commissioners are inviting residents to an open forum Tuesday.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Park Recreation Building at 222 S. Wolf Road.

Thomas H. Webber, park board president, said the commissioners decided to call the meeting because they believe a group of residents — collecting signatures on petitions that would force the park district to get voter approval before borrowing \$9.5 million for the

project — may not have all the facts straight.

"We are hearing that some misinformation is being spread," Webber said. "We want to make sure that people signing the petitions have the correct facts."

"People have a right to petition and to sign petitions. We just want to make sure we are all on the same wavelength," he added.

But Lonnie Schnaitmann, a member of Friends of the Taxpayers — the group circulating the petitions — said she is not aware of any misinformation being spread by the group.

"All we are talking about is the bonds," she said. "We are not talking about the project."

Commissioners are hoping to borrow the money by selling general obligation bonds.

Schnaitmann said she had received an invitation to attend the meeting and will call members of the group this weekend to get as many of them to attend the meeting as possible.

And she said anyone collecting signatures this weekend will also inform people of the meeting.

Park district officials have said they will ask voter approval before building the recreation building because they will need a tax rate increase to operate it.

The park district expects the aquatic center to be self-supporting.

Existing and proposed plans to dispose of household hazardous wastes — such as old paint and motor oil — will take center stage Tuesday at a regional meeting of environmental officials.

Des Plaines will host the symposium as part of a Chicago area effort to jointly address and uncover information on environmental issues.

About 40 communities, including members of a Cook County solid waste agency and some Lake County communities, are invited to the forum.

"The exchange of ideas is always beneficial," said Ann Tennes, executive director of Keep

A representative of the Clean Harbors company will discuss household hazardous waste collection programs.

The Massachusetts-based company has handled collections for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which sponsors a handful of one-day collections throughout the state each year.

Also scheduled is a presentation by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, SWANCC applied to the IEPA in April for a \$27,000 grant to help cover the cost — estimated at \$39,000 — of developing an ongoing area-wide disposal

By Vicki Speer  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Des Plaines Beautiful Inc. "And it's always nice to not have to reinvent the wheel."

at plan. A decision on the grant is expected this summer, said William Abolt, SWANCC executive director.

Abolt will outline the proposal for forum participants. It calls for the hiring an outside contractor to dispose of hazardous materials throughout the year.

SWANCC officials envision a program that would be permanent, but not require agency staff.

"We want a program that's ongoing and cost effective," Abolt said. "We really think we can rely on the private sector for this."

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Des Plaines civic center, 1420 Miner St.

construct the interchange, asked Wheeling trustees along with trustees from Buffalo Grove and other neighboring communities to support the resolution.

Trustees voted to spend \$11,455 to replace two heating and air conditioning units, one at village hall and the other at the branch fire station on Wheeling Road.

Keith and Scott Heating and Air Conditioning of Addison will replace the roof units. The replacement is expected to begin in mid-July and take less than two weeks.

This is the third year that trustees have voted to replace aging units as part of their capital improvements program. There are 19 roof-top heating and air conditioning units at the municipal complex, including the one at the branch fire station. Two units have been replaced each of the past two years.

Trustees agreed to begin paying the \$9,775 it will cost for the police department to go through the re-accreditation process with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Senior discount taxi program under way

6-3-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling senior citizens wanting a discount on taxi rides can sign up at village hall today, now that the identification cards and voucher forms needed for the program are ready for distribution.

Trustees instituted the new program — which enables seniors to get a \$2 discount per one-way ride — May 6, but it has taken several weeks to get the program up and running.

The fact that the identification cards are finally ready is good news for Wheeling seniors, some of whom say they have gotten the runaround when they have called village hall to find out when the

discount would be available.

"When I called, I was bounced to three different people," said Barbara McIntyre, a resident of Addolorato Villa who does not drive. "I really need the discount."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said village staff members are now ready to answer inquiries about the program.

"We've had half a dozen inquiries about the discount," Anderson said.

"Everything is back from the printers, staff has instructions on what needs to be done — we are ready to go."

To register, seniors have to show proof of their age and residency at village hall.

They will then get the identification card and voucher forms that are given to the cab driver when they use the discount.

Discounted rides will be given through American Taxi and are limited to eight one-way or four round trips per month.

Trustees have budgeted \$4,000 to subsidize the program, which they initiated after complaints from seniors that the previous senior discount program was not working.

Under that plan, seniors were supposed to get a 20 percent discount from any cabs licensed in the village of Wheeling.

But the village did not reimburse the cab companies for money they lost when giving the discount.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wisconsin Central Ltd. endorses commuter line

6-6-91  
By C. L. WALLER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

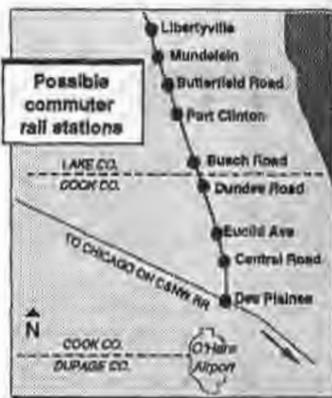
Transportation representatives from four Lake County communities Wednesday were given Wisconsin Central Ltd. railroad's personal endorsement of a new commuter line on its track.

"We view this not as a question of whether, but a question of when," said Robert Wheeler, general counsel for the railroad company working with Metra officials to create passenger service from Antioch to Des Plaines.

Organized by the Libertyville Township plan commission, repre-

sentatives from Buffalo Grove, Long Grove, Libertyville and Round Lake Beach attended. Township plan commission chairman John Helander said he called the meeting to find out Wisconsin Central's involvement in the project, after a Metra official in March told local planners that it had problems contacting the Wisconsin Central people.

Wheeler told the group that engineers in April did an up-close inspection of the track from Antioch to Franklin Park. The type of upgrading that would need to be done to prepare the rail for passenger trains traveling at speeds of 65 to 70 m.p.h. would take a construc-



tion season to complete, he said.

Even though Wisconsin Central's 2,000 miles of track now are used strictly for freight, officials in the company have experience with the Chicago and NorthWestern and Milwaukee Road commuter lines, Wheeler said.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Trustees approve changes in licenses — once again

6-10-91  
Wheeling trustees have approved changes in their business license ordinance after holding a public hearing giving business people a chance to comment on the changes.

No one showed up to complain, so trustees again approved changes they had voted yes on in March. The reapproval was needed after village officials became aware of a state statute that preempted Wheeling's home rule status, requiring them to hold a state-required public hearing before revising vending machine licensing fees.

Under the changes, the fee for selling tobacco, both through vending machines and over the counter was increased, going to \$75 annually from \$50.

### Trustees endorse a full interchange at Lake-Cook

Trustees approved a resolution supporting the construction of a full interchange at Lake-Cook Road and Interstate Highway 94.

Currently, motorists traveling on I-94 can get on Lake-Cook Road from the northbound lanes only and motorists traveling on Lake-Cook Road can only get on southbound I-94.

Deerfield officials, who are renewing efforts to get the state to

# Tax watchdogs demand water park referendum

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

A Wheeling tax watchdog group submitted petitions to the Park District Monday which would allow village voters a hand in deciding whether or not to fund a \$9.75 million Aquatic and Recreation Center.

The petitions call for a referendum in next fall's elections to permit the park district to sell alternate source revenue bonds.

However, a referendum may be a moot point depending on legislative action pending downstate in Springfield. Legislators are considering tax limitation laws which could negate the need for the bond sales or the ability for local governmental bodies to use them at all.

The Friends of the Taxpayers said they aren't trying to stop the pool and recreation complex. They just want the voters to decide the funding issue.

"The only reason that the petitions are out there is to let everybody in Wheeling have a choice if they want the (park district) to borrow the money or not," said Lonnie Schnaitmann, a member of the watchdog group since its inception in 1982. "I'm in favor of an outdoor pool and a recreation center. There's 30,000 people in Wheeling. They should have a chance to vote."

Park District Director Karop Bavougian said he believes there are enough valid signatures on the petitions to validate a referendum without needing to check each one.

He said that nothing has



Vicki Grayland/Pioneer Press

Lonnie Schnaitmann, a member of a Wheeling tax watchdog group, watches as Park Director Karop Bavougian looks through petitions calling for a referendum on the water theme park.

to be done concerning the referendum until the early fall. However, by waiting on the funding question, Wheeling residents won't be swimming in a new community pool until 1993 at the earliest, he said.

"I would think the earliest it would open would be 1993. It may never go," Bavougian said. "We originally were hoping to operate in 1992."

Plans call for the pool complex to be built between

Wickes Furniture and Village Hall, about three football fields south of Dundee Road.

The Aquatic complex would include a pool, lounge chair area (both on concrete and grass), a sand area for volleyball, a snack bar, and an in-pool play area for children.

The recreation center would include a gymnasium, activities room, art room, preschool classrooms and administrative offices.

# Wheeling seeking clerk

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

The search for a Wheeling Village Clerk continued Tuesday night as the village board interviewed two of three applicants vying for the currently vacant post.

The board has set a deadline of July 6 to fill the post, but could name someone sooner than that, according to board president Sheila Schultz.

"We quite possibly will choose the clerk from the current applicants. If someone else would come forward before the decision is made, we might interview them," Schultz said.

The board scheduled Tuesday night interviews with former village ethics board member Patricia Drewes and real estate agent R. Michael Kurgan. The third applicant, Joan Tavlin, couldn't make the Tuesday evening session and will be interviewed separately, Schultz said.

The board has been without a clerk since Lois Gafke was sworn in as a trustee on May 6. She had served in the post for two years. Her elected term runs until 1993.

By law, the village had 30 days to fill the post. However, the board extended that period by an additional 30 days when no one

came forward to apply for the job.

Schultz said the lack of interested candidates validates the boards' position that the clerk should be a full-time appointed staff member and not elected by the public.

"It confirms what the board knew when we put forward the question on the referendum (in 1988) to have the clerk appointed," Schultz said. "We knew that it was difficult to attract good candidates."

The major difference in appointing versus electing the clerk is pay. An appointed clerk would receive a full-time salary. The elected clerk receives \$3,000 annually, paid on a monthly basis.

The clerk assists the village president with his/her duties, attends village board meetings and takes the minutes and maintains the village records.

In addition to village board meetings, the clerk attends all Liquor Control Commission, Emergency Telephone Systems (911), and budget meetings. The clerk also attends quarterly meetings of the Fire Pension Board.

Letters of application should be sent as soon as possible to: President and Board of Trustees, Village of Wheeling, 255 E. Dundee Road, Wheeling, Ill., 60090.

Michael F. Haeger  
Chief of Police, Wheeling

An extensive and intensive village campaign will be initiated just prior to our start up to educate the residents about the availability and use of 911.

## Wheeling

CHICAGO  
TRIBUNE  
6/15/91

### Nobody watching as fees are raised

Wheeling held a public hearing, but nobody came.

Earlier, village officials neglected to hold a public hearing as required by state law before approving increases in vending machine license fees. A vending machine owner pointed out the error.

So, after publishing a legal notice in a local newspaper and notifying 64 vending machine owners, the board held a public hearing Monday night. However, neither the vending machine owner who pointed out the village's error, nor anyone else, attended.

The board approved the new license fees for a second time. The new fees include \$10 for candy and canned soda machines, which is an increase of \$5, and \$75 for cigarette machines, an increase of \$25.

### Village to pay legal fees of police chief

The Wheeling Village Board has voted to pay the \$40,000 judgment and legal fees of Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who was found guilty in a discrimination case involving a black police officer.

Haeger is appealing the February decision in which a jury awarded Wheeling Officer Robert Pressley \$40,000, and a judge ordered that court fees be paid by Haeger.

## Wheeling to begin testing new 911 system

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling and Illinois Bell will begin testing enhanced 911 phone lines later this week, paving the way for the system to start July 24.

Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes told village trustees Monday that all the 911 equipment has been installed at the police department's communication headquarters and that training for police radio dispatchers will begin Wednesday. "We are basically ready to go," he said.

Voters last November approved the enhanced 911 system, which provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone num-

ber, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes last only a few seconds.

Illinois Bell and radio dispatchers will begin calling select businesses and residences on Thursday, asking them to call back and dial 911. They will then check to make sure that the correct address and phone number automatically comes up on their computer. All other numbers will be checked from the phone company's headquarters.

Hermes said that the police and fire departments are also gearing up their program to inform residents that the system will be running soon and let them know what type of emergencies should be phoned into 911 and what calls

should go through the non-emergency phone numbers.

He said there will be separate training sessions for adults and children. Several sessions have already been scheduled including ones with several senior groups, homeowner's associations and the Jaycees, Hermes said.

Information programs will also be given for youth at summer school at Holmes Junior High School, preschools and the Wheeling Park District's summer day camp.

And he said that since the system will be operating for about a month before school begins, the department will have a pretty good idea if the system is being abused by children.

## 911 to begin

Wheeling/Recently, you published a letter requesting the status of Wheeling's 911 system. The system's installation began in early May, and we

anticipate testing to begin the week of June 10.

We hope everyone is aware that 911 is to be used to report fire, police and paramedic emergencies. All non-emergency calls are to be through the administrative numbers for the police and fire department, which are 459-2632 for the police and 459-2662 for the fire department.

An extensive and intensive village campaign will be initiated just prior to our start up to educate the residents about the availability and use of 911.

Michael F. Haeger  
Chief of Police, Wheeling

# Approval needed for school's new fire lane

6-14-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners gave Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 the go-ahead for a \$350,000 addition to Eugene Field Elementary School Thursday on the condition that plans for a fire lane be approved by the village's fire chief.

Commissioners were shown two options for fire lane placement: one that would come off the existing entrance to the school at 51 St. Armand Lane and circle the building and one that would go directly from Dundee Road, which borders the school's playground on the south, to the back of the building. Superintendent Lloyd "Bud"

DesCarpentrie said that district officials would prefer to extend the fire lane from the existing area, keeping it away from the playground.

"We want the fire lane looping around the building," he said. "It gives access to more of the school."

Parts of that fire lane already are paved, and architects will be conducting soil samples to make sure the existing pavement and the ground proposed for the fire lane could stand up to the weight of a fire truck.

"The existing pavement may need to be improved to meet regulations," he said. "We will have that information before we seek approval from the village board."

The village board must give final approval of the plans before work can proceed.

The 3,500-square-foot addition will be the home of a new learning center. Currently, the learning center is housed in three classrooms at the southeast corner of the building.

The project was originally scheduled for next year, but district officials moved it up in hopes of alleviating overcrowding at Robert Frost Elementary School in Mount Prospect.

They are hoping to have the addition completed by next fall so two English as a Second Language classes planned for Frost can be held at Field instead. The move would affect about 60 students.

## Wheeling

### Residents to help test new 911 system

Testing of the village's new 911 emergency telephone system is set to begin Thursday.

The official 911 startup date is July 24. But starting Thursday, businesses and a few residents will be called and asked to help test the system.

Educational programs on the proper use of 911 are planned for children and adults.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 6-14-91

# Airport plan leaves some residents hanging

Friday June 17, 1991

By JULIE POBLEN  
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission is slowly acquiring the land needed for its capital improvement plan, but that slowness continues to cause problems for neighboring residents who could lose their land as a result of the plan.

Commissioners agreed recently to spend at least \$800,000 on a piece of commercial property on the east side of Wheeling Road, just north of Sumac Road in Wheeling. A roofing company is now located on the land, which sits between two other airport-owned lots.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said the deal is "set in stone" but before the sale can be finalized, the roofing company must clean up the property.

Though the transaction keeps the airport moving ahead with its goals, Wheeling resident Leah Zeldes Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, voiced some concern since her house, and about 16 others, are also scheduled to be bought by the airport.

"Do you know how long it will be before I have to leave my house?" asked Zeldes Smith. "It's very difficult to live this way. You have a house that you want to upkeep and

improve. If I'm going to be there five more years they're worth making, if it's five months, they're not."

The long-awaited relocation of the Wolf/Hintz Road intersection is still in planning phases as the commission waits for results of an environmental assessment and Stewart noted that he cannot say when Zeldes Smith's property might be purchased by the airport.

"If we don't do it within two years, we'll never move the road," said Stewart.

Other commissioners voiced concern over "bad vibes" coming from Springfield where there could be some concern that the airport is not

working fast enough on its projects.

But Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno said the commission has a "friend in Washington" in Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner, who met with Chickerno and members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association recently.

Skinner received his pilot's licence at Palwaukee and Chickerno suggested sending Skinner a copy of the airport's capital improvement plan.

"He is very aware of how much money is being spent on the airport," said Commissioner Dan Quiery. "He will support our efforts as long as progress is shown."

# Believers build house of worship

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Hindu group opens 1st new U.S. temple in Wheeling

6-18-91

By Kathie Mitchell

A Hindu religious group has built its first new American temple in northwest suburban Wheeling.

The 15,000-square-foot Shri Swaminarayan Temple, at 397 Northgate Pkwy., serves 200 to 300 worshippers every day.

The International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization of Chicago may be unfamiliar to many who pass the new temple.

Followers of the Swaminarayan branch of Hinduism trace their beliefs to Swami Narayan, a 19th Century religious leader whom they believe to have been the seventh reincarnation of the Hindu god Krishna.

"Some people were mistaking the group for Hare Krishnas," said Palatine resident Jashbhai Patel, who designed the building.

Patel said proudly that the money collected to build the temple was donated by congregation members.

The total cost would have been

about \$2 million, said Patel, president of the temple's building committee.

But because members poured concrete, tied reinforcement bars, and did "quite a bit of cleaning and excavating" themselves, Patel said, they saved about \$700,000 in labor costs.

"The beauty of this particular building is that all the congregation helped," he said.

This is the first Swaminarayan temple to be built for that purpose in the United States. There are other temples in the country, but they have been converted from existing buildings, Patel said.

Until Memorial Day, the Chicago-area Swaminarayans were holding services every other weekend at a Skokie Park District facility.

During services the men sit on blankets on the south side of the meeting hall's concrete floor, while the women and children sit on the north side. At the front, a congregation member leads prayers before

an altar that weighs about 4 tons.

The altar was made in Vadatal, India, where the Swaminarayans are based.

A leader of the faith, Acharya Shri Ajendraprasadji Maharaj, came from India to Wheeling to install sacred idols on the altar during the opening ceremonies. He is a descendant of Swami Narayan's family.

Patel said members of the congregation felt fortunate to see him up close during his stay. When he makes an appearance in India, 300,000 to 500,000 people at a time try to get a glimpse of him.

Patel said the Swaminarayans picked the Wheeling location for the temple because the 2-acre site was affordable and is centrally located.

"First we thought of buying an old church," Patel said. "[But those available] did not have big enough space, so we thought we should build one."

# Mail delay puts off a hearing on annexation

By Kathie Mitchell

A public hearing on the annexation of 37 acres around Palwaukee Airport, scheduled for Monday evening, was postponed because the Wheeling Fire Protection District failed to pick up its mail.

As part of the annexation process, surrounding property owners as well as the government agencies that serve the area were notified by certified mail. But when one of those agencies, the fire protection district, did not respond, the meeting was canceled.

It turned out that district officials hadn't picked up their mail, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The 37 acres are within the district's boundaries, but the Village of Wheeling has a contract to provide fire protection there. And the village owns the airport jointly with Prospect Heights.

The hearing now is tentatively set for 8 p.m. July 1 in Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought the 37 acres to provide buffer space for runways. The land is now in unincorporated Cook County and would be annexed by Wheeling.

The area is bounded, generally, by Milwaukee Avenue to the east, Sumac Road to the north, and the village limits of Wheeling to the south and west.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 6-19-91

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Arlington company to evaluate streets

Wheeling trustees took the first step toward preparing another five-year street maintenance program Monday when they approved spending \$25,250 to have a consulting firm evaluate most of the 52 miles of streets in the village.

Infrastructure Management Services of Arlington Heights will study the pavement and suggest a program for repairing village streets.

The last study was done in 1982 but trustees took a fiscally conservative approach to the plan, taking nine

years to complete it.

### Two new trucks to be purchased

Trustees also voted to spend \$37,550 for two new trucks for the operations and maintenance department.

They will spend \$16,905 on a three-quarter-ton pickup truck for the water and sewer department and \$20,645 on a 1-ton dump truck for the road and bridge department.

The purchase of the trucks is part of a regular vehicle replacement plan undertaken by the village.

### Engineering consultants retained for work

Trustees authorized Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners to retain the firm of Crawford, Murphy and Tilly to do engineering work for the airport.

Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, which has been the airport's engineering consulting firm for five years, was paid \$20,000 by the airport last year for a variety of work including putting together the airport's capital improvement plan for the next several years.

HERALD

6-19-91

# Dist. 21 may delay Field School addition

6-19-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After a flurry of activity by Wheeling officials to get plans for an addition to Eugene Field Elementary School through the village approval process as quickly as possible, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 officials will consider postponing the project until winter when they meet Thursday.

In a letter dated May 31, William R. Olson, of Arcon Associates, Inc., recommended the project be postponed because he felt bids for the work, opened May 31, are too high.

He said he called at least 10 contractors and asked them to bid on

the addition to the school at 51 St. Armand Lane. But only two responded with bids and they were at least \$100,000 higher than the \$351,500 he estimates the project should cost.

School board members gave the go-ahead for the addition, originally scheduled for next year, in late April. Plans for Field include a 3,500-square-foot learning center, which would enable the three rooms now used for a learning center to be converted to classroom space.

District officials were hoping to have the learning center finished by fall so three classes now housed at Robert Frost Elementary School in Mount Prospect could be moved to Field.

Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said arrangements to house the classes in other schools have already been made.

Village trustees approved school plans just two working days after plan commissioners recommended that approval — a process that normally takes about a month.

And Wheeling officials have expressed some dismay they were not informed at a June 5 meeting with district officials that the project could be postponed.

"We were under the impression that they needed to move along rather quickly," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "It surprises me that they had more information than they were letting on."

## Mail brings citation

6-20-91  
By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
Wheeling residents with large mailbox structures are getting more than just mail delivered to them these days. They are receiving citations from the village inviting them to court.

The village issued 10 citations June 10 to citizens who ignored or failed to comply with registered letters sent to them April 19 requesting that their large mailbox structures be removed.

Village Director of Operations and Maintenance Robert Gray said Wheeling's only recourse left is a court of law.

"It is not a fun item," Gray said. "It is no fun telling people that their mailboxes have to be removed. We have more important things to do."

The village board passed legislation earlier this year clarifying a standing ordinance on right of ways with regards to mailboxes. Residents had until May 24 to either comply by moving or removing their mailbox structures or seek an extension from the village.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village isn't asking for fines to be levied against the mailbox owners. "The village would be satisfied if they just removed them. That's our main goal. We don't want anybody to get hurt."

The village originally sent out 20 registered letters concerning the permanent structure boxes. To date, Anderson said 10 of them have been removed or are in the process of being taken down.

## Walmart brings jobs

Wal-Mart's new store on the border of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove plans to employ 245 people starting in late summer to operate the 114,000 foot store currently under construction.

The company plans to

hire the majority of the new store's employees from local applicants, according to Wal-Mart Spokeswoman Kristin Stehben.

Wal-Mart plans to announce interview dates and locations.

## Wheeling trustees tune to TCI bid for changes

6-23-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although their franchise agreement with TCI does not expire until 1996, Wheeling village trustees Monday began considering changes TCI wants to make in that agreement.

TCI is asking the village to consider switching from a dual cable system, capable of receiving 120 channels, to a single-cable system that would receive 60 channels.

And although trustees were pleased that rates would go down as a result of the change, they were also concerned that TCI would turn around and raise cable rates soon after the single-cable system went into effect.

"If we go to a single-cable system, are we guaranteed rates won't go up?" Trustee William Rogers said.

TCI Operations Manager Kris Gill said the company typically raises rates once a year and after the conversion, TCI would not raise rates for three months.

Village Attorney James Rhodes informed trustees that they could not

control the rate that TCI charges its customers.

"You can't regulate rates in any shape or form," he said.

Gill said Wheeling residents who now pay \$18.55 for basic cable could see a reduction to \$15.45 if a single-cable system is instituted. Charges for additional outlets would be eliminated under the new system.

Trustees approved the dual-cable system under their initial 15-year agreement with TCI in 1981. But Gill said although dual cable was the best system at that time, technology has advanced since then.

She said the switch would result in no additional cost to subscribers. A TCI representative would visit each home to make the changes in the system — giving them a new converter box, or if possible, hooking the cable directly into a television.

Village staff members will compile trustee questions and information from other communities that already have switched to a single-cable system into a report before entering into further discussion with TCI about renewing the agreement.

## Wheeling parks OK borrowing \$790,000 to beat law change

6-20-91  
By JOHN CHASE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling park district commissioners have voted to borrow \$790,000 by selling non-referendum bonds — a move usually made by commissioners in December.

Park District officials asked commissioners to approve the sale of bonds now because of a resolution pending in the Illinois State House of Representatives in Springfield which would prohibit park districts and other similar municipalities from issuing bonds.

The money could be used to pay some architects' fees related to the planned \$9.5 million family aquatic center and recreation building, make another payment on the property for the center on Dundee Road between Wickes Furniture Co. and Wheeling village hall, and improve some other parks, officials said.

"By passing this now we are guaranteeing that we will get the money we need and be allowed to spend it," said Superintendent of

Finance and Personnel Thomas Busby.

"We would rather be safe than sorry."

Thomas Webber, park board president, agreed.

"We have to do something now, instead of waiting," he said.

However, Commissioner Edward Klocke voted against borrowing the money now because he felt park district staff was moving too quickly.

"Usually in the past when we have non-referendum bonds we meet ahead of time and discuss it before we vote," he said.

Officials said the sale of bonds will not raise the tax levy for the bond and interest fund above its current 17 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Dolly Hein, a Wheeling resident, said she agreed the park district should borrow the money now, but felt all citizens should be fully informed of the bond issue.

"It is necessary for capital improvements," she said. "I just want it to be made clear to all of us."

## Postal carriers to keep watch over homebound

6-27-91  
By B.H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
Keeping an eye on senior and homebound citizens is the goal of the Carrier Watch program being run in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling with the U.S. Postal service.

The program, in place around the country for the past 10 years, started here about five years ago, died out and is being revamped.

Mail carriers are to alert officials when someone in the program hasn't picked up his or her mail for a day.

Carriers will know who is in the program because participants will have a sticker affixed to the inside of their mailbox identifying them as part of the program.

"The whole program is (designed) to help someone who is incapable of getting up or who is sick," said Mike Losurdo, president of the local postal carrier's union. "We want to help anyone who needs help."

The program is set up so that if an individual doesn't pick up his or her mail, the mail carrier would inform a supervisor who would contact the police.

The police will use an information sheet on the resident including emergency contact names and telephone numbers. The police will try to contact the resident by phone. If there is no contact made, an officer will be sent to knock on the person's door.

If no one answers the door, police will either attempt to enter the home with the help of a relative or a building superinten-

dent or will try to contact someone listed on the emergency contact form.

The postal union chief said the program is not difficult to implement and is extremely worthwhile to the community.

"It's added work but it isn't a whole lot of added work," he said. "I can't imagine anyone complaining about it."

Losurdo said the program had an original starting date of July 1, but delays in getting the paperwork together have pushed it closer to Aug. 1.

The program is available to anyone in the 60089 and 60090 zip codes.

To register for the free program, contact the Wheeling or Buffalo Grove police department's community service officer. The Wheeling Police Department number is 459-2632. The Buffalo Grove Police Department number is 459-2560.

To boost community participation in the program, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger sent letters out to senior citizens telling them about it.

"Participation in the Carrier Watch Program will allow the Post Office to contact the Wheeling Police Department, if you fail to pick up your mail for more than one delivery day. If necessary, the Police Department will then contact the individuals you have designated as emergency contacts, if you do not respond," Haeger wrote. "We hope to hear from all of you."

# Airport fuel storage tank to cost more than expected

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Installation of an underground fuel storage tank at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport could cost up to \$17,000 more than originally expected because of problems with excessive ground water.

"You never know until you dig what you are going to find," said airport Manager Fred E. Stewart. "And we found more water than normal."

Commissioners were expecting to pay about \$42,000 for the tank, which

will be used to store gasoline for the airport's maintenance vehicles. Fuel is currently stored in an above-ground unit being used with special approval from the state fire marshal's office.

And although they are not pleased with spending the extra money, commissioners realized they have no choice.

"All the back-up reasons for spending the money seem justifiable based on the experiences we have had," said Commissioner Nicholas J. Helmer of Prospect Heights. "But anytime there is an increase like this

in an expenditure it behooves us all to spend the extra time and attention to study it, and I think we did that."

Commissioners approved the purchase of the tank in April after refusing to spend \$45,000 for it in March. At that time they were concerned that bids received were twice what they had been verbally quoted last fall.

But airport officials said regulations had changed and compliance with new regulations mandated changes in the original plans for the tank.

The additional ground water means the tank will have to go deeper into the ground and Sheffield Tank Co. will have to dry out the soil before the tank can be installed. Plans already called for a system to anchor the tank, should the ground fill with water.

Although installation of the tank was supposed to take seven days, Stewart said there has been a two-week delay in the work while commissioners and the Prospect Heights city council and Wheeling village board approved the added cost.

# Commission recommends animal eye clinic

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Owners of dogs and cats with eye problems could bring their pets to Wheeling for treatment, if village trustees go along with plan commissioners approval of a specialized animal eye clinic.

Sam J. Vainisi and Gretchen Schmidt, partners in Animal Eye Associates of Riverwood, want to move their eye practice to the corner of Milwaukee and Mors avenues, across from Bob Chin's Crabhouse.

They asked plan commissioners to rezone the property, on which an abandoned house now sits, from resi-

dential to commercial. And although commissioners were leary about approving the change because they were afraid a shopping center could be developed with the zoning change, they eventually unanimously approved the request.

"The generic shopping center comes up under B-3 zoning," said Commissioner Terry Steilen. "A record store could come in. That connotation bothers me."

But Village Manager Mark Janeck said it was highly unlikely that a shopping center would ever be proposed for the 1 1/2-acre site.

"It is possible two retail uses could move in if the veterinary clinic va-

cates the space," he said. "But the site is not very large. It is hard to contemplate use other than office because of its size."

Vainisi said the building would be divided into two offices because a dermatologist may move into the other space. He said if the dermatologist did not move in, the office would be used for future expansion of the animal eye clinic.

An apartment also will be put in upstairs from the clinic to house students who would come to the clinic for training.

Residents who live next to the site and have seen several restaurants proposed for the corner fail to get

plan commission approval were pleased to see the clinic get the nod.

"It is a nice looking building and we are very pleased," said Mors Avenue resident Melinda Remaly. "They talked to all of us who live around the property. They will be an asset to the area."

Schmidt and Vainisi treat animals for eye ailments including cataracts, glaucoma and cornea ulcers. The clinic would be one of two clinics in Illinois that are open full time for the treatment of such problems in animals.

No animals would be housed outdoors and none would remain in the clinic overnight.

# DARE program does well in 1st year, needs funds

By B.H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

State grants, village dollars, local funding: No one is quite sure how the DARE program is going to be funded in Buffalo Grove next fall.

The program, which received rave reviews in a recent evaluation of its pilot semester, will cost about \$40,000 next fall.

None of the three elementary school districts have committed dollars to the program yet.

DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, a program which places a police officer in the classroom to help students learn about drugs, the dangers involved in using them and how to say no to them.

"Right now, the money is not budgeted. We're trying to look at some options for the program," said District 21 Associate Superintendent Dave Kroeze. "If we pay for Buffalo Grove, we are opening ourselves up to paying for all of the DARE officers that serve all of our schools. That could add up to a lot of money. That's the dilemma."

Kroeze explained that District 21 only has two schools in Buffalo Grove. It is being asked for about \$5,300 of the \$21,000 which the Buffalo Grove Police Department is seeking from the schools.

Kroeze said the village of Wheeling is paying for the DARE program in the district's Wheeling schools.

Stevenson High School is applying for a grant that may fund the program for districts 96 and 102. The money is part of the Alcohol and Drug Education Initiative Grant

funding and comes from Springfield.

"DARE is real heavily supported by the governor," said Stevenson's Student Assistance Program Coordinator Chuck Klevgaard. "We've written for this grant for five years. We've gotten it every year."

Right now, the money is not budgeted. We're trying to look at some options for the program.

**Dave Kroeze**  
District 21  
Associate  
Superintendent

If that money arrives, Klevgaard said districts 96 and 102 will receive approximately \$14,000 — their share of the \$40,000 tab.

At District 96, officials are hoping that Klevgaard's efforts pay off. The district's portion of the DARE bill would be \$8,000, according to

Director of Administrative Services Pete Keegan. "We hope (the drug education initiative money) will pay for the program."

Keegan said the district expects to hear from the state by September. He said the district's board of education has approved the program only if the state funding comes through. At this point, the district has not developed a contingency funding plan.

Klevgaard said alternate funding plans should be considered now, just in case the state money doesn't come through later.

"It would be my recommendation that districts have a back up plan because (our grant) isn't guaranteed. We're fairly confident that the money will come through."

At District 102, the DARE bill is projected to be about \$6,000.

"We're waiting to see if the village will pick this fee up for the schools," said Assistant Superintendent Rich Majka. "We have not budgeted for it, but our budget hasn't been completed yet. We're also exploring some grant options."

Buffalo Grove Village Manager Bill Balling said the final details of funding DARE haven't been worked out, but meetings with school district officials have been held.

Balling added that the village has neither the plans nor the money to fund the schools' portion of the DARE bill.

"This is a very valuable program. We hope to get the financial support of the school districts," Balling said. "We'd like to keep the program running if possible."

Although architects have stopped work while Wheeling Park District commissioners sort out financing for the proposed family aquatic center and recreation building, designers of the two projects have already been paid more than \$300,000.

And while commissioners say it was money well spent, members of Friends of the Taxpayers, a group keeping a close eye on the progress of the aquatic center, say the park board should have been sure they had the money needed to fund the projects before spending money on architectural fees.

Commissioners were planning on borrowing the money to build the two centers, estimated at \$9.5 million, on installment contracts and pay them back by selling bonds for the next 18 years. However, the possibility that the Illinois Legislature might vote to limit the bonding power of municipalities, school districts and other government bodies has stalled the project.

Commissioners attempted to borrow the money by selling another type of bond, but Friends of the Taxpayers gathered about 1,300 signatures — enough to force commissioners to get voter approval in November before using bond sales to construct the two centers.

Of the \$300,000, \$225,000 has been spent on plans for the aquatic center, which park district officials said will be self-supporting, and \$75,000 has been spent on designing the recreation center.

Park district officials have said they cannot build the recreation center unless voters approve a tax rate increase to run it.

# Wheeling aquatic spending disputed

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

"If ever there was a waste of money, this is it," said Alberta Klocke, member of Friends of the Taxpayers. "Think what we could have done for our parks with this money. The kids could have decent parks."

But commissioners still say the project will go forward and they did not put the cart before the horse.

"My opinion is the project is still a go," said Commissioner Greg Klacke. "It is a good project."

# Tile store's move may receive permanent OK

Herald - 6-30-91

Village trustees will consider letting Zack's Carpeting and Tile Inc. make a more permanent home in the lower level of Collins Fireplace Inc. when they meet on Monday.

The Plan Commission has recommended approval of a special use permit that would allow the two businesses to share the building at 561 W. Dundee Road, but some village trustees have said that Jerry Collins, owner of Collins Fireplace Inc., misled them when he asked for per-

mission to remodel his building.

But Collins said Vince Canale, owner of Zack's, approached him about renting space in the building after Collins had gotten village approval for the remodeling project.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson is recommending that trustees approve the special use permit with some restrictions that would make it impossible for more than two stores to be located on the site. Those con-

ditions include that there can be no more than two retail uses in the building and the retail space cannot exceed 9,000 square feet. Much of the building is used by Collins for storage of his merchandise.

Commissioners narrowly recommended in a 2-1 vote earlier this month that the special use permit be approved.

Collins has said he does not plan to put another tenant in the building and only considered Canale's re-

quest because Canale wanted to leave 61 S. Milwaukee Ave.

## The top meeting

**Who:** The Wheeling Village Board

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 50 Raupp Blvd.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Monday

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# 1 trustee dissents as Drewes sworn in as Wheeling clerk

7-2-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Patricia J. Drewes, who will begin serving as village clerk in August, was sworn in Monday night by Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Drewes, 47, will serve until April 1993, filling the unexpired term of former village clerk Lois J. Gaffke who was elected to the village board in April.

Trustee Judy Abruscato cast the lone vote against Drewes' appointment, saying she still had reservations about Drewes' ability to devote enough time to the job.

"I find Miss Drewes capable and willingly involved in the community," said Abruscato.

However, Drewes said that any concerns she had about the time needed to do the job had been resolved and she comes to the job "without reservations."

And Schultz also said she was confident Drewes could put in the time necessary to do a good job.

"I am very happy with the acceptance of Patricia Drewes," she said. "She wants to give us her best effort as village clerk and I'm sure she will serve us well."

Drewes, a village resident for 10 years, is a registered nurse, work-



Patricia J. Drewes

ing two part-time jobs.

The clerk is responsible for taking minutes at village board meetings and then transcribing and publishing those minutes.

# Engineers go ahead with plans for Wolf, Hintz intersection

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-3-91

Members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission recently approved the final alignment of the relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads, giving their OK to a plan that will move the roads from their original placement.

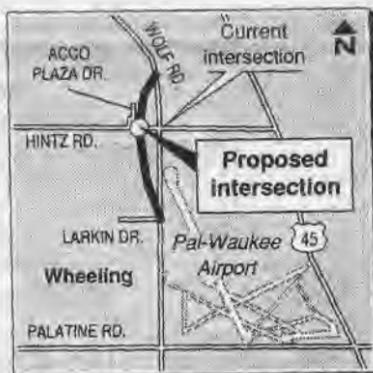
The plan was submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division last year and they asked the commission to make some changes.

Under the revised alignment, the relocated road will move only slightly and airport manager Fred E. Stewart said airport plans to acquire property for the realignment will not be affected by the changes.

Plans call for Hintz Road to be moved to arc north and meet Wolf Road just west of the current intersection. The new Wolf Road would begin just south of Marquardt Drive and bow west, slicing the Wolf Run Estates border before intersecting Hintz Road to the immediate left.

Now that the alignment has been approved, engineers can begin drawing preliminary designs of the roadways, but Stewart said the plan cannot really move forward until the Federal Aviation Administration rules on the environmental assessment of the relocation.

The FAA must find that the road relocation will have no significant impact on the environment before



Daily Herald Map

airport officials can begin purchasing the property.

"The land doesn't become available for state and federal funding until it has been the subject of an environmental assessment study and been approved," Stewart said.

Stewart said the airport is hoping to get \$10 million next year to fund the purchase of several parcels of land needed to build the road.

"We have appraisals on 28 parcels," he said. "But the total to be acquired is considerably more."

Stewart said he hopes the FAA will rule on the environmental study by the end of the year. And he said it is difficult to gauge how far behind schedule the project is now. Construction on the first phase, two bridges built over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, was supposed to begin in September 1992.

# Wheeling board shoots down plans to relocate restaurant

7-3-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees, going against recommendations from two of their commissions, have voted not to allow a local Chinese restaurant to move to a different location.

Ben Mui, owner of Hong Kong Chop Suey Restaurant, at 48 W. Dundee Road, wanted to move his restaurant to a vacant building at 370 W. Dundee Road.

However, trustees said the restaurant would add to traffic problems on a roadway that is already too congested.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the trustees "very rarely" go against the recommendations of their commissions.

"There was the feeling that it wasn't an adequate site for a free-standing restaurant," Schultz said.

"We recognize that the plan commission and the zoning board of appeals are recommending bodies that do hold hearings on specific things, but the village board takes a broader view in deciding what is best for the village," Schultz added.

The decision creates a problem for Mui, who has already purchased the property.

Robert Kominsky, attorney representing Mui, said he will look at village ordinances and seek an appointment with Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson, to try to find a way for the restaurant to be allowed to move from one building into the other.

Anderson opposed the new location for the restaurant because it does not fit in with the comprehensive master plan that sets zoning guidelines for properties within the village limits.

Kominsky said Mui's contractors have been working with the community development department for several months and have made all the changes requested by village staff.

"Village staff did not lead us to believe there was a master plan that wouldn't permit a restaurant in that location," he said. "We were surprised to get a letter from the village manager saying he was not going to recommend it."

## WHEELING BOARD NOTES

### Paramedics receive protective vests gift

Wheeling paramedics received four protective vests from Amvets Post 66 Monday night. The vests, which cost around \$700 each, will be used by the two paramedic squads on runs to domestic disputes and to neighborhoods in the village where there has been a history of violence.

"Times have changed and these vests are needed," said Amvets member Robert Hettinger. "We are proud to help protect those that serve and protect us."

### Board lets Zack's stay in Collins Fireplace Inc.

Trustees voted to allow Zack's Carpeting and Tile Inc. to stay in business in the lower level of Collins Fireplace Inc.

But they also limited future use of the newly remodeled building at 561 W. Dundee Road, by saying only two tenants can occupy the building and no more than 9,000 square feet of the building can be used for retail space.

Last month some trustees expressed dismay upon learning that Zack's Carpeting, owned by Vince Canale, had moved into the building, because they felt Jerry Collins, owner of Collins Fireplace, misled them by not mentioning he was considering taking in a tenant when he approached the village with his remodeling plans.

However, Collins said Canale approached him about moving into the building after the remodeling was in progress.

### Veterinarians receive approval for eye clinic

Trustees also gave approval to two veterinarians wanting to build an animal eye clinic in the village.



Park Community Service Officers Stacy Williams, left, and Francisco Cortez patrol Heritage Park in Wheeling. This is the first year the community service officers have used bikes to get around the parks. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Walsh

7-6-91  
**Community service officers increase visibility with bikes**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling park community service officers are pedaling the parks this summer in an effort to cover more ground and become more visible to people who might need their help. Since the inception of the park community service officer (CSO) program four years ago, the park CSOs have driven from one park to the next, getting out of their vehicle to make inspections on foot. But this year the Wheeling Park District and village police department, co-sponsors of the program, decided to take the patrol off four wheels and put it on two. Since motorized vehicles are not allowed in the parks, bicycles seemed the logical way to go. "We want the CSOs to be looked at

on more of a positive note," said Wheeling Police Sergeant Juan Rivera. "And we want a positive environment for the kids who are doing the job." The job is a mix of promoting the parks and enforcing the rules. Patrolling the parks seven days a week from May through September, the park CSOs answer questions, direct people to activities and write citations for parking violations, littering and other rule-breaking activities. Partially for their own safety, they travel in a two-person team. "We are supposed to call a police officer if we see a fight break out," said 19-year-old Francisco Cortez, one of three youths hired this year for park patrol. In his second year as a park CSO, Cortez said he has radio contact with the police department at all times.

7-6-91  
**Villages examine fireworks for improvements**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Fireworks shows in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling went off without any major hitches Thursday, but officials from both villages cited improvements that could make the shows even more spectacular next year. In Wheeling, where about 10,000 people gathered in three locations to watch the show, music accompanied the fireworks for the first time in several years. Judy Abruscato, a member of the Fourth of July Committee, said people viewing the fireworks from Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road, could not hear the music which was broadcast from the

main stage at St. Joseph the Worker Church's Familyfest. "The music was not received on the end by the park," said Abruscato. "Next year we will try and do something different. Maybe use two generators and have someone come out and broadcast from the park too." Despite the problem with the music, Abruscato said the show was the best ever. "Some people commented that our grand finale was better than the one in Chicago Wednesday night," she said. The Fourth of July Committee is still about \$400 short of its fundraising goal. Abruscato is confident the money can be raised

through donations sent into the village with water bill payments. In Buffalo Grove, about 4,000 people saw the fireworks from three different locations, including — for the first time — the Rotary Village Green. But Village President Sidney Mathias, who watched the fireworks from Rotary Village Green, said the view "wasn't quite as good" as the view from Willow Stream Park or the village campus, which are closer to the site where the fireworks are shot up into the air. "Next year we will have to shoot them higher or move them," he said. But overall Mathias said the fireworks program went smoothly. "Everybody clapped," he said.

7-4-91  
**Lengthy dry spell puts test to watering rules**

By B. H. MERENS  
 STAFF WRITER

While some Deerfield, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling officials called the last two weeks of June a "drought," none of them compared the hot, dry conditions to the summer of 1988. Water usage in late June rose dramatically in the three villages, but officials said most residents complied with watering restrictions which eliminate watering from noon to 6 p.m. All of them agreed that their village's daily water consumption was on the high side during the past month. Water usage in Buffalo Grove rose to 9.4 million gallons on June 27. While that is the highest number of gallons pumped on any given day this year, it is not a village record. Public Works Director Greg Boysen said the village pumped a daily high of 10.6 million gallons in 1988. In Wheeling, the normal daily water con-

sumption stands at about four million gallons. During the past week, the village has pumped closer to six million gallons a day according to Wheeling Water Superintendent Augie Lockefer. "If you get so little rain, a lot of times people perceive a need to water the lawn," Boysen said, adding that the village's conservation program curbed people's watering. "We would have been higher if our water conservation efforts weren't in effect." The village has decided to let its grass turn brown and stagnate during the dry spell, Boysen said. "We've been just letting our lawns dry out and just go dormant," he said. "We find it is more ecological to do this." Because Buffalo Grove's watering restrictions are new, the village has the added job of informing people about the rules while they police the neighborhoods. Inspector Bill Means said he has found most people complying with the watering limits.

7-8-91  
**Airport land may bring tax revenue to city**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the recent annexation of six parcels of land at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport, the village of Wheeling gets greater control over what, if anything, is developed on the property. But whether the village could ever see property or sales tax revenues from the annexation — and how much — will not be determined for several years. The airport has owned the property for a number of years and most of it is now vacant and therefore exempt from property taxes. It is bounded, generally, by Milwaukee Avenue to the east, Sunac Road to the north and the village limits of Wheeling to the south and west. Airport Manager Fred E. Slewart said the land is needed to provide runway clearance and to construct new taxiways. Some of the land also may be used for the proposed relocation of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and the building of new hangars to replace T-hangars at the south end of the airport that the Federal Aviation Administration says are too close to the longest runway. The airport is co-owned by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights, but under an agreement signed by the two communities in 1989, most of the land left to be annexed will become part of Wheeling. Much of the airport property that now generates property or sales tax revenue is at the south end of the airport, which is in Prospect Heights. City officials said they could not estimate how much the village gets in taxes from that property, which houses, among other things, the Hangar Restaurant. Wheeling officials are hoping that a second fixed-base operator, selling gasoline and servicing planes, will be developed at the north end of the airport. "We would control the permit process and get any sales tax revenue if that happened," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

# Wheeling trustees try to simplify home improvement paper trail

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday night looked at ways to make it easier for residents to improve their property.

However, they learned from Michael Klitzke, director of community development, that there were no simple solutions.

While trustees often look at ways to improve village procedures, recent complaints from residents prompted an examination of what homeowners must go through to make what they perceive to be simple improvements to their property such as building garages, fences and room additions.

Klitzke told the board that it takes about six weeks for the average resident to get approval for his changes.

And he said that because village codes have changed, many of the owners of homes in older subdivisions must get zoning variations before any changes to their property can be made.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz

said that one problem is that residents who have lived in the village for 30 or more years have trouble understanding why now they don't meet village codes.

"To tell them you don't conform, they react negatively," she said. "How you get over that, I don't know."

But Klitzke said his department tries to explain the procedure to each person who comes to him with a request to help them understand.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said that, at times, all the paper work involved in making a change can confuse residents and suggested they be provided with a checklist that could help them follow the process.

"Would it be too much of a problem to have a checklist to give residents a little extra push that wouldn't detain things?" she asked.

But Klitzke said that his department takes each person on an individual basis and a checklist would be more confusing.

# Finance directors plan to keep deducting tax

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Even though the state income tax surcharge ceased to exist on July 1, employers should continue deducting it from their employee's paychecks, according to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The state legislature is expected to pass an extension of the tax which increases the state tax from 2.5 percent to 3 percent of an employee's gross pay.

"We are confident that the (tax will be passed) and that it will be made retroactive," said Revenue Department Spokesman Kevin Johnson. "We are still recommending to employers to deduct at the 3 percent rate. As long as there are bills pending on the floor, we think a company's strongest position is to withhold at three percent."

While most people don't notice the extra withholding from their regular paycheck, the state collects about \$25 million additional tax dollars from the surcharge every two weeks, Johnson said.

The battle downstate concerns how to distribute the \$650 million to \$700 million surcharge dollars collected annually and whether or not it will become permanent.

Spokesmen at the villages of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling said they are taking the

state's advice and continuing to deduct the surcharge as if it never expired.

"We are staying at (the) three percent (rate) because we don't have any direction from the state," said Buffalo Grove Finance Director William Brimm. "We're concerned that if it does pass, and we think it will pass, that it will be made retroactive to July 1. We're hoping that by the time we run a payroll in two weeks, that this problem will be resolved."

Brimm said that Buffalo Grove withholds approximately \$5,500 of state income taxes every two weeks. Just under \$1,000 of those monies feed the income tax surcharge, he said.

In Wheeling, Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said he also is extending the surcharge, even if the state hasn't yet.

"Basically, we're just going on the track record of the state. The odds are that the surcharge will get continued and made retroactive," Fialkowski said. "It is safer to be over withholding than under withholding."

Fialkowski said that Wheeling deducts approximately \$7,400 in state income taxes from employees' paychecks every two weeks. He said about \$1,240 of that goes toward the surcharge.

# Wheeling trustees approve ambulance purchase

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Fire Department paramedics will be answering emergency calls in a new ambulance in about four months now that village trustees have approved the purchase.

North Central Fire Apparatus of Kenosha, Wis., will build the \$67,567 ambulance, which will replace the department's oldest ambulance.

Fire department officials said the patient transport compartment will be made out of aluminum instead of plywood.

"We are getting away from plywood because aluminum is lighter and easier to maintain," said Ralph Perricone, deputy chief. "We need to buy something that is quality and lasts because we run the wheels off them," he said.

The purchase is part of a program to replace the fire department's equipment on a regular basis. The department buys a new ambulance every 10 years. When the vehicle is 5 years old, the patient compartment is removed and the chassis is rebuilt.

The oldest ambulance, currently one purchased in 1969, is kept in reserve. Perricone said the department runs two ambulances full-time but each shift has the manager to run a third ambulance if necessary.

# Wheeling's 911 service to begin July 24

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of the Village of Wheeling will be able to dial 911 for emergencies on July 24, now that the Illinois Commerce Commission has given final approval to the system.

And a group of Eagle Boy Scouts are helping village officials get the word out.

"Over the weekend, we had Eagle Scouts passing out information to apartment complexes and businesses," said Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes. "They have been a big help."

Hermes said a brochure explaining what constitutes a 911 emergency will be mailed to village res-

idents in their first phone bill after July 24.

Hermes said it is difficult to predict how many prank phone calls the village will receive on the 911 number after the system is up and running. He said all the police department can do is wait and see what happens.

There will be several training sessions for adults and children. Once school begins, the police department will give educational programs to help children learn to use the system.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he does not foresee any problems with meeting the target date now that testing of the system has been completed.

Illinois Bell and police radio dispatchers called select businesses and residences, asking them to call back dialing 911. They then checked to be sure the correct address and phone number automatically came up on the computer. All other numbers were checked from the phone company's headquarters.

Anderson said the seven-digit emergency number for the fire department will remain in service.

"People living outside the village limits who get Wheeling Fire Department service will still have to call 537-2121," he said.

The number will also be there for people who don't know they can dial 911 or people who forget.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 7-17-91

## Wheeling New 911 system ready to go

Wheeling's enhanced 911 system will begin taking emergency calls July 24.

"The system's a go. It looks real well," Illinois Bell representative Ken Smith told the Village Board.

To celebrate the new emergency telephone system, a ribbon cutting ceremony is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the police department at the Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

With enhanced 911, the caller's address is automatically displayed on a computer screen when public safety dispatchers answer the emergency call.

# Arbor Court Apartments to get playground

By JOHN CHASE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Children living in a Dundee Road apartment complex will not have to go far to swing and climb a jungle gym, now that Wheeling Plan Commissioners unanimously approved construction of a playground at the complex.

Commissioners agreed with Arbor Court Apartments owner Lawrence Floria, that a playground would en-

hance life for the many children who live in the 78-unit complex.

"This is something that we really need," Floria said. "It will be a big asset to the community."

The playground will be located at the southwest corner of the interior parking lot of the complex. It will be about 21 feet by 36 feet in size, according to Floria.

Floria said the playground will be designed for children between the ages of 3 and 10 and will be able to

accommodate about 100 to 120 children.

He said the closest park is at Whitman Elementary School, 133 S. Wille Ave., about two or three blocks away, and that it was made mainly for children over the age of 10.

Some commissioners were worried about older children hanging out in the park after it is closed.

But Floria said the area is well lighted and that it is a place where residents could easily watch for any

possible troublemakers.

"The people living in the corner (of the apartment complex) wouldn't stand for that for too long," said Mark Janeck, Wheeling village planner.

He said this is the best spot for the playground because tenants will be able to keep an eye on it.

The area used to be used for late night soccer games which bothered the residents, according to Floria.

# Village's clerk jumps into job

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

Pat Drewes was student council president of her nursing school class at Columbus Hospital 25 years ago. Today, she has returned to the business of government as Wheeling's Village Clerk.

"I'm in a service profession," Drewes, a registered nurse, said. "I believe in giving something back to my community. It may sound corny but it is a philosophy that I grew up with."

Drewes, a Wheeling resident for almost two decades, spent two years on the Village's Ethics Committee. Otherwise, her involvement with the village government has been minimal.

"I am looking forward to becoming more knowledgeable (about village government). We've been here for 19 years and a lot has happened. I get to see how it is done now," she said.

Drewes replaces Lois Gafke who won a village trustee seat in April.

She said she'll be "jumping in feet first" to get started in her new post.

"There's no other way. There's no class to take. It is

the only way to do this job," Drewes said. "I think that (in) most of the ventures that I've been involved in, I've jumped in feet first."

Drewes was sworn in as clerk on July 1 but doesn't officially take office until August 1. She said that due to prior commitments, she'll take over in a full capacity by September 1.

The clerk assists the village president with his/her duties, attends village board meetings and takes the minutes and maintains the village records.

In addition to village board meetings, the clerk attends all Liquor Control Commission, Emergency Telephone Systems (911), and budget meetings. The clerk also attends quarterly meetings of the Fire Pension Board.

The village clerk is usually seen but not heard at village board meetings. Drewes said she won't stray from that role, at least not at first.

"I will just try to be quiet and learn as much as I can," she said, explaining that she is interested in handicapped, senior citizens and children's issues.



Kurt Butcher/Pioneer Press

Patricia Drewes, left, Wheeling's new village clerk, gets some pointers from Lois Gafke, the former clerk and now village trustee.

# Wheeling welcomes 911

By B. H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

After a two-year planning process, Wheeling welcomes its 911 emergency phone system service on July 24.

Village officials have proclaimed the week of July 22-28 as "Enhanced 911 Week" to let citizens know that help is only three digits away.

"For any fire, police or ambulance emergency, (people can) call 911," said Linda Boller, Communications Supervisor for the Wheeling Police Department. "The number was designed to be easily dialed, even in the dark."

Boller said people are asked not to put the emer-

gency number on a speed-dial system. That defeats the purpose of the three-digit number and young children can accidentally push the emergency number button, Boller said.

The communications supervisor stressed that people can still use the seven digit emergency numbers 537-2131 (police) and 537-2121 (fire) and said that in certain locations people won't have any choice.

People in unincorporated areas of Wheeling Township initially won't be part of the village's 911 service, Boller said. She added that people in the area of Prospect Heights served by the Wheeling Fire Department and car phones currently can't access

the 911 system either.

People who can use the 911 service, actually are calling Indiana, Boller said.

When someone in Wheeling calls 911, the call is relayed through an Indianapolis-based computer to the Wheeling Police and Fire Departments.

A data base is searched and a computer screen at the police department immediately calls up the name, address and phone number of the residence or office where the 911 call comes from.

"By the time we pick up the phone, the information is there," Boller said.

The police department has seven 911 lines and established the system at a cost of more than \$100,000, Boller explained.

# Pal-Waukee renovation plans suffer setback in Springfield

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials, looking to Springfield to speed land purchases for Pal-Waukee Airport improvements, were dealt a blow Tuesday.

A Senate conference committee dropped language from a House bill that would have enabled the municipalities, which jointly own the airport, to acquire private land near the airport without first settling on a price.

Ed Rotchford, the mayor of Prospect Heights, said he was "amazed" that the amendment failed to survive.

Sheila Schultz, village president of Wheeling, said: "This is very urgent. This involves a dangerous intersection that needs improvement."

The Northwest Municipal Con-

ference, on behalf of the two communities, had lobbied for the "Quick Take" amendment attached to House Bill 1254. The bill is unrelated to the airport.

The amendment would have allowed Wheeling and Prospect Heights to move more quickly in acquiring land needed to move the intersection of Wolf and Hintz Roads in Wheeling.

Wolf Road is to curve west and Hintz Road is to move slightly north to provide a buffer safety zone around Runway 16-34.

The amendment would allow Wheeling and Prospect Heights to buy land at fair market value to move the project forward. Any disagreement over price would be settled in court later.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Palwaukee to pay \$5,400 for wiring plan

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Airport Commissioners voted Wednesday to spend up to \$5,400 to have an engineering firm draw up plans for new electrical wiring at the airport's administrative offices.

Last month, commissioners expressed concern about the cost and asked Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart to have an electrician look at the buildings' wiring to see if the job could be done without the help of the airport's engineering firm, Crawford, Murphy and Tilly Inc. of Aurora.

Stewart said an electrician estimated it would cost about \$4,000 to put an additional circuit board in

at Hangar One, where the airport staff works and maintenance equipment is stored.

"The building has been here since the early 1930s," Stewart said.

"Another panel would solve the problem of popping circuit breakers, but it would be adding another mess to the mess that is already there," he said.

Stewart said an increase in staff and the amount of electronic equipment used in the office has led to circuit breakers popping on an average of three times a week.

"There will be selective areas without power," he said, adding that work in progress on computers is often lost.

In 1988, when the Village of Wheeling and the City of Prospect Heights took over ownership of the airport from Priester Aviation, Stewart was the only employee.

Now there are five people who work in the office and four additional maintenance employees.

Under the agreement, the engineering firm will draw plans and specifications that airport officials can use to get competitive bids for the project.

"I feel bad spending \$5,400 on someone to tell us what to do instead of someone to do it," said Commissioner Nicholas Helmer. "But we do not have a choice."

Stewart said there is \$20,000 in this year's budget to begin rewiring the building.

# Residents air Lexington Commons concerns

7-23-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board went to the people Monday for a meeting at the Lexington Commons subdivision to hear concerns and answer questions.

Representatives from the police, fire, operation and maintenance, and community development departments also were on hand.

Robert Gray, director of operations and maintenance, did most of the talking — answering questions on topics ranging from snow removal to street maintenance.

But the proposed Lake-Cook Road widening also was discussed. Residents had questions about

when and whether the widening would take place, but village officials offered no timeline.

While residents thanked trustees for their efforts in getting a stoplight installed at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and McHenry Road, they asked the police department to watch for speeders using Lexington Avenue as a cut through to Lake-Cook Road.

Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said the department has stepped up its patrol of the street, but he told residents that 80 percent of the tickets issued over the past several months have been to residents of the 564-unit town house complex.

Some residents asked if it was

possible to close the street to through traffic during peak rush hours.

"To attempt to limit that would be very difficult," said Village Attorney James Rhodes.

And because only 20 percent of the speeders would be handled by closing the roadway, O'Rourke suggested stepped-up enforcement of the 30 mile per hour speed limit would be the best way to handle the problem.

"Heavy periodic enforcement seems to slow them down," he said.

Village trustees occasionally hold their meetings in the clubhouses of multi-unit complexes as a way of getting residents to voice their concerns.

# Wheeling toughens rules for tax breaks

7-22-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It may be tougher for businesses wishing to relocate to Wheeling to get a tax break, now that trustees have approved a tighter set of criteria for a property tax exemption given by Cook County.

Theodore J. Mau, president of Circuit Service Inc., expressed surprise last May when trustees rejected his request for the exemption, saying the building at 333 Aice St., did not meet the county's definition of an abandoned building.

The exemption, which gives manufacturers up to a 50 percent reduction in their property taxes for eight years, is meant to encourage relocation to Cook County. It is given to companies that construct new buildings or renovate abandoned ones.

Mau has since moved into the building, which stood vacant for two years, but village officials wanted to make sure the requirements are clear for future companies looking to get the exemption.

Under the new set of guidelines, a building must not only be vacant but blighted, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"The goal is to build new or to renovate a building that is not in the best of shape and make it usable as a manufacturing building," he said.

While the county has final say over whether or not the exemption is granted, Anderson said it very rarely approves an application that has been denied by the village.

Anderson said the tougher regulations were favored because the exemption gives manufacturers such a big break.

"It is a substantial reduction in what they are assessed at," he said.

# Realtors aid sought on multi-garagesales

8-6-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

garage sales, they elected to try and solve the problems without adding another set of laws to the books.

"There are some ordinances on the books addressing parking concerns already," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "And no one wanted to stop them — there is some need they serve in the community."

Anderson said complaints about parking are valid because in many areas of the village parking is permitted on one side of the street only, but when garage sales are held, cars often line both sides of the street.

Wheeling officials will begin contacting area real estate firms sponsoring neighborhood-wide garage sales in hopes of getting prior notification when these sales are held in the future.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he receives a few complaints each year about people attending the sales creating parking problems and cutting across lawns in the neighborhoods where they are held.

And although trustees could draft a set of ordinances governing

# New 911 system braces for pranks

7-29-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Calling the Wheeling police or fire department to report an emergency becomes easier today now that the village's Enhanced 911 system is up and running.

And village officials are urging residents not to call the number just to make sure it works.

"The system has been tested," said Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes. "People do not need to call 911 to make sure it works."

The system automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes last only a few seconds.

Police and Fire department officials, hoping to avoid as many prank calls as possible, are also asking parents to educate their children about when to dial 911.

# Wheeling passes medical waste ordinance

8-6-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling establishments that generate medical waste can expect a letter from the village sanitarian outlining provisions for disposal of the waste now that trustees have approved an ordinance regulating that disposal.

Trustees unanimously approved the new ordinance Monday after learning that the state legislature also soon could be looking at regulations for disposing of hazardous medical waste.

"We want to move ahead before the state does something that would pre-empt our ability to make regulations," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Village sanitarian Daniel Adams developed the ordinance, which is meant to protect the public and sanitation workers from injury and infection, to divert the waste from municipal landfills, and to prevent medical waste from being disposed of in a way that is harmful to the environment.

Hospitals, clinics, blood banks, research laboratories, veterinary hospitals, mortuaries and animal quarantine facilities are just some of the organizations that would be required to follow the disposal rules described in the proposed ordinance.

Under the plan, generators of medical waste would be required to store it in a secure location while awaiting disposal at an approved site.

They would have to package the waste to prevent leakage and make sure that package is clearly labeled as hazardous material waste.

They would also be responsible for keeping records and receipts, for at least three years that show compliance with the ordinance.

Companies found violating the rules could be fined up to \$500 for each day they remain in violation of the ordinance.

People who use hypodermic needles at home, for the treatment of diseases like diabetes, will be required to dispose of the needles in rigid, leak-proof containers and are also subject to the rules of the ordinance.

# Buffalo Grove, Wheeling try to meet on middle ground

8-7-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said Tuesday that Buffalo Grove's resolution stating it will not sue Wheeling without first attempting to reach a settlement is good in principle, but she is not ready to propose a similar ordinance to Wheeling trustees.

Buffalo Grove trustees passed the resolution Monday night.

It is subject to passage of a similar resolution by Wheeling and is not binding if a meeting cannot be arranged after one week of trying.

"Communication is never a problem," Schultz said. "But I'm not sure how our attorney will react to promising to meet before litigation."

Schultz said because the decision to file suit is often discussed in closed session, it would not be advantageous to publicly discuss the lawsuit before filing it.

"This is a nice gesture," she said. "We will look at what they want us to do (pass a resolution) but we will always respond to a request for a

meeting."

Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said he chose Wheeling as one of three communities to work on improving relationships with because the two villages are currently involved in litigation over annexation of a parcel of land at the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads.

Wheeling filed that suit earlier this year when Buffalo Grove annexed the land after it had already been annexed by Wheeling and zoned commercial.

The lawsuit is still in its early stages with both parties appearing before the judge for a progress report in early October.

"I don't see how Wheeling can resolve this without litigation," Schultz said of the property dispute. "And it is premature to meet about what will go on that property because the owner does not have any plans to develop it."

She said that Wheeling, even without an ordinance, is committed to meeting with Buffalo Grove "when ever the need arises."

**Sidewalk engineers hired for \$3,400**

Wheeling village trustees voted to pay \$3,400 to a Northbrook engineering firm for the design and construction supervision of three sidewalks.

Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. will design sidewalks for Wheeling Road at the branch fire station, Hintz Road along the VIP Apartments' frontage and Hintz Road west of Route 83.

Officials expect the sidewalk construction, part of the village's five-year capital improvement plan, to cost around \$30,000 and be completed by the end of October.

**Tax exemption rules tightened**

Trustees passed a tighter set of criteria for a property tax exemption given by Cook County to businesses locating in the village.

The exemption, which gives manufacturers up to 50 percent reduction in their property taxes for eight years, is meant to encourage the construction of new buildings or the renovation of abandoned ones.

Under the new set of guidelines passed by trustees, a building must not only be vacant but blighted to qualify for the exemption.

**Airport office electrical work OK'd**

Trustees went along with the recommendation of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission and agreed to pay an engineering firm \$5,400 to prepare plans and specifications for the repair of the electrical system at the airport's administrative offices in Hangar 1.

The electrical work is needed because the original wiring no longer adequately serves the growing staff and increasing amount of electrical equipment used in the hangar.

**Childrens' Center lighting approved**

Horizons Childrens' Center received permission from trustees to install lights with a new sign previously approved by trustees, despite objections from village staff.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he objected to putting the lights so close to a nearby residential area, but representatives of the center, at 3316 Schoenbeck Road, said the lighting would be covered by landscaping and would not bother residents.

After learning the lights would be turned off by 10 p.m. and was needed to help make the entrance and exit to the center more visible after dark, trustees approved the plan.

**Buffalo Grove, Wheeling near accord on land-dispute lawsuit**

By Doug Caruso

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are hoping to settle their lawsuit over a piece of property along Lake Cook Road within 30 to 60 days, said Buffalo Grove President Sidney Mathias. After that, he said, he hopes Buffalo Grove and its neighbors will talk before they sue.

Earlier this year, after both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove claimed the same parcel of land north of Lake Cook Road, Wheeling sued. But Mathias said at a Village Board meeting Monday that an end was in sight.

"We are in the process of talking and making proposals," Mathias said of the suit with Wheeling. "We don't want to keep paying the legal fees."

In the future, three resolutions proposed by Mathias and adopted by the Buffalo Grove Board of Trustees on Monday may help keep those legal fees down.

The resolutions promise that Buffalo Grove will not sue Wheeling, Lincolnshire or Riverwoods without first calling a meeting between Mathias and the respective village presidents to try to iron out any differences.

Buffalo Grove already has a mutual agreement with Long Grove to talk first and sue later. The new resolutions will not go into effect until the other villages reciprocate.

"We've had too much litigation and too little communication," Mathias said. "In my experience as an attorney, once you know some-

one, it's more difficult to litigate." Wheeling President Sheila Schultz said she agrees "in spirit" with the resolutions. "All parties, not just municipalities," she said, "should try to solve differences without litigation."

Long Grove and Buffalo Grove dropped lawsuits against each other after officials sat down and talked, Mathias said. He hopes that talks with Wheeling could achieve the same result.

"I met twice with Schultz," he said. "I am not as interested in getting the land as I am in having a say in what is done with it."

Schultz said Wheeling is aware of Buffalo Grove's concerns, but will not give up land that she says her village annexed first.

**Wheeling traffic offenders can bypass court**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists ticketed by Wheeling police for minor traffic violations will be able to avoid going to court under an ordinance passed by trustees.

With passage of the ordinance this week, the village joins several neighboring communities — including Schaumburg, Arlington Heights, Palatine and Hanover Park — that have agreed to a plan formulated by Chief Judge James A. Geocaris of the Circuit Court District 3, to reduce the amount of time judges spend hearing traffic cases.

Under the program, motorists ticketed for minor traffic violations

will have three options to save themselves a trip to court.

They can plead guilty and pay a fine; plead guilty, register for traffic school and court supervision and pay a fine; or plead not guilty and request a trial date.

In the past, motorists have had to appear before a judge to request supervision and traffic school. If a motorist pleads guilty and gets court supervision, the violation does not appear on his record.

The fine depends on the type of violation and is the same amount as the fine that would be handed out by a judge.

"The system is designed to benefit motorists, municipalities and the

court," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger. "Everybody contests a traffic citation, this is designed to alleviate the imposition on the court and motorists."

Motorists will also be able to settle violations that require them to take some action — such as fixing a broken tail light, purchasing a city slicker or license plate sticker — without a court appearance.

Under the plan, motorists will have to show they have complied with the law and pay a fine of \$20.

Wheeling police issued 1,822 tickets for non-hazardous violations last year. Deputy Police Chief Gary D. O'Rourke said many of those violations fall under the new plan.

**Garbage collection picking up in Wheeling**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Between 500 and 600 Wheeling homes are receiving a second weekly garbage pickup through a subscription service offered by Buffalo Grove/Wheeling disposal.

Trustees decided to offer the extra garbage pickup after receiving some complaints from citizens who did not want to give up twice-weekly garbage collection during the yard waste disposal months.

Last year trustees approved once-a-week garbage collection during prime growing season — April 1 through Nov. 30 — with a second pickup devoted to yard waste only. The changes were in response to a state law prohibiting

refuse haulers from taking yard waste to landfills. The additional garbage collection costs \$2.95 per month. Don Bulthuis, general manager of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, said the service has not been profitable for his company, but it will probably be offered again next summer if trustees want to continue the program.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, a proponent of the twice-weekly garbage collection, said she has received several calls from residents who are "thrilled to death" with the new program.

"Ten percent participation first time around is a pretty good showing," she said. "I think we can do better next

year if we advertise in the January bills." Village officials estimate that about 5,600 homes get curbside garbage pickup.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she is opposed to the program. She is fearful that the additional cost to the hauler may be passed on to all residents in increased pickup rates.

"The number participating is larger than I anticipated," she said. "But I still don't know what the cost is to the disposal company. I would think eventually they will have to raise the price."

Residents who want the additional garbage pickup should contact Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal at 520-7200.

**Wheeling cracks down on speeders**

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to slow down motorists on Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling police officers have written more than 175 speeding tickets along the stretch of the roadway within village limits since July 27.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said a special detail team has spent four hours a day since July 27 monitoring car speeds along the stretch of road where seven traffic accidents with fatalities occurred in five years.

The special detail was partially prompted by a July 25 accident in which two people were killed.

John E. Koch, 23, of Palatine, and

Ilona I. Tauber, 46, of Morton Grove were killed after Koch's car crossed the center lane and struck Tauber's. Fire department personnel had to remove both drivers from their cars.

Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said witnesses reported Koch was going "well over the speed limit" when he crossed over into the northbound lanes and struck Tauber.

"We are going to slow Milwaukee Avenue down," said Haeger. "And we are going to ask Prospect Heights and the county to help us."

Haeger said he did not know how long the special detail would be posted along Milwaukee Avenue. He said the department would conduct traffic studies in the next couple of

weeks to see if motorists have slowed down as a result of the stepped-up speed limit enforcement.

"If it means saving a life we're prepared to stay indefinitely," he said.

And he said he will also ask the Illinois Department of Transportation to consider dropping the speed limit along the much-traveled roadway.

"We are dealing with a stretch of roadway in which the speed limit is 40 to 45 mph," he said. "People are going 55 or 65. It doesn't have many stop lights, there are lots of driveways and no left-turn lanes."

"The road was designed years ago to handle a much different type of traffic," he added.

# Census information: useful or not?

Countyside 8-8-91

The second round of figures from the 1990 Census are out, painting a broad stroke portrait of each village. Finer strokes will be added in 1992 when data on education, labor force, income and work trips are released. But some officials debate the usefulness of all this information.

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Census Bureau has released another round of numbers on Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Long Grove that is sure to give some village planners enough statistics to keep them busy for weeks to come.

Buried in the eight pages of tables that make up "Summary File Tape 1," the most detailed release from the 1990 census so far, is data that will serve as a

guide for some communities to track population and housing trends, for others the need for minority services and demands on local education systems.

But village officials differ on just how useful all the census data is.

Some think the information is next to useless, while other say it is so overwhelming they will spend a decade digesting it.

"There's no reason to use (the census information) from our point of view. I just buried it," said Long Grove Village Manager D.M. "Cal" Doughty. "None of that information is indigenous to what we do. I'd be surprised if anybody in this area uses it to any great extent."

Doughty said he read the data and prepared a brief memo for the Long Grove Board of Trustees. He added that they didn't question him about the information.

But Doughty's views on the census data are not shared by officials in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

"We will try to use it to develop housing needs in the community," said Buffalo Grove Village Planner Robert Pfeil. "It will be used as a guide. We know there is a lot of interest in senior citizen housing."

Pfeil also said that area developers and village departments such as the police frequently request information that is easily extracted from the census

## RELATED STORIES PAGES 7, 8 & 9

data. Requests also come from area school and library districts, he said.

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission breaks out different "tracts" of information from the U.S. Census and makes it available to area communities which request it. Tracts can also be requested for areas as specific as a neighborhood, or a section of town. At that level, the census can serve as a valuable tool for studying community charac-

teristics.

The latest village-wide census data addressed population, race and age breakdowns, in addition to housing and family characteristics.

"The basic household size is important (information to us). It helps us estimate our basic population on an ongoing basis," Pfeil said. "It is useful stuff. It is not something that we put on a shelf and ignore."

Pfeil noted that Buffalo Grove has built itself out but that census information will help the village as the community ages and is redeveloped.

"The census information gives people an idea of the direction the village has gone in over the last ten years - good or bad," said Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck. "It is a massive information base. It is almost too big to deal with. Some of the (numbers) are helpful. Some are not."

The information helps Wheeling determine future service demands for sewer

and water, Janeck explained.

He said that the census information also helps developers decide whether or not there is any more building to be done in a given community.

"If there was no census, we'd be compiling the numbers ourselves," Janeck said. "The information will be used in our comprehensive plan and for the next ten years."

At the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, Associate Planner Mary Cele Smith said census information aids her agency in forecasting.

"There is nothing else quite like it. It is the most comprehensive document out there," Smith said. "It's critical for all public and private decision-making. Every marketing firm - every government wants as much detail as they can get."

# More homes in Wheeling

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents are primarily white, live in homes with 2.4 people and are somewhere between 25 and 40 years old, the latest 1990 Census information shows.

According to the detailed statistics on age breakdown by race, housing values and marital status compiled by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission from census data, the average home in Wheeling is worth about \$115,000 and has 5.2 rooms.

That represents a marked increase in home values from 1980, when the average home stood at \$71,980 and the average home had 2.6 rooms.

There are seven homes in Wheeling worth less than \$15,000.

Only four homes rank in the \$500,000 or greater value category. Home development has been a constant theme during the last decade. The village now has 12,998 housing units, compared with 9,038 in 1980.

Because of that development Wheeling now has 29,911 residents, an increase of about 6,700 people during the past 10 years. The breakdown of males to females shows that women outnumber men by close to 700.

While Wheeling remains primarily white, its Hispanic population has doubled in the past 10 years.

Census numbers show 2,508 Hispanics in the village today, compared with 1,282 in 1980. The current Hispanic population includes: 1,957 Mexicans; 88 Puerto Ricans; and 57 Cubans.

## Wheeling census profile

	1980	1990	% change	
<b>Total Population</b>	23,266	29,911	+29	
<b>Male</b>	11,537	14,610	+27	
<b>Female</b>	11,729	15,301	+30	
<b>Race</b>				
White	22,121	26,955	+22	
Black	188	504	+168	
Hispanic	1,282	2,508	+96	
Other	957	1,376	+172	
<b>Age</b>				
1-20	7,505	7,356	-24	
21-49	11,991	16,576	+53	
50+	3,770	5,979	+59	
<b>Avg. household size</b>	2.6	3.03	+17	
<b>Housing values</b>				
\$199,000-under	N/A	5,367	N/A	
\$200,000-499,000	N/A	351	N/A	
\$500,000+	N/A	4	N/A	
<b>Total housing units</b>	9,038	12,998	+44	
Single family	N/A	6,498	N/A	
Apts/Condos	N/A	6,500	N/A	
<b>Marital status</b>	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Single	2,540	2,096	3,407	2,912
Separated	118	116	158	167
Divorced	546	922	908	1,515
Widowed	95	682	223	1,142
Married	5,617	5,555	6,814	6,679



1990 CENSUS

# Police officials call for praise of enhanced 911 system

8-11-91  
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

You've fallen and you really can't get up.

But your 4-year-old child remembers how to dial that life-saving number — 911, and within minutes the paramedics are at your house.

A hypothetical scene? To Schaumburg police and paramedics it is a prime example of how important the enhanced 911 emergency system can be in a crisis situation.

Last November, Schaumburg became the first community in Cook and Lake counties to initiate the state-of-the-art system. Barrington and Wheeling followed, and within the next few months, most other

Northwest suburban police departments also will be connected to the enhanced 911 emergency system.

Rolling Meadows will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, marking the start of its own enhanced 911 system. Later this month, members of the Northwest Central Dispatch System — Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Palatine and Prospect Heights — also will join the system. Other Northwest suburban communities have plans to join by next summer.

What's different about the enhanced system and the basic 911 system is the feature that gives

## Enhanced 911: Where it stands in the Northwest suburbs

Town	Expected start	Town	Expected start
Arlington Heights	Late August	Hoffman Estates	Mid November
Barrington	On line	Mount Prospect	Late August
Barrington Hills	September	Palatine	Late August
South Barrington	January 1992	Prospect Heights	Late August
Bartlett	Sept. 15	Rolling Meadows	Aug. 12
Buffalo Grove	Late August	Schaumburg	On line
Des Plaines	Summer 1992	Streamwood	Sept. 11
Elk Grove Village	Late August	Wheeling	On line
Hanover Park	Sept. 15		



Source: Daily Herald survey of police departments

# 911: Wheeling credits system with saving life

Continued from Page 1

dispatchers the address, including apartment number, and telephone number of each incoming call, and in some cases, the caller's name. In Schaumburg, if the call comes from Woodfield Mall, the display shows from what entrance the call was made.

"I can't believe we didn't have this sooner," said Susan LaDore, Schaumburg's supervisory communications officer. "We've got it now and we think it's great."

It's not difficult to see the obvious benefits of the system. People panicked in an emergency sometimes

can't remember their address or telephone number. Other times, callers don't know exactly where they are, or some young children may not know their addresses. Tracking that information can take a dispatcher up to 10 minutes, which in an emergency could mean that somebody might die.

"The most significant aspect is it reduces by more than 50 percent the time to obtain vital information such as phone numbers and addresses," said Linda Luehring, support services coordinator for Rolling Meadows Police Department. "Sometimes it would take up five, 10 minutes to determine where a child

lives. This way, no matter what they're able to tell us, we're able to get help to them immediately."

About two weeks after Wheeling's 911 system went on line, a man who tried to overdose and kill himself called, said Linda Boller, communications supervisor at Wheeling. He changed his mind and hung up before he told the dispatcher where he was, but thanks to the enhanced system, police immediately went to the address on the screen and rushed the man to the hospital.

Boller said the system is especially important for Wheeling, which has a significant Hispanic population. When dispatchers are unable to understand a Spanish-speaking caller, the address and phone number still show up on the computer.

After nine months on enhanced

911, Schaumburg officials have found it invaluable. Although their own system has not been credited with saving a life, yet, they know it's only a matter of time.

During June, the Schaumburg police department handled 3,966 incidents; most were generated by telephone calls, Sgt. Ron Dutner said. During that same time last year, 3,953 incidents were handled.

There is no way yet to determine how many Schaumburg residents are calling 911, because records do not separate 911 incidents from calls that come through on the regular seven-digit number, Dutner said.

However, Schaumburg officials and those in other towns will get what is called a Computer Aided Dispatch System within a few months.

# Wheeling police: be wary of scams

8-15-91  
By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER  
*Courtesy*

It isn't a new scam but it still is effective and Wheeling Police Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop wants to make sure it doesn't happen to you.

It involves door-to-door home repair offers, known as "gypsy crimes".

In late July, an elderly Wheeling resident who Kobishop refers to as "John," to protect his identity, was outside his house when a white pick-up truck stopped at his driveway and its driver offered to sealcoat "John's" driveway.

"John" agreed to have the work done for \$180 and then received a bill for \$390 because the job was more "involved" than originally expected. Kobishop said a legitimate driveway sealcoater would have charged \$80 for the same job.

Kobishop said people who are going to hire a contractor to work on their home should do their homework first. The following consumer protection tips come from the Illinois Attorney General's office:

■ Check the company's

reputation. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau.

■ Ask for references from satisfied customers and contact them.

■ Find at least 3 contractors and get cost estimates before deciding on a firm.

■ Ask for a copy of the contractor's liability insurance and find out if any on the job accidents are covered and what, if any, liability you would have if an accident were to occur on your property.

■ Never sign a vague contract or one with blank spaces. Read the small print.

■ Never allow a contractor to drive you to the bank to withdraw your money.

■ Always pay for work with a check.

■ Do not sign a certificate of completion and do not make final payment until all subcontractors have been paid and the work is done to your satisfaction. (Know who the subcontractors are).

People can call their local police department or can write the Consumer Protection Div. of the Attorney General's Office, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. 60601. (312) 814-3000.

Crime in Cook County

8-10-91

Community	Year	Population	Murder & manslaughter	Robbery	Aggr. Assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor Vehicle theft	Arson
Arlington Heights	1990	75,460	1	24	46	460	2,110	117	15
	1989	73,584	0	26	48	480	1,920	158	26
	% change	+2.5	+100.0	-7.7	-4.2	-4.2	+9.9	-25.9	-42.3
Bartlett	1990	19,373	2	8	30	132	525	16	4
	1989	17,302	0	7	11	110	330	14	3
	% change	+12.0	+200.0	+14.3	+172.7	+20.0	+59.0	+14.3	+33.3
Buffalo Grove	1990	36,427	0	2	6	80	650	22	2
	1989	32,165	0	3	7	61	560	30	0
	% change	+13.3	-	-33.3	-14.3	+31.1	+16.1	-26.7	+200.0
Des Plaines	1990	53,223	0	23	41	294	1,495	153	13
	1989	55,690	2	21	51	328	1,507	136	15
	% change	-4.4	-200.0	+9.5	-19.6	-10.4	-0.8	+12.5	-13.3
Elk Grove Village	1990	33,429	0	14	31	235	1,071	80	13
	1989	33,360	0	11	30	239	1,017	79	5
	% change	+0.2	-	+27.3	+3.3	-1.7	+5.3	+1.3	+160.0
Hanover Park	1990	32,895	2	16	48	257	899	39	15
	1989	31,744	0	16	59	215	948	38	6
	% change	+3.6	+200.0	-	-18.6	+19.5	-5.2	+2.6	+150.0
Hoffman Estates	1990	46,561	0	10	38	266	1,220	95	7
	1989	44,881	1	10	40	249	1,010	82	6
	% change	+3.7	-100.0	-	-5.0	+6.8	+20.8	+15.9	+16.7
Mount Prospect	1990	53,170	1	12	36	294	1,382	135	4
	1989	53,317	0	12	61	274	1,338	109	6
	% change	-0.3	+100.0	-	-41.0	+7.3	+3.3	+23.9	-33.3
Palatine	1990	39,253	2	21	23	221	1,254	77	1
	1989	35,678	0	11	24	198	1,093	77	12
	% change	+10.0	+200.0	+91.0	-4.2	+11.6	+14.7	-	-91.7
Prospect Heights	1990	15,239	0	7	25	127	309	33	4
	1989	14,211	0	19	37	167	463	81	3
	% change	+7.2	-	-63.2	-32.4	-24.0	-33.3	-59.3	+33.3
Rolling Meadows	1990	22,591	0	14	34	190	809	64	7
	1989	21,869	0	7	42	213	743	53	2
	% change	+3.3	-	+100.0	-19.0	-10.8	+8.9	+20.8	+250.0
Roselle	1990	20,819	0	2	17	61	309	19	2
	1989	20,594	0	9	10	97	330	16	2
	% change	+1.1	-	-77.8	+70.0	-37.1	-6.4	+18.8	-
Schaumburg	1990	68,586	1	35	104	668	2,527	302	20
	1989	64,923	0	27	92	575	2,245	285	11
	% change	+5.6	+100.0	+29.6	+13.0	+16.2	+12.6	+6.0	+81.8
Streamwood	1990	30,987	0	4	25	194	866	34	3
	1989	26,370	2	4	24	201	714	25	1
	% change	+17.5	-200.0	-	+4.2	-3.5	+21.3	+36.0	+200.0
Wheeling	1990	29,911	0	7	38	143	742	29	5
	1989	28,492	0	4	36	115	663	45	3
	% change	+5.0	-	+75.0	+5.5	+24.3	+11.9	-35.6	+66.7
Chicago	1990	2,783,726	851	37,156	41,114	50,203	130,000	48,626	2,656
	1989	2,968,260	742	31,588	37,615	51,580	130,153	43,898	2,558
	% change	-6.8	+14.7	+17.6	+9.3	-2.7	-0.1	+10.8	+3.8

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Overall, crime decreases in Wheeling

8-14-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although the 1990 crime report released recently by the FBI shows an increase in some Wheeling crimes, the overall number of crimes reported in the village was down slightly.

The FBI report listed more serious crimes and while the increases amounted to significant percentages in some instances, the actual number of crimes was not all that substantial, according to Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary D. O'Rourke.

"We are talking small numbers," he said. "A substantial percentage increase does not indicate a substantial number of incidents."

For instance, the largest percentage increase was in robbery — jumping 75 percent. However seven robberies were committed in 1990 compared to four in 1989.

O'Rourke said the FBI statistics are just one of the indicators the department uses when it looks for crime trends or tries to pinpoint problem areas in the village.

"We evaluate a number of different things in assessing where resources should be devoted," he said.

Crime	1990	1989	Percent Change
(Population)	29,911	28,492	+5.0
Murder & manslaughter	0	0	-
Robbery	7	4	+75.0
Aggravated Assault	38	36	+5.5
Burglary	143	115	+24.3
Larceny-theft	742	663	+11.9
Motor Vehicle theft	29	45	-35.6
Arson	5	3	+66.7

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

"Not just the reported crime index." He said the department looks at the crimes committed in the village on "at least a monthly basis."

"We try to target offenses," he said. "If we can develop a pattern, we direct the patrol officers to do certain things. But there are some periodic fluctuations up and down that are beyond anybody's control."

The FBI report also showed burglaries increasing to 143 in 1990 from

115 in 1989. Larceny-theft increased to 742 from 663. However, motor vehicle theft decreased from 45 to 29 in 1990.

But O'Rourke said there are areas of concern that the FBI report does not address.

"We had 1,370 traffic accidents in 1990 — 322 with injuries," he said. "In Wheeling we have more people injured in traffic accidents than in criminal offenses."

Balefill refusal fails to halt group's plans

8-17-91  
By DAN CULLOTON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Shrugging off recent defeats in its efforts to build a balefill in Bartlett, a waste agency will seek funding for two garbage transfer stations originally planned as part of a network to funnel trash to that facility.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County is likely to approve next month the borrowing of money through a bond issue that will include money to begin construction of two transfer stations, one in Wheeling Township and one in Rolling Meadows.

This comes despite a refusal from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit for the 142-acre

fills. "It is essential that they be built," said Sheila Schultz, SWANCC chairwoman and Wheeling village president.

The nearly \$28 million financing package includes \$11 million to refinance the agency's debt, incurred while pursuing its balefill plans.

The balance of the money would be used for the construction of the stations, which could begin next year, said William Aboll, executive director of SWANCC.

The proposed Wheeling station would be located on 49 acres northeast of River and Central roads, while the Rolling Meadows facility would be at Berdick Street west of Rohlfing Road.

garbage dump that would accept the garbage of those facilities.

Bartlett Village President John Stark, a critic of the balefill, said SWANCC was "putting the cart before the horse" and wasting the taxpayers' money by pursuing a project that has been declared "null and void."

"It's my belief that one of the reasons that they are pursuing this project is to justify their own existence," he said.

SWANCC officials, however, are fighting the Corps' decision in Kane County court and remain confident the balefill will be built.

They said that even if the dump does not become reality, the area will need transfer stations to compact trash and ship it to other land-

Wheeling planners back Wal-Mart expansion

8-30-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

for a 3,600-square-foot garden center. But Wal-Mart officials are now asking that the center be 5,700 square feet.

They said there is more of a demand for garden supplies in the area than they originally anticipated.

The Wal-Mart department store and a Sam's Wholesale Club are expected to open next spring on Lake-

Cook Road, just east of Weiland Road.

Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said he was against the expansion of the garden center until he learned there would not be an exit with a cash register.

"Our only experience has been with K Mart," he said. "They have exits with cash registers all around

the building. But after being assured by Wal-Mart they wouldn't operate that way, I felt more comfortable."

One reason village staff did not recommend the change for approval was the loss of eight parking spaces.

But Wal-Mart officials changed the plan so the net loss of parking spaces would be four.

# Deadly road prompts study

By B. H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Although Wheeling police patrols have stepped up enforcement of speeding restrictions on Milwaukee Avenue, Police Chief Michael Haeger believes a larger scale effort is needed to improve overall safety on the busy road.

In the past five years, there have been seven fatal traffic accidents on Milwaukee Avenue, some with multiple fatalities.

One such accident, which occurred July 25, claimed the lives of John E. Koch, 23, of Palatine, and Ilona I. Tauber, 46, of Morton Grove.

"We've had a tremendous number of injury accidents (on Milwaukee Avenue)," Haeger said. "We're concerned about the road itself, the high speed (and) the

lighting on the roadway."

"We're waiting on the state to give us a survey of all the traffic. In the meantime, our goal is to slow it down."

The area of biggest concern is between Lake-Cook and Palatine Roads, with the most dangerous section that between Moors Ave. and Palatine Road, Haeger said.

Since July 28, more than 100 speeding tickets have been written by Wheeling police officers, many of them working overtime shifts to keep the patrols constant, Haeger said.

Additionally, the village has contacted the Illinois Department of Transportation looking for answers and dollars to make the road safer.

"We'll send our traffic people out to take a look at the area to see if they can spot anything that could be contributing to the accidents,"

said IDOT District One Engineer James Slifer.

He added that IDOT currently is studying an improvement project for Milwaukee Avenue. Safety measures can be incorporated into that effort, which includes widening and resurfacing the road from Lake Cook to Palatine Roads, he said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he believes increased lighting and reduced speed limits are necessary to make Milwaukee Avenue safer.

The lighting could be placed on existing utility poles but that would take money which Anderson thinks the state should provide.

"It's their road. (We) want money for street lights," he said.

# Wheeling deputy chief attends FBI Academy

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In the portrait of Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke's family done by his son when he was in kindergarten, O'Rourke stands much taller than the other three family members whose heads come up to his knees.

When O'Rourke asked his son, Matthew, why his head was so close to the sun in the picture, Matthew said that was the way he saw his father from where he was standing.

The picture is the only piece of artwork that decorates the wall of O'Rourke's office. He keeps it there to remind him that his is not the only perspective of the way things are.

However, as the person that oversees field services for the Wheeling police department, his is a perspective that is heard by many in the department — from the chief to patrol officers. And it is a perspective that



Gary O'Rourke

has been broadened by a recent 11-week stint at the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Va.

O'Rourke, a five-year veteran of the Wheeling police department, took classes in law, community edu-

cation, management and health and fitness. And he learned more on community-oriented policing — a program where the police department and the community work together to solve problems.

"It is one of the things Chief Haeger has been working on since he got here," O'Rourke said. "And we are doing some of that now with the neighborhood watch program and the DARE program. We will continue working with officers to get that orientation through the department."

O'Rourke also said that he came back from the school with some ideas about how to do his job better. As deputy chief in charge of field services, O'Rourke, 36, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the department — including its special units. He also helps prepare the budget and is the one who directs patrol officers during a disaster.

"The classes gave me an insight into ways I can refine my management style and do a better job with my work functions," he said.

He also said that being with 247 other law enforcement officers was a great way to get new ideas.

"I learned about new ideas and new programs that perhaps we can adapt in the future," he said. "And I got a view of what has worked for other people."

O'Rourke applied for the academy in 1989 and although he was accepted he had to wait until this year to get in. He is the first Wheeling police officer to complete the course.

The FBI offers the classes at no charge to the officers or the communities they work for. The village of Wheeling paid O'Rourke his weekly salary during the time he spent at the academy. They also paid for two trips home during the almost three weeks he was in Virginia.

# Village OKs new library parking lot

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees approved plans for a new parking lot at the Indian Trails Public Library recently after giving specific instructions about the length and type of fence that will separate the lot from the back yards of residents that live north of the library.

And although some of those residents were worried that the new parking lot could increase drainage problems on their property, Community Development Director Michael

Klitzke said the problems experienced by homeowners along Anthony Road are not caused by the library at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.

"The library is taking care of their impact on the area," Klitzke said. "As we do when residents voice concerns, we went out there and took a look. We found obstructions in the swale that was originally constructed."

The swale — a depressed, grassy area that was constructed to move excess rainwater — runs along the back property lines of the houses.

But Klitzke said that over the 20 years since the subdivision was built, gardens, sheds and log piles have been built in the swale.

And while residents may not have been aware they were part of the problem, the slides compiled by Klitzke and shown during a recent board meeting show the source of the obstructions.

"We will always be available to help," Klitzke said. "But it would be best for them if they got together and found a way to solve the problem."

The library is expanding its retention basin to accommodate any water run-off from the new 78-space parking lot.

Trustees also decided to be very specific about the type of fence the library will be required to erect — saying it must be 470 feet long. The fence will begin 25 feet east of Schoenbeck Road.

Library officials hope it will keep the noise and lighting from the additional parking lot from spilling over into the yards of Anthony Road residents.

# Wheeling to switch agreement with TCI

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials will begin negotiating a change in their franchise agreement with TCI of Illinois, now that trustees have said they may be willing to consider switching from a dual-cable to a single-cable system.

TCI representatives have wanted the village to make the switch for about nine months, but trustees were reluctant to consider the change until after seeing how it worked in other communities.

Trustees approved the dual-cable system under their initial 15-year cable agreement with TCI in 1981. But TCI now says that while dual cable was the best system at

that time, technology has advanced since then.

With the single-cable system, residents that have cable ready televisions and VCR's would no longer need to have a converter box and in many instances would no longer need to rent a remote control from TCI.

Assistant Village Manager Joni Beaudry said about 36 percent of the roughly 5,500 TCI subscribers in Wheeling would have to continue to rent a converter.

Subscribers could also expect a rate decrease of about \$3 if the single-cable system is approved.

Trustee Lois Gaffke expressed concern about the amount of time that cable service is down in the village and Beaudry said TCI rep-

resentatives said that the change would decrease the amount of down time.

Gaffke said subscribers should get credit for the amount of time each month that they cannot get cable television.

"Perhaps they should pay for their outages in order to make service better," she said.

And Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said trustees could ask for that in renegotiating their agreement with TCI to single-cable.

"All these concerns can be addressed by renegotiating the agreement," he said. "There have been a wide variety of changes made to agreement as a result of a negotiating an agreement to the 60-channel system."

# Wheeling keeps working on police contract

9-4-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A recent agreement with Wheeling's civilian police personnel leaves sworn police officers as the only village employee group working without a contract.

The agreement between the communications personnel and file clerks and the village marks the second contract negotiated by village officials this year. They negotiated an agreement with their operations and maintenance employees earlier this year.

However, talks with sworn police personnel — who have been working without a contract since April 30 — are ongoing. Both sides have agreed to extend the provisions of the expired agreement until a new one can be reached. And Officer Edward Theriault, negotiator for the police officers, said he thought an agreement could be reached within a reasonable period of time.

"Under the ground rules we are not to discuss contract negotiations," he said. "But we have been meeting on a regular basis."

He said the two sides have started meeting weekly. Theriault also was involved in the negotiation of the contract for the department's four records clerks and nine radio operators.

The agreement, which will give both groups a 5 percent raise next year, is the first to include records clerks.

The clerks asked to be recognized as a bargaining unit in 1989 after a re-evaluation of clerical duties in all departments of the village by Paul A. Reaume Inc. brought about a decrease in their salary scale.

The records clerks will receive about a 5 percent salary increase this year. Salaries currently paid to records clerks range between \$17,000 and \$22,000.

Radio operators will see almost an 8 percent increase by the end of the year.

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said a larger increase is being given to bring the salaries in line with other communities. Radio operators currently are making between \$21,000 and \$28,000.

# Municipalities at odds over airport appraisal

9-4-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a rare move, Wheeling trustees voted Monday against the recommendation of the Palwaukee Airport Commission to use an appraisal firm that came in with the lowest price for appraising land needed for a relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf Roads.

And with the Prospect Heights City Council voting Monday to go along with the commissioners' recommendation to hire the low bidder, Starkman and Associates of Evanston, the appraisal process comes to a standstill until the two communities — co-owners of the airport — can agree.

"Under the intergovernmental agreement both communities have to pass the same resolution before anything can happen," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart. "If they do not both pass it, nothing happens."

Commissioners voted last month to recommend Starkman and Associates of Evanston to appraise the 28 parcels of land for \$16,175 even though Stewart said a recommendation the firm received from the Illinois Department of Transportation was unfavorable.

Starkman's price was \$9,400 less than F.H. Whipple and Associates of Northfield, the next lowest bidder.

Under federal guidelines, two appraisals are needed for any land

the airport wants to use federal funds to purchase. Another appraiser is also needed to review the work of the first two. Both communities agreed to use William A. McCann and Associates of Chicago for the review work.

But Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson told trustees he was uncomfortable with Starkman's price, saying it seemed too low for the firm to adequately perform the work.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz cast the tie-breaking vote against using Starkman.

"Not having been privy to the other discussion and in due respect to the commissioners, I trust the recommendation of the village manager."

# Increase in injuries leads to no left turns at intersection

9-5-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists traveling Weiland and Old McHenry roads in Wheeling will find left turns at the intersection of the two roads prohibited later this fall now that Wheeling trustees have approved the change.

Under the ordinance, left turns from southeastbound Old McHenry Road (Route 83) to northbound Weiland Road and from southbound Weiland Road to southeastbound Old McHenry Road are prohibited.

Trustees prohibited the turns upon recommendation from the Illinois Department of Transportation after IDOT studied accident data sent by the Wheeling Police Department.

While the number of accidents at the intersection fluctuated between 15 and 21 from 1988-1990, the number of injuries related to those accidents has increased.

In 1988 two accidents resulted in persons being injured, in 1989 there were three and in 1990 there were five.

So far in 1991, there have been seven accidents and four of those have resulted in injuries.

Village officials will forward a copy of the ordinance to IDOT representatives who are responsible for posting the signs informing motorists that left-turns are no longer permitted.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said village officials also will contact Lake County asking them to put up a sign north of Lake-Cook Road, warning motorists they will not be able to make the turn at Old McHenry and Weiland.

# Volunteers ready to paint seniors' houses

9-6-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Several houses in the Northwest suburbs will get face-lifts later this month when more than 450 volunteers armed with paint brushes and ladders gather to spruce up the houses of low-income senior citizens who are unable to do the work for themselves.

September 14 is the day of the fourth annual Community Paint-A-Thon, sponsored by the Kenneth Young Senior Center in Arlington Heights with the help of local businesses and community groups.

Senior citizens apply to have their houses painted through the center where the applications are screened and evaluated based on

financial need. This year 54 people qualified to have their houses painted under the program.

And while Valspar Paint Company is willing to donate paint for all 54 houses, Karen Hansen, director of the Park Place Senior Center, said the 450 volunteers will only be able to do about 30 houses.

"We have four homes that are very labor-intensive and will take around 40 volunteers each," she said. "If we had more volunteers we would be able to complete more houses."

Hansen said there also are a couple of houses that to have some carpentry work done on them as well as being painted and she needs volunteers with "handyman" skills to do that work.

Houses in Wheeling, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Palatine, Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village and Hoffman Estates will be painted. The painting will start around 8 a.m. and Hansen said most of the houses should be finished by 3 p.m.

"You don't have to know how to paint," said volunteer Dolores Bricker. "You just have to be willing to help."

While figures on the number of houses painted in the first year of the program are not available, there were volunteers for only two houses in the second year. However, both the need and the number of volunteers grew significantly with 17 houses painted last year.

To volunteer, call 253-5532.

# Waste agency unveils balefill funding plan

9-6-91  
 BY SHERI VAZZANO  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Leaders of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County recommended a plan Thursday that would provide money to build three garbage transfer stations and a balefill.

Under the plan backed by SWANCC's executive committee, \$24 million in bonds would be issued to pay for the project, which would begin in June with the construction of a \$9 million transfer station in unincorporated Wheeling Township.

SWANCC's board of directors is expected to vote on the recommendation Wednesday.

The Wheeling Township transfer

station, which would compact and bale trash from 13 neighboring communities, would sit on 49 acres northeast of River and Central roads. SWANCC would purchase a compacting station in Rolling Meadows and add equipment to bale trash, while a third transfer station is planned for a still-undetermined site. The balefill is proposed for a 142-acre site at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

But Bartlett Village President John Stark, who has led much of the opposition to the proposal to build a balefill near his community, said the allocation of funds for the plan is "presumptuous."

He said building the transfer station before the agency has built the

balefill doesn't make sense.

"They're putting the cart before the horse," Stark said. "How can they bale and transfer garbage when they don't have any place to bury it? This is a classic waste of the taxpayers' money."

But William Abolt, SWANCC's executive director, said the agency has received its permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the balefill and will proceed with the entire project in phases.

However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has denied SWANCC's request for a permit to build the landfill. And opponents of the landfill also have filed a lawsuit in Kane County Circuit Court to stop the project.

# Wheeling OKs second fire engine purchase

9-11-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

from the income the village receives from the recently reinstated Illinois income tax surcharge. Village manager Craig G. Anderson estimated the village will receive between \$300,000 to \$400,000 this year.

MacIsaac said the department can purchase the second engine from the company currently manufacturing an engine for the village — Stetphen Corp. of Amlin, Ohio — for \$219,000. He said the company is willing to build the second vehicle for the price quoted last spring.

Trustee William Rogers was reluctant to commit income tax surcharge funds because he was hoping to be able to abate some of this year's property tax levy.

fire engine blew during pumper inspection last month, fire department officials recommended accelerating the replacement program.

"We have equipment that is very old and tired," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith F. MacIsaac. "The situation hasn't changed from a year ago, the old machinery is still the most costly to operate."

Although trustees could purchase a used or demonstration vehicle, MacIsaac recommended purchasing a new one because it would be built to village specifications. "If you buy used you are buying someone else's problems," he said.

MacIsaac said the money for a second fire engine would come

Wheeling trustees decided this week to purchase their second fire engine of the year after learning one of the department's trucks would need at least \$15,000 in repairs.

Trustees voted in April to spend \$219,000 for a new fire engine to replace the department's oldest engine — a 1969 Ward La France.

But fire department officials were hoping to use that vehicle as a reserve for at least five years before purchasing a second fire engine to replace the department's second-oldest engine — a 1971 Ward La France.

But when the motor of the 1969

# Wheeling gets bargain on roof

By B.H. MERENS

STAFF WRITER

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
The village of Wheeling plans to repair parts of the village hall roof this fall and save \$50,000 in the process.

Originally tagged as a \$110,000 job, the board recently accepted a bid from J & J Roofing, of Highland Park, to repair the leaky roof for \$51,040.

"We originally thought we were going to have to do a major re-roofing project," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We're not going to have to do that now."

The village hall roof has been leaking for the past three years, primarily over the police and fire departments, Anderson said. Parts of the roof are 20 years old, he added.

The project involves resealing the roof and possibly repairing parts of the

deck which lies underneath the roof. Anderson said this would be done at a cost of \$10 per square foot, if necessary.

The village received 18 base bids of between \$51,040 and \$124,000 for the roof job. The high-end bid came from ANS Construction Co., Inc. of Chicago. Most bids came in under \$100,000.

Anderson said the work probably will start sometime in September and he expects it to be completed before Halloween.

The money saved through the unexpected low bid will be left in the village's general fund.

"We just overestimated. You don't want to spend it if you don't have to," Anderson said. "You try not to overestimate but it is kind of nice to come in under (the expected cost) sometimes."

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Volunteers brush up for Paint-A-Thon work

By KAREN CULLOTTA KRAUSE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

In a shining example of community volunteers reaching out to their neighbors in need, the 4th Annual Community Paint-A-Thon will kick off today, targeting 30 houses throughout the Northwest suburbs.

In cooperation with The Valspar Corporation, which will be donating countless gallons of paint, over 450 volunteers representing municipalities, park districts, churches, corporations and community organizations throughout the Northwest suburbs will be on hand for scraping, priming and painting houses in Arlington Heights, Wheeling, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates, Prospect Heights,

Rolling Meadows, Palatine and Des Plaines.

"The purpose of the Paint-A-Thon is to assist elderly and disabled residents who are unable physically or financially to paint their own homes," said Karen Hansen, director of Park Place Senior Center in Arlington Heights. "This event is a great asset to the community. The homeowners are assisted and their neighbors are happy that these homes are being repaired."

As the various "teams" arrive at their designated houses early Saturday morning, they will be coming to the aid of area residents who were chosen by Paint-A-Thon committee members based on an application they completed early

in the year.

"I think it's a great thing for people who are just getting by on their Social Security," said Angelo Capulli, superintendent of the Arlington Heights Park District and team leader for the park contingent. "I didn't have any trouble getting volunteers from our staff members and commissioners."

The history of the Paint-A-Thon has its roots in neighborhoods of Minneapolis-St. Paul and has inspired similar events nationwide.

"Sometimes, it seems that people have gotten away from helping their neighbors and they are only out for themselves," Capulli said. "It's a great thing to see hundreds of volunteers helping neighbors who are less fortunate."

# Audit shows errors in TCI fees

By REBECCA CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An outside financial audit of TCI of Illinois, shows that the cable television provider of 13 Northwest and North suburbs underpaid its franchise fees by as much as \$16,730 in 1989.

The audit, conducted by Wheaton-based Wolf & Co., was conducted at the insistence of TCI communities and the Northwest Municipal Cable Council, a cable watchdog group made up of towns served by the company.

TCI officials said the communities were underpaid because revenues from its advertising subsidiary were reported as net revenues, rather

than gross revenues, and franchise fees are based on gross revenues.

But the results of the audit also show that TCI also overpaid its franchise fees to some communities — including Schaumburg, Mount Prospect, Des Plaines, Bartlett and Streamwood — by as much as \$2,110. At the same time it underpaid other communities, including Arlington Heights, Wheeling, Prospect Heights and Hanover Park.

That mistake is attributed to "numerous errors made during 1989 in reporting revenues and franchise fees," the audit states.

Carole Stannard, executive director of the cable council, said the communities wanted to uncover whether the nearly \$1.5 million that

TCI returned to the communities in 1989 accurately reflected the 5 percent share of total franchise fees due to each suburb and its franchise agreement.

"I am encouraged by this audit because it means they are releasing more information," Stannard said. "Things are getting straightened out, and things seem to be getting better."

Stannard's encouraging words come after more than three years of tense relations between TCI and its member communities.

"We are trying to improve our image and work with the communities," said TCI General Manager Kelvin Fee, who was not the general manager in 1989.

# Wheeling OKs appraisal firm on second vote

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A recent vote by Wheeling trustees to hire an appraisal firm recommended by Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners brings to an end a standoff that could have further delayed the relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads.

Trustees voted earlier this month not to use the firm recommended by the commissioners — Starkman and Associates of Evanston — because

one of its references gave a review that was less than favorable. Starkman and Associates said they could appraise the 28 parcels needed for the relocation for \$16,175.

But Village Manager Craig G. Anderson told trustees he was uncomfortable with Starkman's price, saying it seemed too low for the firm to adequately perform the work.

A vote by the Prospect Heights City Council on the same night, approving Starkman, brought the appraisal process to a standstill until

one of the two communities decided to change its resolution. The two communities — co-owners of the airport — had to pass identical resolutions before the project could move forward.

So Anderson called Starkman and Associates and got a few more references for the firm. And after checking with officials from the city of Evanston who were happy with work done by Starkman, he recommended trustees approve the appraisal firm.

"Evanston was happy with the

quality of work," Anderson said. "Prospect Heights' vote was the way the airport commission recommended. I could not find anything that showed Starkman was not capable. I would not have recommended the board reconsider if that had not been the case."

Under federal guidelines, two appraisals are needed for any land the airport wants to use federal funds to purchase. Another appraiser is needed to review the work of the first two.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Village purchases another fire engine

The Wheeling Village Board gave final approval to the purchase of a new fire engine.

Trustees learned last week that the fire engine was needed because the motor of the department's oldest engine — a 1969 Ward La France — blew last month during a pumper inspection.

The fire engine will be the second one purchased this year by trustees and will cost \$219,000. It will be made by the same company that is currently building an engine for the village — Sutphen Corp. of Amlin, Ohio.

Because the fire engines are custom-made per each community's specifications, there is a one-year time lapse between the time the engine is ordered and the time it is received. Fire department officials

are expecting delivery of the first engine — ordered last April — sometime in the spring of 1992. The second engine will be delivered next fall.

### Village to buy phone system

Trustees voted to purchase the phone equipment at village hall rather than continue to lease it.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he recommended purchasing the equipment rather than renting it because American Telephone and Telegraph Co. wanted to raise the monthly rent on the equipment to \$1,366 per month from \$1,139.

And he said while the village could go out and buy new equipment, the purchase price for the phones they are now using was fair.

"We have had very few problems with the phone system we have," An-

derson said. "It is heavy-duty and reliable."

The village will pay \$14,597 for the equipment.

### Groups given OK to solicit money

The Kiwanis Club of Buffalo

Grove-Wheeling and The National Association of Letter Carriers were given permission to hold fund-raisers in the village.

Motorists can expect to see Kiwanis Club members collecting money at various locations throughout the village of Sept. 27. The letter carriers will collect money on Oct. 6.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Rotary Birthday Party held at senior center

The annual Rotary Birthday Party will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St. Cake and ice cream will be served and entertainment will be provided by the Wheeling High School New Dawns. To register for the limited seating, call 459-2670.

### Pavilion sponsors potluck dinner, dance

The Pavilion Senior Center will sponsor a potluck dinner dance at 6 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Pavilion, 199 N. First St., Wheeling. Dancing to the music of the Joe Oels Trio will begin at 7 p.m. Call the Pavilion at 459-2670 to register.

### 'Yoga for Seniors' meets on Fridays

"Yoga for Seniors" meets from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Fridays at the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling.

# Police increase patrols in Childerley Park

9/21/91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department is stepping up its patrols in Childerley Park in an effort to slow increasing gang-related activity there.

And neighbors of the park, at 506 Old McHenry Road, have expressed their willingness to keep problems at the park from worsening by taking the first steps toward forming a neighborhood watch group.

Organizer Jim Lund said he decided to form the group after hearing several complaints from his neighbors about the park.

"There were a couple of incidents with kids who were riding

their bikes in the park during the daytime and were chased out by older youth," he said. "And some of the adults are afraid to go in the park after dark. There have been rumors about gangs in the park."

Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said police will begin driving through the park more frequently beginning today and will conduct walk-throughs if the weather gets warm enough that people play and picnic there.

"On the 30th of September, we will also reinstate our special operations unit, and it will be targeting the parks in general," he said.

The special operations unit is a group of undercover officers who patrol problem areas in the village. The unit was disbanded last

year because of a shortage of police officers. One of the officers in the unit has just completed a two-week training course offered by the Cook County Sheriff's Gang Unit.

Police reports show 13 incidents in the park in August, including one burglary to a church on the property, two reports of criminal damage to property, three noise complaints, one disorderly conduct complaint and three reports of gang activity. Arrests were made in the burglary and disorderly conduct incidents.

Hermes said the reports of gang activity need not be tied to a specific incident. The reports are filed when a police officer or neighbor sees gang members in the park.

# Trailer license fee reduced by village

9-21-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Owners of small trailers will pay less to register them with the village of Wheeling next year, now that trustees have approved a lower licensing fee.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the fee for licensing light trailers — those used to pull snowmobiles or boats — was raised from \$30 to \$40 in 1988. But this year the village received a computer print-out from the state listing all the people who have received license plates for the trailers.

"There were about twice as many trailers as we thought we had, licensed through the state," he said. "So we sent out double the number of notices for village registration — about 400."

Anderson said he received several complaints about the fee being too high from people who had not licensed their trailer in the past, but received notice this year to do so.

And while he said he did not think the \$40 fee was excessive, he recommended trustees lower it to \$10.

"With more people buying registration stickers we felt we could reduce the fee to \$10 and not affect village revenue much," he said.

# Balefill plans moving forward

9/21/91

By DAN CULLOTON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With a state permit for one waste transfer station and a new long-term financing plan in hand, a solid waste agency is pursuing plans to build a balefill near Bartlett, despite being denied a key permit for the dump.

The Solid Waste Management Agency of Northern Cook County recently approved a \$55 million borrowing plan to fund the construction of two transfer stations and refinance debt incurred by the consortium of 26 northwest suburbs while pursuing its balefill plans.

SWANCC officials approved the plan even though the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has denied the agency a permit for the proposed 142-acre garbage dump, drawing criticism from opponents of the dump who have accused the agency of wasting taxpayers money by pursuing the plan.

William Abolt, SWANCC executive director, said they have reapplied for a permit with the Corps and are confident the balefill will be built. They also said even if the balefill is not built, the waste transfer stations

— which would be part of a network to compact trash and send it to the proposed dump — will be needed to collect and ship garbage to other landfills.

The first phase of SWANCC's financing plan includes \$11.3 million for a transfer station in Wheeling Township on 49 acres northeast of River and Central roads.

It also includes \$6.2 million for costs associated with securing the Corps permit, balefill planning and construction and other administrative costs, plus \$10 million for the first 18 months of payment on the agency's debt.

The bonds for the first phase could be issued by next spring, Abolt said. Agency officials hope construction on the Wheeling Township transfer station can begin next summer, after it receives approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The second phase of the plan includes \$9.75 million to purchase and remodel the Rolling Meadows transfer station on 6.7 acres at Berdnick Street and Rohlwing Road. The agency received IEPA approval for that station Sept. 11.

# Relocation of intersection near airport to be delayed

10-1-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million capital improvement plan at the Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport continues to be stalled, other improvements are rolling along, Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials learned Monday.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads would be delayed at least another year as the airport continues to acquire the land needed to move the two roads.

"In our program for 1991, the principle construction effort is the construction of two bridges — one on Hintz Road and one on Wolf Road," Stewart said. "But we can't do that because we don't own the property the bridges will be built on."

Stewart said those bridges should now be constructed in the fiscal year beginning October 1992.

The intersection is scheduled to be moved west by 1994 to create a clear zone for the airport's longest runway. Under Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration standards, the runway now ends too close to the intersection.

Stewart said some of the 30 parcels of land needed for the relocation will be purchased after the FAA approves an environmental assessment study of the plans.

Stewart said the study has been "languishing in the halls of IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) in Springfield."

He said he spoke Monday with IDOT officials, who assured him the assessment would be forwarded to the FAA some time in the next two weeks.

Stewart said he expects approval of the study within 60 days of the time it reaches the FAA.

He highlighted the demolition of T-hangars too close to the runway, the construction of a taxiway, and the continuing clearing and fencing of land purchased by the airport, at 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Officials from the two communities, co-owners of the airport, meet with airport commissioners twice a year.

# Centennial group focuses on fund-raisers

9-26-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Centennial Commission members will hit school fairs and community events with their camera this fall in an effort to raise money for the 1994 celebration of the village's 100th anniversary.

They will take pictures, which then will be made into buttons and key rings for \$4.

And although they still are "around \$500 in the hole" from the purchase of the camera and supplies, commission member Elizabeth Hartman said they hope to make that money back and much more with the fund-raising tool.

They previewed the idea at the

St. Joseph the Worker Familyfest in July and raised \$500.

Hartman said they will attend a craft fair at Wheeling High School on Nov. 16 and a fun fair at Tarkington Elementary School on Nov. 23.

Commission members also hope to enlist the help of local businesses in raising money for the centennial celebration which will conclude with a family picnic and barbecue on Aug. 7, 1994. They are hoping to sponsor several events over the 18-month period prior to the picnic.

A letter is being written that will be sent to all businesses in the village asking for donations or giving them a chance to purchase space in a centennial calendar that will

be put out by the commission for 1994.

Plans for a centennial ball also are being discussed.

There are about 15 people serving on the committee but Hartman said more volunteers are needed.

"We still need volunteers who will be willing to follow up with businesses," she said.

Steve Less, of Midwest Typesetting in Wheeling, asked commission members for ideas for a logo that will represent the centennial on stationery and envelopes. The company is donating time for the design of the logo to the commission.

The logo will be centered around the centennial theme "Glancing back, Looking Forward."

# Senior citizen program needs more drivers

June 9/24/91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Helping Hands program instituted by Wheeling's Pavilion Senior Center has helped more than 177 senior citizens in the past year, but a lack of volunteers for the program has kept it from serving more.

The program, which provides rides to medical appointments for the village's senior citizens, began

four years ago. But the number of people willing to volunteer to drive has hit an all-time low and Barbara Hansen, Pavilion coordinator, said many senior citizens have not been able to get the service when they need it.

Hansen said organizers of the service — co-sponsored by the Our Lady of the Brook Parish in Northbrook — were originally hoping to provide senior citizens with rides for other

errands, like shopping.

"We had hoped to be able to take them shopping or to pay their bills also," she said. "But there just are not enough volunteers."

When senior citizens need rides they call the Helping Hands coordinator who tries to line up a driver from a running list of volunteers, but that list has shrunk to around 24, making it difficult to find someone.

"If the volunteer cannot do it at

that particular time we just go to the next name on the list and call them the next time," Hansen said. "We do not ask for a specific time commitment. We ask volunteers to be on call."

And she said while the Pavilion advertises for volunteers in the village newsletter and through area churches, more are needed.

To learn more about the program or to volunteer, call 459-2670.

# Com-Ed pacts could help save villages money

By B.J.M. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 400 suburban communities, including Buffalo Grove, Long Grove and Wheeling will be able to sign a model franchise pact with Commonwealth Edison that could save them money thanks to an agreement reached last week.

The new pact will give communities the right to fine the power producer if it doesn't meet its obligations, provides free electricity for municipally-owned traffic signals and calls for an Edison representative to attend one public meeting a year in each village.

"We've set a new standard. (This model agreement) provides the municipalities more power," said Trixie Goldberg, assistant director of the Northwest Municipal Conference.

The new agreement must be passed by the NWMC board and is scheduled for a vote on Oct. 9. Edison then will present it to each of the nearly 400 suburban and rural communities which it serves in the Chicago metropolitan area.

"The bulk of our municipalities were either satisfied or indifferent with their current agreement. However, there were a number of towns who thought the agreement was outdated," the electrical company for the removal and replacement of trees obstructing power lines.

Most importantly, Petkus said, the power company will implement educational programs on energy conservation measures that will give customers better control over their electrical bills.

These measures may include the availability of energy-saving lightbulbs through the Commonwealth Edison program, as well as weatherization kits and maybe even an experimental summer program in which Commonwealth Edison would subsidize the costs of finely tuning air conditioners. A finely tuned air conditioner, Petkus said, costs less money for the consumer and reduces the peak electrical load times of the company.

In addition, Commonwealth Edison will maintain local offices and 24-hour service to city officials, allowing them to access the power

said Edison Vice President Don Petkus. "Our motivation was to satisfy customer need. (We made) a good faith effort to come up with a document that was easier to understand."

"What's nice is that we will be able to implement a new agreement, if the board so chooses, before the year 2009" when the current pact runs out, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson. "It is a good agreement. I can't see that we'd want anything different from the model."

Officials in Buffalo Grove said they expect savings of \$15,000 a year due to the new stop light provision and in Wheeling, officials hope to save \$25,000.

## Model agreement

Under the tentative model agreement, in addition to the free electricity to municipal buildings and traffic signals, there will be an option for the community to bury overhead electrical distribution equipment; a new service policy that would provide credit on bills for outages that continue for 12 consecutive hours or more due to malfunction or error.

It also provides for a cooperative agreement between the community and

(Continued on page 14)

company quickly during outages.

Records of service interruptions and their causes will be provided to municipalities. The contract will also provide remedies for fines for breach of contract and options for communities to go elsewhere for electrical power.

Anderson served on the committee which spent two years drafting the proposed model agreement. Municipalities still have the right to negotiate from the new agreement, he said.

In Buffalo Grove, Village Manager William Bailing said he was satisfied with the agreement but noted that he would have liked to have the golf course and water plant electricity costs tossed in gratis with the other free municipal service.

Municipal buildings such as Village Hall and the Police Department received free electricity under the old pact. This continues under the new pact.

# Report on Palwaukee improvements slated

9-29-91

Wheeling village board members and Prospect Heights city councilmen will hear a progress report on the capital improvement program at Palwaukee Municipal Airport when they get together Monday night.

Officials from the two communities — co-owners of the airport — meet with airport commissioners twice a year to hear a report about what has been and will be happening at the airport at 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The meeting is not required through the intergovernmental

agreements that are guidelines for how the two communities govern the airport, but it is seen as a time when the two groups can discuss issues and projects.

"They are partners and they don't normally have a chance to get together," said Fred J. Stewart, airport manager. "This is a vehicle to get the partners together at least once every six months to discuss the airport."

Stewart will give the group a report on property that has been acquired for the relocation of the Hintz

and Wolf roads intersection.

The intersection is scheduled to be moved west by 1994 to create a clear zone for the airport's longest runway. Under Federal Aviation Administration standards the runway now ends too close to the intersection.

He will also tell them how other parts of the airport's \$83.5 million capital improvement program are progressing. The program includes the purchase of land around the airport and the relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch.

## The top meeting

**Who:** The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, Village of Wheeling trustees, Prospect Heights City councilmen

**Where:** Ramada Inn Northbrook, 2875 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Monday

# Panel to review FAA findings on noise study

10-1-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Palwaukee Airport Commission's Capital Improvements Committee will begin the first of what promises to be several discussions on their noise study when they meet Wednesday.

The noise compatibility study was completed in 1988 and submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval, but the FAA only recently returned its findings on the report to the commission.

The FAA approved five of the components of the commission's plan to

make living near the airport easier for its neighbors, and rejected two — pending further information.

Many of the commission's ideas for reducing airplane noise would mean changes in the way pilots take off and land.

While commissioners were willing to impose a nighttime curfew on airport operations, the FAA was not ready to approve the curfew until it received updated information on the type of aircraft using the airport and how some tenants would be affected by a curfew.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said the capital improvements com-

mittee will be the first group to take an in-depth look at the FAA's findings. He said it will be that committee's job to recommend to commissioners what parts of the report to implement and when to begin.

They also will decide whether they want to gather the information the FAA requested before it would approve the curfew.

Many of the airport's neighbors are in favor of a curfew.

The noise study also recommends that the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights — co-owners of the airport — and the village of Mount Prospect adopt noise over-

lay zoning ordinances that would require new houses to be soundproofed in the areas that receive the most noise from the airport.

The study also recommends rezoning vacant land nearest the airport from residential to commercial or industrial.

Committee recommendations must be approved by the commission and both communities before any action on the noise study can be taken.

The committee will meet at 7 p.m. at Hangar One at the airport, 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave.

# County to inspect boiler at Country Oaks

10-7-91

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Cook County officials will step into the fray regarding an apartment complex near Wheeling today when they inspect a boiler in one of the buildings that had to be disconnected last week after it shot flames into the laundry room.

Cook County Deputy Chief Fire Inspector Alfred Watson said he would inspect the boiler at 415 Inland Drive in the Country Oaks apartment complex to see if violations of the county's building or health and safety codes still exist.

Residents of the building were without hot water and heat for almost 48 hours after the gas connection to the boiler was disconnected

by Northern Illinois Gas last Wednesday night.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said there was no fire in the laundry room, but the boiler had been backfiring out of a hole in the unit, shooting flames against the laundry room wall.

MacIsaac called the gas company after the fire department responded to the call of a fire in the laundry room and waited two hours for someone from the company managing the 74-building apartment complex — H & H Management — to come to the building.

"We attempted to make contact with a property representative with no success," MacIsaac said. "After being told that representa-

tive would show up, no one did, so NI gas sent a representative and confirmed that the boiler was unsafe."

Residents of the building said that management's failure to appear on the scene after the police were called is typical of the service they receive.

Cami Quirman said she filled out a questionnaire stating the problems with her apartment when she moved in four months ago and nothing has been repaired.

The apartment complex has also been the scene of a series of home invasions over the past three years. Residents have blamed the reoccurring break-ins on management's refusal to fix security problems.

# Four-generation tradition coming to an end

COUNTRYSIDE - 10-3-91

By B.H. MERENS  
STAFF WRITER

Pumpkin buyers have only one more month to take part in a four-generation family tradition in Wheeling. The Koeppen fruit and vegetable stand is closing.

The stand where Wheeling residents and passers-by have been stopping since the 1920s is giving way to progress, an aquatic center, which is being built by the Wheeling Park District.

William and Minnie Koeppen started the stand back when Dundee Road wasn't considered a major arterial road. Aquatic centers were called swimming holes and the farm stand was a way of life.

Today, the stand is run as a hobby by 16-year-old Greg Koeppen.

"We do it for fun now," he said. "It's starting to get old. It's time to move on. I'm happy that the park district is getting the land so the public can use it rather than there being another strip mall."

The park district received bids on Tuesday for the \$9.75 million project, which includes an aquatic center and recreation building. Plans call for the develop-

ment to be built between Wickes Furniture and Village Hall, about 300 yards south of Dundee Road.

## Birth place

Greg's grandparents live in the house next to the stand. Andrew Koeppen was born in that house. Today, he and wife Erna are getting ready to move to another house in Wheeling.

"Grampa was born in the bedroom where he sleeps today," Greg said. "It still hasn't hit me that it won't be there next year."

"I just want to thank everybody for all the great years that we've had there," Greg said. "They meant a lot."

Greg fondly spoke of all the people he met and how they honk and wave as they drive by. "I'll miss it. It's going to be hard."

Throughout the summer and fall seasons people have stopped at the Koeppen's stand to buy sweet corn, tomatoes, green peppers, cabbage, pumpkins, Indian corn, and corn stalks.

The current business is mostly for pumpkins, Greg said. He will sell them until they are gone or until Oct. 31.



Photo by Pam Blakely

Greg, 16, and Kevin Koeppen, 13, cut corn - Wheeling. This is the farm's last season before stalks for the fall season on their farm in it is replaced by a park district aquatic center.

The stand is located at 327 Dundee Road. Its hours of operation are weekdays from 3:15 p.m. until 5:30 or 6 p.m. and on the weekends from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

## Wheeling, Mt. Prospect cut flood-insurance costs

By Jack Houston

Hundreds of property owners in two northwest suburbs near the Des Plaines River will receive a 5 percent reduction in the cost of their flood insurance premiums because of the efforts of local officials.

Cost to individual policyholders in Wheeling, where flood-insurance premiums average about \$300 a year, will be about \$15 lower, said Michael Klitzke, director of community development and the village's coordinator of the federal Community Rating System.

In neighboring Mt. Prospect, Jeffrey Wulbecker, village engineer and rating system coordinator, said similar savings will be realized by policyholders there, whose premiums average about \$320 annually.

This is the first year a federal rating system took effect, and new or renewed insurance policies initiated after Tuesday, Oct. 1, for property in flood zones in each suburb are expected to reflect the lower premium.

Despite serious flooding in most communities along the Des Plaines River in 1986-87, Mt. Prospect and Wheeling were the only two in Cook County to apply for the insurance rating reduction by December 1990's deadline, Wulbecker said.

"I don't know why [the others] didn't," he said. "Perhaps it was because the benefits are not that great to start off with."

Klitzke said the rating system provides incentives for communities to go "above and beyond" minimum standards regulating construction in flood plains.

Wheeling and Mt. Prospect were among eight communities in Illinois and 293 nationwide to qualify for premium reductions in 1991. The Du Page County communities of Addison, Bartlett, Lisle and Naperville were among other state localities to do so.

Nationwide, property owners in 18,000 communities, holding 2.5 million policies, buy flood insurance each year at standard rates for pro-

tection against similar hazards.

The rating system includes 10 classes, providing for a 5 percent reduction in premium cost for each drop in class. For example, a community that could reach Class 1 would qualify for a 45 percent reduction in premiums.

But few communities ever will reach that level, according to Klitzke and Wulbecker, who said municipalities would be required, among other things, to remove all structures from every flood-prone zone of the community to qualify for the lowest class.

"It's not cost-effective. We expect to get down to [Class] 8 or 7 without much of an economic impact," Wulbecker noted.

"If you don't do anything, you're a 10," Klitzke said. "This year, there was no cost in applying. We've been doing most of this for quite a few years."

Both communities placed strong emphasis on public information programs, including providing prospective property owners with easy access to information about the location of properties in flood plains.

Each community also is developing new programs to qualify for lower ratings next year.

Some 468 property owners in Wheeling have flood insurance, Klitzke said. Another 126 policyholders have property in Mt. Prospect, according to Wulbecker.

Most of Wheeling's flooding problems in the past, Klitzke said, are tied to Buffalo Creek, which becomes the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and McDonald Creek.

The ditch drains into the Des Plaines River at Palwaukee Airport. McDonald Creek flows out of Wheeling around Wolf and Camp McDonald Roads, near Prospect Heights, and into Mt. Prospect, where it empties into the Des Plaines River.

Klitzke said the impact of premium reductions will be felt more in the future, as the number of property owners required to have flood insurance grows.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 10-5-91

## Three officers to join Wheeling force Monday

Herald 10-6-91

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz will swear in three new police officers when the village board meets Monday.

The three officers will bring the police department to full staff for the first time since early 1990.

After being sworn in, the officers will spend the rest of the week in orientation at the police department where they will learn about the village and the department's use of force policy and other procedures.

They will also begin firearms training.

After the orientation, two of the officers will enter the police academy in Chicago where they will spend 12 weeks in training. The third officer is already certified by the state of Illinois and does not need to go to the academy.

The officers will also undergo 15 weeks of field training in Wheeling before they will be evaluated to see if they are ready to begin patrol duty.

The hiring brings the department to full-strength and means that the tactical unit and investigative unit will once again be working with full teams.

The tactical unit was disbanded last year when the officers were needed for patrol and is operating two people short right now.

The plainclothes officers focus on areas of the village that need the most attention based on analysis of crime statistics.

### The top meeting

**Who:** The Wheeling Village Board

**Where:** Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road

**When:** 8 p.m. Monday



Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, right, and Village Manager Craig G. Anderson look on as a slide gets a workout at the new playground at Arbor Court Apartments. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

# Owner of building to shoot for offices

10-8-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling restaurant that has sat empty for at least six years could be converted into an office building now that the village board has granted the necessary zoning variations for the project.

And although owner Rosie Petropoulos is relieved that she will finally be able to make some money on the property she purchased two years ago, she is still disappointed that her original plans for a fresh fruit and vegetable food market were denied by the plan commissioners in 1989.

Commissioners said there was not enough parking on the site, at 31 N. Wolf Road, for retail use.

Petropoulos said she does not understand how the seven parking spaces will be enough for offices but would not have been enough for the market.

And she said she was led to believe when she bought the property that a food market was an acceptable use for the site by the former village planner and assistant village planner.

"When we purchased the property it was not in good condition," she said. "We knew there was a problem with parking, but we thought we could cut the building and add more parking. I was very angry when it went in front of the plan commission and it was 'No, no, no,' because when we went to community development they said we could make it work."

Petropoulos said she plans to remodel the building, making two office spaces, because that is her only choice.

"The only thing I can do is offices," she said. "I am stuck with a building I cannot sell that has cost me a lot of money already. I knew what I wanted when I bought the building and this is not right."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson acknowledged that finding an acceptable use for the site has not been easy.

"The site is somewhat difficult to work with, as we are all aware," Anderson said. "The variations required reflect the existing conditions on the property."

## Apartment complex has cleaned up its act

10-4-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Freshly painted halls, additional landscaping and a new playground are just some of the improvements the owner of a Wheeling apartment complex wants to show off at an open house this weekend.

Along with those visible changes to Arbor Court Apartments at Dundee Road and Wheeling Avenue, Lawrence Floria has also cracked down on tenants, evicting troublesome ones and enforcing rules about the number of people that can live in one unit.

And he wants the community to come and take a look at the improved 78-unit complex on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Floria and his partners pur-

chased the property five years ago, but it has only been in the last 18 months that he has claimed it back from the management company hired to run it, and set up office hours.

"There wasn't a lot of vandalism or drug-dealing," Floria said. "But it wasn't a controlled group either. There were some questionable tenants — at best."

Floria said that previous managers did not enforce occupancy regulations and there were often more than three single males in an apartment, leading to loud groups in the parking lots and common areas, especially in the summer months.

"We have reduced the number of people here," he said. "When you used to drive by you would see

people hanging around but 90 percent of the overcrowding has been reduced. You don't see any large groups."

In the spring and summer of 1990 the Wheeling Police Department responded to 123 public complaint calls at the complex ranging from noise complaints to public drunkenness.

During that same period in 1991, they received 57 calls.

And Floria said 30 of the units had different tenants than they had six months ago.

"From last year to this year it is night and day," he said. "The impression of the property has been poor over the last couple of years and rightly so. Our goal is to let people know we've made major changes."

## Apartment building violations called minor

10-11-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The management of an apartment complex near Wheeling has assured the Cook County deputy commissioner of building and zoning that minor violations found in one of the complex's buildings Monday are being fixed.

And after looking over the report filed by his inspectors, Alfred Watson, deputy commissioner, said the violations were of a minor housekeeping nature.

"There was nothing flagrant enough to get upset about," he said. "Because they hired a plumber to fix the heater."

The inspectors went to the complex, on Wolf Road about one block

north of Hintz Road, after a boiler in the building at 415 Inland Drive shot flames into the laundry room.

Now that the heater has been fixed, and hot water service restored to the building, Watson said the other complaints — including an entrance light that is out and smoke detectors that do not work — do not merit a sweep of the entire complex.

"We will probably go through the complex one or two buildings at a time, according to the complaints that come in," Watson said.

"We will also send someone back to make sure these problems are taken care of."

Mark Peterson — rental agent for the complex — said the smoke

detector and light fixture have already been fixed.

The original boiler fire has also prompted Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac to ask for a list of the owners of the 74 individually-owned buildings.

In a letter to the president of the Oaks Homeowners Association, MacIsaac said his firefighters waited two hours for someone from management on the night of the incident.

MacIsaac also said that since then he has repeatedly been denied the names of the owners of the buildings.

Kevin Tynan, spokesman for the homeowners association, said the group will comply with MacIsaac's request.

### WHEELING VILLAGE NOTES

#### Three officers added to force

Police and Fire Commission Chairman Maurice Weidlauf swore in three new police officers at the village board meeting Monday night.

The officers, two of whom will begin classes at the police academy in Chicago next week and one who is already certified — will begin patrol duty after several weeks of field training.

The hiring brings the department to full strength and means that the tactical unit and investigative unit will once again be working with full teams.

#### Members reappointed to airport panel

Village President Sheila H. Schultz reappointed Wheeling's four members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission. Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and William Rogers will serve until May 1993 and Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. and village resident Robert Strauss will serve until May 1995.

"The strength of the commission continues to be in its continuity," Schultz said, "and having three of the four commissioners also members of the village board gives us a good awareness of what is happening and helps us make the best decision for the airport."

Wheeling owns the airport with city of Prospect Heights.

#### Light approved for emergency vehicles

Trustees voted to spend \$8,950 to install a signal at Wheeling and Palatine Roads that will allow emergency vehicles crossing the intersection to get a green light.

Pinner Electric Company of Brookfield, Ill., will install the Opticom system which reacts to a light signal transmitted by emergency vehicles, changing the signal for other vehicles to red.

The village board approved a plan to spend \$66,000 to fix all village traffic lights over the next five years.

# Sixth-graders just say yes to DARE dance

10-11-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling sixth-graders currently involved in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program at their schools are invited to attend the first-ever D.A.R.E. dance tonight at Amvets Post 66.

The dance will run from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the hall, 700 Old McHenry

Road. Tickets are \$3 and can be redeemed at Brown's Chicken, 625 W. Dundee Road for a free two-piece chicken snack or pasta dish.

Any adult wanting to attend the dance must be accompanied by a youth.

A disc jockey will be on hand to spin records, and there will also be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Snacks and soda pop will

also be available.

The dance is sponsored by the Amvets Against Drugs and Alcohol with the help of Wheeling Police Department D.A.R.E. Officer Chris Parr.

"We wanted to have something for the kids that they could be involved in," said Parr. "We want to celebrate the program by providing positive activities that will keep them from getting involved in negative ac-

tivities."

Parr said the youths must be dropped off and picked up by a parent and will not be allowed to leave the dance until that parent arrives.

Around 390 Wheeling students are involved in the D.A.R.E. program through their schools. Under the program, Parr spends one hour a week for 17 weeks educating the students about drug and alcohol resistance.

## Wheeling OKs \$5.9 million loan for pool

10-16-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District commissioners took the final plunge toward bringing a pool facility to the village Tuesday when they voted to borrow the \$5.9 million necessary to build it.

They also voted to sign contracts with 28 companies for the work and rejected bids in 13 other areas because Theodore M. Sente, architect for the project, was not comfortable with the bid prices or the contractors' references.

Sente & Rubel has already begun collecting new bids for those areas of work.

Park Board President Thomas Webber said he was especially

happy to be able to give \$1.4 million of the work to a Wheeling contractor — Schaeffges Brothers Inc.

Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, said some of the work on the facility, which will be built on 17½ acres on Dundee Road between village hall and Wickes Furniture Co., could begin in early November after construction permits from the village and the state are received.

"A big bulk of the earth work and underground sewer work could still be done this year if it is not too rainy," Sente said.

Commissioners are hoping to have the 17,000-square-foot pool ready to open for summer 1993. It will have five water slides, a diving board and lanes for lap swim-

ming, along with shallow wading areas. Also in the pool complex will be sand volleyball courts, sunning turf, a sand area with playground equipment and an adults-only spa.

Although the park district does have \$500,000 on hand, commissioners decided to finance the entire cost of the pool so they would have money to make other capital improvements as they become necessary over the next several years.

"We don't want to put the district in the same position it was in 13 years ago," said Webber, referring to the purchase of Chevy Chase Clubhouse, which made it difficult to make any improvements to the parks for several years.

## Caller to 911 hunted in Wheeling dancer's death

10-29-91  
By KIM MURKS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Police continue to investigate the murder of a 27-year-old Wheeling woman hoping to find the anonymous caller who phoned 911 from a pay phone to report the woman was not breathing.

Jamie L. Santos was found dead of possible strangulation by paramedics at about 11:30 a.m. Monday in her Arlington Club Apartment. A Wheeling police dispatcher received an emergency call concerning a woman who was not breathing in her apartment at 1765 Stonehedge Court, said Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes, leading police to believe the caller may be the killer.

Paramedics arrived to find Santos, wearing only underwear, alone in the apartment and not breathing. "Because of the marks found on her chin, face and neck, we believe this may be a possible strangulation," Hermes said.

Police believe Santos was dead for only a short time before paramedics arrived. Resuscitation efforts failed and the victim was transported to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines where she was pronounced dead at 12:10 p.m.

Investigators said there were no signs of force used to enter the two-floor brick apartment, suggesting the victim probably knew the offender.

Police have no motive in the killing and said late Monday night there were no suspects in custody. However, Hermes said, "we're looking at the 911 call as an important lead in the case."

The call was made from a pay phone near Santos' apartment.



A Wheeling police officer condons off the crime scene.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Piant

Santos, a single woman who lived alone, worked as a free-lance exotic dancer, police said. Her parents and sister live in Arlington Heights.

Neighbors arrived home from work Monday evening to find squad cars in the parking lot and yellow crime tape surrounding the corner apartment of a complex described as "quiet."

"I can't believe this is happening," said one neighbor as she watched a police officer hook up Santos' silver Chrysler Conquest to a tow truck. "These are nice apartments and nice people," said the neighbor, who asked not to be identified.

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Wheeling trustees look to demolish vacant buildings

10-29-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials will take a new look at getting rid of some vacant buildings along Milwaukee Avenue now that trustees have decided they may be willing to take on the demolition responsibilities themselves.

Trustees saw pictures of six vacant buildings along the village's stretch of the avenue when they got together Monday, and they agreed the buildings were eyesores.

"It would be nice to see these things come down, even if we have to do it ourselves," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "Can we get estimates of the cost for taking them down?"

The village will look into the possibility of using money collected through tax increment financing to take down some of the buildings, which are in the special TIF district.

The district stretches from Manchester Drive north to Strong Street, along both sides of Milwaukee Avenue.

Under the village's TIF plan, trustees were hoping to acquire several parcels of land, group

them and sell them for larger developments.

But the process has been stalled in the courts by some property owners hoping to keep their property. The case now is in the hands of the Illinois Supreme Court.

Village officials said owners of many of the abandoned buildings — including two gas stations, several homes and a hot dog stand — do not want to pay the cost to have the buildings demolished and removed.

And he said he did not think the village would be able to recover the cost of removing the buildings when the property is sold.

"In my opinion, a lot of these buildings can never be used for anything else," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "I'd rather deal with vacant lots than ones with buildings on them."

However, before making any final decisions on taking the buildings down, trustees must decide if they are willing to set that precedent and possibly end up paying for the demolition of other abandoned buildings in the village.

## Wheeling cops to interview 4 about identity of 911 caller

11-1-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling investigators are interviewing four of the 24 people who thought they might have recognized the voice on a 911 tape that police are hoping will help them solve the murder of a Wheeling dancer.

Police released the 54-second recording to the media Wednesday, after playing it for family and friends of 27-year-old Jamie Santos, who was strangled in her Arlington Club apartment Monday morning.

On the tape a male voice asked the 911 operator to send someone to 1765 Stonehedge Drive in Wheeling.

"There is a young woman there not breathing and turning blue," the anonymous caller told the dispatcher.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said the four will come into the police department and listen to a clearer version of the



Jamie Santos

tape. He said if a possible suspect is named during those sessions, the department will then get a voice sample from that person to be used for a voice match with the 911 recording.

The call was made from a pay phone at a Buffalo Grove shopping center, less than a mile from where Santos, a free-lance dancer, lived alone.

Police said evidence at the apartment left them with few clues and they are hoping the tape will lead them to the killer or to the person to last see Santos alive.

However, they continue to believe that Santos' career was not related to her death.

# Truck, caller sought in slaying

By TED GREGORY  
and BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Police are investigating a possible link between the strangulation of a Wheeling dancer in her apartment Monday and a report that a truck with out-of-state license plates was parked nearby on the morning of her death.

Also, investigators are stepping up efforts to determine the identity of a caller who phoned the emergency 911 line at 11:31 a.m. Monday to say that the woman, 27-year-old Jamie L. Santos, was in distress.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said Tuesday that authorities will release to the press a tape of

the 4-second message after 1 p.m. today unless the caller identifies himself to police.

Santos' neighbor said he spotted the truck, which he described as a brown, late model Jeep-like vehicle, perhaps a Ford Bronco or Jeep Cherokee, on his way to work about 5:45 a.m. Monday. The truck took up two parking spaces near mailboxes just outside Santos' apartment at 1765 N. Stonehedge Court in the Arlington Club complex, said the 33-year-old neighbor.

The truck displayed license plates from Minnesota or New Jersey, Santos' neighbor said.

"I know more or less who owns



Jamie L. Santos



Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger holds the 911 tape that he says he'll release today.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Bouciv

See KILLING on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

what vehicle and what vehicles belong here," he said Tuesday. "I've never seen that vehicle before and I didn't see it this morning, and I left at the same time."

The neighbor spoke with police Monday afternoon and investigators said they were planning to meet with him again Tuesday or Wednesday.

Santos, a single woman who worked as an exotic dancer, lived in the Arlington Club apartment for slightly more than a year, relatives said Tuesday. Her parents and sister live in Arlington Heights. Police said she worked for several agencies that would book her into dancing jobs. They added that her profession was legal, and they don't think her dancing career was related to her death.

Haeger said investigators "are giving the caller the opportunity to come forward to assist us in the investigation."

"Investigators need to speak with the caller in an effort to determine who the caller may have seen or what the caller may have heard," Haeger said. "The caller's voice is very clear and distinct, and we are sure it could be identified."

The caller spoke in an excited

tone, Haeger said, and made the call from a Buffalo Grove phone booth near the Arlington Club apartments, just east of the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove border. The Buffalo Grove emergency dispatcher passed the call to Wheeling police after hearing the address, Haeger said.

"There's a woman not breathing and turning blue at 1765 N. Stonehedge," the man stated. Paramedics found the woman, clad only in underwear, on the floor of her second-floor apartment. Her chin, face and neck were bruised and scraped, police said.

Evidence in the apartment has left investigators with few clues, Haeger said. Doors were unlocked and the apartment was undisturbed.

The chief dismissed narcotics or sexual assault as possible motives.

Haeger said 20 investigators, including officers from Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove and Northbrook, are working on the case. Individuals with information about the call may phone police at 459-2632.

Visitation for Santos will be from 2 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Glueckert Funeral Home, 1520 N. Arlington Heights Road. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by a private burial.



Jamie Santos

## Tape may contain key to killing

10-31-91

Wheeling police released a tape of the 911 emergency call that could hold the key to solving the killing of a Wheeling dancer earlier this week.

In releasing the tape Wednesday, police hope someone will recognize the voice of the caller who reported that 27-year-old Jamie Santos was "not breathing and turning blue" in her Arlington Club apartment.

Family and friends of Santos have heard the 54-second tape.

However, they were unable to identify the caller — who police say is a possible suspect in the case.

Police continue to say that Santos' career as an exotic dancer was not related to her death.

# Police release 911 tape seeking solution to murder

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police released a 54-second tape of the emergency 911 call that may hold the key to solving the murder of a Wheeling dancer, in hopes that someone will hear it and help them identify the caller.

Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said Wednesday that the tape also has been played for family and friends of the victim, 27-year-old Jamie Santos, but they did not recognize the voice.

"We couldn't begin to talk to every single person that has come into con-

tact with her," he said. "We are hoping somebody out there who knew her, was in the same circle of friends, might recognize the voice."

Santos was not breathing when she was found by Wheeling paramedics on Monday morning in her Arlington Club apartment. Police believe she was strangled because of marks on her face, neck and chin.

On the tape of the 911 call — made from a pay phone in a Buffalo Grove shopping center less than a mile from Santos' home — a male caller asks the emergency dispatcher "to please send someone to 1765 Stonehedge Drive in Wheeling. There is

a woman there not breathing and turning blue."

When the Buffalo Grove operator explained she must transfer the call to Wheeling, the caller said, "No, no, no, no time."

After the call was transferred, the man repeated his request to the Wheeling operator, who asked where he was calling from.

"I don't know. It's a public phone," the caller said and then hung up.

Hermes said the caller is considered a suspect, but investigators also are working under the theory that he could just be a witness who

does not want to get involved.

Police said late Wednesday they had received less than 10 calls in response to the tape's release. Police would not say whether any of those calls were solid leads to Santos' murderer.

Police continue to say they do not think Santos' career as an exotic dancer was related to her death. And her relatives and friends agree, saying the media has placed too much emphasis on a job which she kept totally separate from her personal life.

"One of my neighbors called today to say she was so sick of not hearing anything positive about Jamie," said

Santos' mother, who asked not to be identified. "All of our neighbors are upset about the way she is being portrayed in the media, because they knew Jamie."

Santos' mother said exotic dancing was only part of her daughter's career. She also dressed as a clown and performed at children's parties and delivered singing telegrams.

"She loved arts and crafts," Santos' mother said. "She was very talented. She did craft shows. She taught herself how to play the guitar and was just beginning to learn the piano."

Santos' family and friends are

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10-31-91

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Santos' mother, who asked not to be identified. "All of our neighbors are upset about the way she is being portrayed in the media, because they knew Jamie."

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"She loved arts and crafts," Santos' mother said. "She was very talented. She did craft shows. She taught herself how to play the guitar and was just beginning to learn the piano."

Santos' family and friends are

working to set up a fund to establish a hot line and offer a reward for information leading to the arrest of her murderer.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said he has not yet been contacted about setting up a hot line, but he added that it can be done and that the department would "probably be interested."

In the meantime, police will continue to interview people acquainted with Santos and handle any responses to publication of the tape.

"We may get hundreds of calls," he said. "But all I need is one."

# Police search for stripper slayer

COUNTRYSIDE  
By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

10-31-91

Detectives from at least three northwest suburban police departments are aiding Wheeling in the investigation of the apparent murder of an exotic dancer Monday morning.

And the Wheeling chief was threatening to release the 911 call, which originally alerted them to the body, for broadcast in the hope of identifying the caller.

A former employer of the free-lance stripper said detectives have asked him if Jamie L. Santos, 27, may have met the wrong man at a local nightclub the evening before her death.

Police found the woman in her apartment at 1765 Stone Hedge Court late Monday morning after an anonymous emergency call was made, saying there was a woman at the address who had stopped breathing, according to Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes. She was unconscious, though still warm, as fire department paramedics tried to revive her, but she was later pronounced dead at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines.

## Strangulation

She was found dressed in underwear, with bruises on her neck that indicated she may have been strangled, according to Hermes. Tuesday,

"It's very, very shocking," he said of the death of the woman he knew for four years.

Evidence technicians from the Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory combed her car, left parked in front of her home, for clues, trying to see if she had given a ride to her killer.

## Loneliness

Lou Franchi, of Bartlett-based Spice it Up, said Santos, who had worked for his party service this year, had once spoken to him of the "intense loneliness she and other girls in this business feel."

"They're very lonely if they're not married," he said. "When a man finds out they're a stripper, they either try to change her life or control her life."

"I can't think of a stripper or an exotic dancer who meets someone and can stay with them on a permanent basis," he said. "They make a lot of money, but at tremendous cost."

Pat Higgins, who co-owns an Elgin exotic dance service called Leather and Lace, said of Santos, "she was real warm, kinda shy, a lotta fun to be with." Higgins said she

hadn't talked to Santos since June.

Franchi said Santos took some of his party assignments, ranging from comical stripteases to "whatever state of undress was required," for the first eight months of 1991. He said in her best month, she made \$900, but that represented only about a quarter of her income, as she was hiring out to other agencies, too.

He said she hired out freelance to avoid being forced into prostitution, which had been a pressure put on her at one agency where she had once had an exclusive arrangement.

Deputy Chief Hermes said Santos lived alone, and there was no sign of forced entry into the house, which had not been ransacked. He said there were no apparent bruises to the body other than in the neck area, and the medical examiner said there was no evidence of a sexual attack.

## Detective loan

Buffalo Grove, Northbrook and Mt. Prospect police have each assigned two detectives to the Wheeling investigation.

"We've loaned them two investigators, for as long as

an autopsy confirmed that the cause of death was strangulation.

Later that day, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger appealed to the man who called 911 to "come forward and assist in the investigation," or the tape of his call would be released at 1 p.m. Wednesday to the electronic media for broadcast. Then, someone might identify the voice and call police. Haeger said the voice was "clear and distinct."

Giving the man the chance to come forward might spare police and him the danger in armed apprehension by the police, but Hermes said no lighter treatment in the courts is intended for a voluntary appearance by a caller who may have been a killer.

"Of course there's the possibility that the caller was someone who just happened in... but it's not very likely. Or it could have been an accident.

"He can sit there and wait 'til we catch him, but I bet we do," he said.

The strip-service boss, who asked not to be identified, said he was an old friend of the woman, who danced under the name "Sasha" for his organization and many others. He said he was asked whether he knew if Santos had frequented a popular local nightclub, and might have met someone there Sunday night. He said he told them she indeed frequented the dance bar.

Wheeling needs them. It's part of the good neighbor policy we've always used," said Commander Gary Del Rey, the head of Buffalo Grove's detective division.

Del Rey has just been named head of the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force, a cooperative effort that will arrange for automatic loans of highly-trained village police department detectives and evidence technicians for investigations of murders and kidnappings when called in by police chiefs. But it won't be ready to get off the ground until later next month, at the earliest. Meanwhile, Wheeling will make do with all seven of its detectives on the case, including the two assigned to youth crimes. They were being aided by the loaned detectives, plus six Wheeling street cops, according to Hermes.

"The first 48 hours is the key," said Del Rey.

LOCAL NEWS?  
SPORTS SCORE?  
Tell Pioneer Press

"She liked to go to the bars, liked to meet people, talk to people, which may have turned into what happened. What kind of people are you going to meet?"

"The police were calling numbers they found in her phone book," he said, explaining how they had happened to call him.

## Hang outs

Hermes said police were indeed calling around to find out "where she hung out, and who her friends were," but police said they suspect she may not have gone out Sunday since that was her "relax day." Police said her job apparently has nothing to do with the circumstances of her death.

The former employer said Santos could take care of herself. "If someone tried to harass her, she would harass you right back. She was a strong-willed person, a very tough, genuine person."

"She was in control. She took control to make the amount of money she did, and she kept control of her life. She was in the top ten percent of exotic dancers in Chicago. Most of the women in this business are in it a short time, then they leave. The ones that stay are usually like her: fiercely independent, one of the things that may have gotten her in trouble."

(Continued on page 8)

## Wheeling property taxes up slightly under levy plan

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will see a slight increase in the amount of property taxes they pay to the village if trustees give final approval to the tentative levy adopted Monday.

While the \$6.5 million levy represents an 18 percent increase over the 1990 levy, Village Finance Director Robert Fialkowski is recommending trustees abate part of that levy, bringing the actual levy down to \$5.8 million — an almost 5 percent increase from 1990.

And although the Illinois legislature has not yet imposed a 5 percent property tax cap on Cook County, Fialkowski told trustees the village would not have had trouble operating under a cap during the past several years.

"We are one of those taxing bodies that should not be used as an example when giving reasons for enacting a cap," he said.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz agreed with Fialkowski, saying trustees have made an effort to keep the levy down.

"Not asking for more than we need is a principle we have followed for the past several years

and the board has been comfortable with that," she said. "The tax cap penalizes responsible governments — a case municipalities are trying, without much success, to make to the state."

The general fund levy will increase 21 percent under the proposed levy, from \$2 million to \$2.4 million, Fialkowski said.

That money will be used to pay day-to-day operating expenses for the police, fire, finance and community development departments, the administrative services of the village board and vehicle maintenance. About 66 percent of the general fund goes to pay salaries in those areas.

Fialkowski said the levy is based on a 5 percent increase in the village's budget for next year.

"We have some expenditures that are continuing to go up," he said. "This is a conservative estimate. We cannot add a lot of people and stay within the budget."

Fialkowski said he expects the village's tax rate of \$1.12 per \$100 assessed valuation to go up no more than 5 cents as a result of the levy increase. At a rate of \$1.17, a Wheeling homeowner living in an average-priced house of \$100,280 will pay about \$318 in property taxes to the village.

## Wheeling board to sign IDOT's Palwaukee agreement

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A recent vote by the Wheeling Village Board to sign a new agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation leaves the Prospect Heights City Council as the lone hold-out in a three-month standoff between the communities and IDOT that could lead to a loss or delay of

state funds to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The dispute centers around a paragraph in the agreement that officials of Wheeling and Prospect Heights must sign with IDOT to get money for airport improvement projects.

That paragraph, not included in previous agreements, gives IDOT the authority to "assume control and operation of the airport" if the mu-

nicipalities breach their agreement with IDOT or neglect the airport.

And while the two communities are not happy with that paragraph, Wheeling trustees agreed to sign the document after adding another paragraph saying they must be given 30 days notice of IDOT's intent to take over the airport along with the agency's reason for doing so, and they must be given 30 days to take correc-

tive action. If they do not, the matter will be decided in a court of law.

"We had to move forward because any time grant funds are involved — which is most of the time — this agreement is required," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "This is the best compromise we could work out. IDOT wants the same agreement throughout the state."

But Trustee William Rogers, who also serves as an airport commissioner, continued to be upset by the thought that IDOT could take control of the airport.

"We purchased the airport over the objection of the voting citizens because we wanted to own it, not the state," Rogers said. "Passage of the resolution approving the ordinance means we've gone back on our word to our citizens. A denial of

anything IDOT prop in them taking us to

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The Prospect Heights tabled the vote on approve the agree ago and is expecte matter again when day

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Tell Pioneer Press

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# Wheeling board to sign IDOT's Palwaukee agreement

11-02-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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anything IDOT proposes will result in them taking us to court."

But other village trustees said the compromise was just part of the normal give and take that goes along with the signing of any contract.

The Prospect Heights City Council tabled the vote on the resolution to approve the agreement two weeks ago and is expected to discuss the matter again when they meet Monday

# Tape broadcast fails to nab Sasha's killer

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Dozens of people called Wheeling Police after investigators decided to release the tape of the 911 call made to them following the strangling of Jamie "Sasha" Santos.

But though many thought they recognized the voice of the man who called to say the stripper was not breathing and turning blue, none of the leads have led to someone that might have choked her, according to Deputy Chief Michael Hermes.

This week, the investigation continued with a leaner force, as two pairs of detectives from Buffalo Grove and Mount Prospect were returned to their departments. Two Northbrook investigators remain on the job, as do seven from the Wheeling force and five highly experienced Wheeling street cops.

The last Wheeling murder victim died almost exactly six years ago. Police officer Ken Dawson was shot to death by a burglar Nov. 5, 1985. His killer was

arrested and convicted.

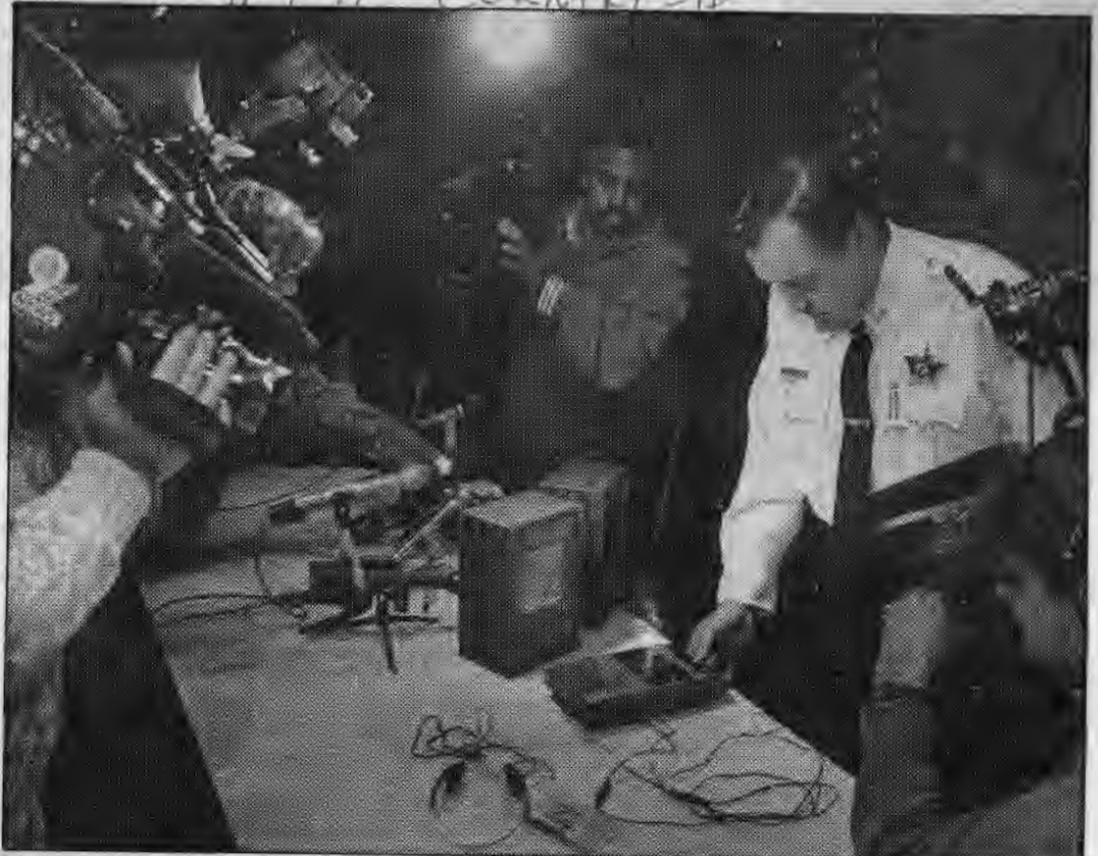
It was an unusual spectacle in the Wheeling Council Chambers last Wednesday, as cameras from every major network television affiliate, as well as some minor ones, pointed their cameras at Hermes, and, more steadily, at a little Panasonic cassette player inches away from their lenses. They were joined by radio reporters, who held their own tape recorders or microphones close to the tape, and broadcast it later, to little avail.

Trying to identify a suspect through public broadcast of his voice was a new experience for Channel 7 cameraman Art Campbell and Channel 5's Jim Stricklin, though they have 42 years of experience between them.

"I don't remember doing anything like this, and I've done a lot of crime stuff," said Stricklin. Neither cameraman remembered hearing of anyone doing it elsewhere in the country, either.

Hermes said that Santos' friends and relatives have

(Continued on page 14)



Kurt Butcher/Pioneer Press

Members of the media crowd around a Panasonic recorder as Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes plays the 911 tape last week. The tape produced dozens of leads, but no killer.

complained about the degree of prurience indulged in by the television reporters since Santos was found shortly before noon Monday. They may have more to complain about later.

"When I get off the phone with you, I've got a message on my desk from 'Hard Copy,'" he said, referring to the Fox Network show as "tabloid television."

Wednesday evening, viewers of TV and radio news broadcasts heard a calm-sounding man tell the 911 operator to send an ambulance to Santos home at 1765 Stone Hedge Drive. He got a little excited, however, when the operator took a couple of seconds to switch him from her Buffalo Grove dispatch office to Wheeling's. He had crossed the village limits on the way from Stonehedge court to a pay phone near the True Value Hardware Store at the corner of Buffalo Grove and Dundee Roads.

"No time! She's not breathing, she's turning blue!" he said excitedly.

Hermes said the fact of his call could show the caller had some compassion, even if he was the one who choked her.

But that suggestion has limits, because there was a working telephone in the apartment, which could have alerted authorities much quicker than even driving the half-mile to the public phone.

The caller apparently knew the location of the Santos apartment well, because he gave the address, including the village, with assurance, according to Hermes.

Detectives checked out 85 leads called into headquarters, most of which were in response to press coverage of the murder, including the broadcasted 911 call. All of them turned out to be dead ends, including one person who swore Jimmy Swaggart did it, according to Hermes.

But Hermes did not consider the time chasing the leads to be wasted. "We might investigate the 86th lead and find him," he said.

"As it goes on without getting close to developing a suspect the chances... get slimmer of an arrest.

"But you've got case 5-6 years old that suddenly get solved. It doesn't happen often, but it happens."

## Poor tape quality dooms 911 search

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Police may have been doomed from the start in their creative effort to find the man who called 911 to tell of the imminent death of Jamie "Sasha" Santos Oct. 29 because of the poor fidelity common to telephone microphones, according to a Northwestern University speech expert.

The voice of the last man to see her breathe was probably distorted over the phone beyond easy recognition, according to Dr. Tom Carrell, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on the ability of people to recognize voices.

Wheeling Police broadcast the 911 call through the electronic media in hopes of

identifying the caller.

He said that people can identify the recorded voice of an individual they've known all their lives about 90 percent of the time, under optimal conditions.

"But these were nothing like optimal conditions," said Carrell.

"The average speech signal of a telephone is about 3,000 hertz, and the speech of the average man goes up to about 9,000 hertz," said Carrell. He said that meant the phone would narrow the spectrum of sounds available to the ear by two-thirds.

He added that people can recognize a familiar voice after 30 or 40 years without having heard it, but that a voice is not like a finger-

(Continued on page 8)

print, and many voices are virtually the same. He said that voiceprints are inadmissible in court because, like polygraph tests, they aren't necessarily accurate.

"They're probably even worse," he added.

Chicago FBI spokesman Bob Long compared the Wheeling ploy to publication of pictures of bank robbers, a practice often encouraged by FBI agents.

"Sometimes, even when we get clear photos in the paper, we get no calls. Other times, when the pictures are

out of focus, we get a lot of calls."

He said the reason for the lack of success "could be the personality of the listener — there are times when a lot of people know about a murder, and nobody comes forward, even if they know who did it. Some of them have fears, and some don't want to get involved.

"Unfortunately, cooperation from the public often isn't there," said the veteran special agent.

"Maybe the person that

could have identified the person was on vacation, or not watching the news that day. If you could push to get something like that played several more times, that might be a very good thing. But good luck.

"When they do that, they get into money for advertising... and it's getting to be old news, and how many people are going to identify from the limited conversation?"

"It's sad, but there's a lot of unsolved murders out there."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
11-13-91

### Northwest

#### Wheeling

#### 4.9% tax hike being proposed

Wheeling has set Dec. 2 as the date for a public hearing on the proposed tax levy ordinance.

Wheeling board members have adopted a resolution approving the amount of the tax levy, which could mean a 4.93 percent increase in property taxes for residents.

Residents would pay, at most, a \$1.17 more per \$100 of assessed valuation, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

# Violent crime in Illinois rises, suburbs have mixed statistics

By TED GREGORY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Violent crime in Illinois increased more than 11 percent last year but violence in the Northwest suburbs was more enigmatic.

While experts are hinting growing violence may be catching up finally to the area this year, law enforcement representatives are less discouraging.

Statistics released Friday by the Illinois State Police show all categories of violent crime rose last year over figures reported in 1989. A total of 112,024 violent crimes were reported last year, up from the previous year's total of 100,780.

Reported property crime around

the state also rose, although slightly, and most of the Northwest suburbs reflected that increase.

Cook County, including Chicago, experienced a 6.1 percent increase in the crime rate per 100,000 residents last year. The state police figures do not provide rates for suburban Cook County.

"Clearly if you look at the trends, when you look at all of them, it certainly seems to be toward more violence," said Kevin Morison, spokesman for Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. His agency has yet to analyze crime trends for this year.

A recent series of violent crime, including the murder of a Wheeling exotic dancer Oct. 28 and the wound-

ing of a Palatine patrol officer Nov. 4, may have residents wondering about their safety but numbers for violent crimes remain low.

And, while law enforcement representatives maintain the recession may be boosting crime a bit in the Northwest suburbs, they are convinced the area is no more violent this year than in previous years.

"I don't know that it's been more violent this year," Haeger said. "We've had years that have been more violent than this year."

Schaumburg Police Sgt. Ron Dutner said the recession may have brought more crime to the suburbs, although he declined to say the suburbs are becoming more violent.

"The only thing that jumps out at

## Crime in t

Percent change

Arlington Hts.  
Des Plaines  
Palatine  
Schaumburg  
Wheeling

Source: Illinois State

me is that there se domestic violence said.

Violent crimes dr between 1990 and 1 Heights, for exam towns showed mixi tics.

Robberies droppe cent that year in A Aggravated assault percent. Five rape

several walks a day at an apartment complex wh Otherwise, I'm quite lin my activities. With the bility, I seem to have al quite a few friends. I'm ately lonely.

Small pets are allowe management. I can get free of charge, through Humane Society and the Pets for Seniors Progra though my funds will al food, I haven't been abl et for the \$250 pet depos quired by management. you see your way clear a lonely woman happy Mrs. G. B. Tacoma, Wa

Dear Mrs. B.: I'm ha lige your request. Ever, needs to feel loved and in return. It's as essent

## CRIME: Wheeling tactical unit back

Continued from Page 1

how to recognize crime," Arlington Heights Police Commander Richard W. Robinson said. "We feel it's very important that we get out in the community."

Robinson said the department's emphasis on crime prevention programs throughout the village may be paying dividends.

"If you educate the public," Robinson added, "their perception of crime changes and their attitude toward crime changes as well. We look to the public to help us out."

Schaumburg experienced growth in all but one category of serious crime last year. Wheeling and Palatine experienced similar patterns.

Criminal sexual assaults dropped nearly 29 percent in 1990 in Schaumburg, the statistics show.

"It appears that with the growth in our town, we have increases in certain types of crime," Police Sgt. Ron Dutner said Friday. "With more people moving out here, more shopping centers, more commercial development and more residential development, that's where you run into problems."

Dutner said the department has taken a "pro-active" approach to fighting crime in the suburban metropolis. The village has added more than 30 patrol officers in the past three years, he said.

Also, the department offers anti-sexual assault seminars for women's groups about five times a year, a task force dispatched to solve specific crime trends and a well-staffed crime analysis section, Dutner said.

Wheeling experienced increases in all major crime except aggravated criminal sexual assault and motor vehicle theft last year. Palatine showed increases in all serious crimes except aggravated assault and arson.

## Crime in Cook County

Community	Year	Population	Murder & manslaughter	Robbery	Agrvt. Assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor Vehicle theft	Arson
Arlington Heights	1990	75,460	1	24	46	460	2,110	117	17
	1989	73,320	0	26	48	480	1,924	162	26
	% change	+2.9	+100.0	-7.7	-4.2	-4.2	+9.7	-27.8	-34.6
Buffalo Grove	1990	36,427	0	2	6	80	650	26	2
	1989	32,050	0	3	7	62	559	30	0
	% change	+13.7	-	-33.3	-14.3	+29.0	+16.3	-13.3	+200.0
Des Plaines	1990	53,223	0	23	41	294	1,495	156	13
	1989	55,490	2	21	51	328	1,507	136	15
	% change	-4.1	-200.00	+9.5	-19.6	-10.4	-0.8	+14.7	-13.3
Elk Grove Village	1990	33,429	0	14	31	235	1,071	80	13
	1989	33,240	0	11	31	238	1,017	91	5
	% change	+0.6	-	+27.3	-	-1.3	+5.3	-12.1	+160.0
Hanover Park	1990	32,895	2	16	48	257	900	40	15
	1989	31,630	0	16	59	215	948	40	6
	% change	+4.0	+200.0	-	-18.6	+19.5	-5.1	-	+150.0
Hoffman Estates	1990	46,561	0	10	38	267	1,220	95	7
	1989	44,720	1	10	40	245	990	79	7
	% change	+4.1	-100.0	-0	-5.0	+9.0	+23.2	+20.2	-
Mount Prospect	1990	53,170	1	12	36	298	1,383	135	4
	1989	53,120	0	12	61	277	1,338	138	7
	% change	+0.1	+100.0	-	-41.0	+7.6	+3.4	-2.2	-42.9
Palatine	1990	39,253	2	21	23	221	1,254	77	7
	1989	35,550	0	11	24	198	1,093	77	12
	% change	+10.4	+200.0	+90.9	-4.2	+11.6	+14.7	-	-41.7
Prospect Heights	1990	15,239	0	7	25	127	309	35	4
	1989	14,160	0	19	37	167	463	81	3
	% change	+7.6	-	-63.2	-32.4	-24.0	-33.3	-56.8	+33.3
Rolling Meadows	1990	22,591	0	14	34	190	809	64	7
	1989	21,790	0	7	42	213	743	53	2
	% change	+3.7	-	+100.0	-19.0	-10.8	+8.9	+20.8	+250.0
Roselle	1990	20,819	0	2	17	61	309	19	2
	1989	20,520	0	9	10	98	330	16	2
	% change	+1.5	-	-77.8	+70.7	-37.8	-6.4	+18.8	-
Schaumburg	1990	68,586	1	35	104	663	2,511	302	20
	1989	64,690	0	27	92	575	2,244	285	11
	% change	+6.0	-100.0	+29.6	+13.0	+15.3	+11.9	+6.0	+81.8
Wheeling	1990	29,911	0	7	38	143	742	29	5
	1989	28,390	0	4	36	115	663	45	3
	% change	+5.4	-	+75.0	+5.6	+24.3	+11.9	-35.6	+66.7
Chicago	1990	2,783,726	851	37,136	41,042	49,803	129,046	48,996	2,791
	1989	2,977,520	742	31,622	37,614	51,569	130,041	46,196	2,888
	% change	-6.5	+14.7	+17.4	+9.1	-3.4	-0.8	+6.1	-3.4

Source: Illinois State Police

Daily Herald (USPS 02)

# Restaurant projects keep plan commissioners occupied

11-16-91  
 BY RICK TILLER  
 and BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writers

Creekside Plaza could become the home of Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and an expanded El Famous Burrito if village trustees go along with plan commission approvals of the larger eateries.

El Famous Burrito is already located in the plaza, at the corner of

Old McHenry and Elmhurst roads, but owner Pedro Sagredo is looking to take over the vacant retail space next to the restaurant, at 236 Old McHenry Road, to offer more seating and serve carryout customers better.

Sagredo said the expansion would not attract new customers but would only ease the crowding for those waiting to be seated. And although Commissioner Frank A. Prioietta

said he had received some complaints about crowds gathering in front of the restaurant on late summer nights, Sagredo said he had not received any.

Resident Adam D'Auria, a member of the board of directors for the nearby Chelsea Cove Condominium Association, said he had seen some crowds leaving the restaurant but that he had never heard of a disturbance nor noticed anything particu-

larly noisy about the clientele in the evening.

Also hoping to move into Creekside, just several doors from El Famous Burrito, at 208-212 N. Old McHenry will be Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza, which is currently located at 46 W. Dundee Road. Owner Joseph Mastrototaro said he wants to make the move to the 2,400-square-foot Creekside shop because he needs the space for new ovens and other equip-

ment.

Commissioners approved the special use permit request for a sit-down/carry-out restaurant with little more than the condition that Mastrototaro's five delivery trucks be parked behind, not in front of the shop.

Commissioners also gave the go-ahead for a new restaurant at 122 S. Elmhurst Road.

Owner Falah Tabahi wants to open

up a restaurant featuring Middle Eastern cuisine as well as American food.

However, he will have to excavate three portions of the property on which the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency had found benzene, a sign of a gasoline leak.

At one time the property was home of gas station and the soil around the former site of the gas tank is believed to be contaminated.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling trustees welcome Japanese restaurant to plaza

11-19-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's Riverside Plaza Shopping Center will be the home of a new Japanese restaurant later this year now that village trustees approved plans for the eatery at the plaza at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Owner Michael H. Kim will lease one of two vacant retail spaces in the plaza and is planning to provide seating for 40 people along with a carry-out service. The restaurant will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. But before trustees gave approval to the restaurant they had to once again grant the shopping center a parking variance so the restaurant would have the required number of parking spaces for its square footage.

Usually four parking spaces are required for every 1,000 square feet of space in a shopping center. Under a variation already in effect, Riverside was required to have 3.5 spaces and trustees voted on Monday to decrease that number to 3.2 spaces. There are 301 parking spaces at the shopping center and the way they are

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Board approves reappointments

11-9-91  
 Herald - 11-9-91  
 Wheeling village trustees confirmed several of Village President Sheila H. Schultz's reappointments to various commissions.

Reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals were Tom Kirchner and Wayne Wisinski; Maurice Schrote to the senior citizens commission; William J. Maloney to the police pension board; Terry Steilen, Otis Hedlund, and Steven Walanka to the Plan commission; and Debrah Steffen and Ardell Lipowski to the board of health.

### Village to pay \$9,000 for pruning

Trustees voted to pay slightly more than \$9,000 to have trees in the village's parkways trimmed.

### High school service club receives award

A cash prize was awarded to a service organization at John Hersey High School from a state-sponsored children's advocacy group.

The school's Service Over Self Club was chosen for the \$1,000

Although Tru Green Corporation of Wheeling was the lowest of the seven bidders on the trimming, Robert W. Hendricksen Co. of Des Plaines will do the work.

Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance recommended Hendricksen after determining that Tru Green did not have sufficient experience in municipal tree-trimming work.

### Bids waived for fire engine repair

Trustees agreed to waive the competitive bid process and spend \$10,400 to repair one of the fire department's engines.

Cheif Keith MacIsaac said Illinois FWD Truck and Equipment Co. in Rosemont will do the work on the 23-year-old pumper.

He said the truck has already been out of service for seven weeks and there was not time to "shop around" for repairs.

## LOCAL REPORT

### Homeowners seek to ease parking woes at town homes

11-13-91  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials will begin talking with the homeowners' association of Colonial Townhomes in hopes of finding ways to ease parking problems and getting some abandoned cars littering the area around the town houses removed.

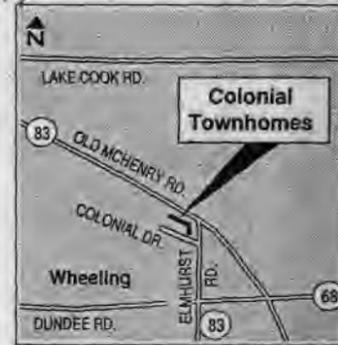
While representatives from the 72-unit town house development at the corner of Elmhurst and Old McHenry Roads had asked trustees to remove the overnight parking ban on Colonial Drive, just north of the townhomes. Wheeling trustees said recently they prefer to find a way to get additional parking at the site.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said it would take a special ordinance to remove the parking ban on that street because the ban — which prohibits street parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. — is village-wide.

He said the ban has been enforced more strictly in recent weeks as the village gears up for snowplowing.

"We have been concerned with the number of inoperable vehicles in that area," Anderson said.

"The shortage of off-street parking for residents of Colonial Townhomes does present problems for the people who live



there."

Although current village code stipulates that town house complexes must have 2.5 parking spaces per unit and another 20 percent of that number for guest parking, Colonial has only one parking space per unit.

Anderson said 50 spaces could be added along Colonial Drive in the village right-of-way, but that would still leave the town house complex several spaces short of the 238 necessary to meet village codes.

Kanti Thakker, a representative of the homeowners' association, said the group wants to sit down with village officials and get the parking problem solved.

"This is causing us big problems," he said. "We don't have enough spaces."

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### HERALD - 11-20-91 Former commissioner thanked for service

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz presented Edward H. Main with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the village as a member of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

Main, who served on the appearance commission before joining the police and fire commission, resigned effective Oct. 21 because he moved to Prospect Heights.

"It was a pleasure to serve this president and this board," Main said after receiving the certificate. "I will always be part of the village of Wheeling in my heart."

### Village signs new recycling agreement

Trustees voted to sign an agreement with Best Recycling/Recy-

cle America for the recycling of some office paper used at village hall.

The village discontinued its recycling agreement with Desk Top Recycling after they were notified the company would begin charging them \$35 for each paper pickup.

While Desk Top Recycling picked up most paper, Best Recycling will only pick up white paper including letterhead, computer printouts and copy paper. The village will be charged \$4 per cubic yard of paper collected but any proceeds from the sale of the paper will be split between the village and Best Recycling.

### Engineers hired to fix runway lights

Trustees agreed to hire Crawford, Murphy and Tilly Inc., for engineering services needed to recable the emergency lighting system on the longest runway at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.



Jim Robinson/Pioneer Press

### Bubbling over

Mayors from the three villages served by School District 21 were all bubbly over the christening of the Discovery Learning Foundation. Seated behind table from left,

Wheeling's Sheila Schultz, Buffalo Grove's Sid Mathias, and Arlington Heights's Bill Maki, join students in watching the bubble magic. HERALD - 11-21-91

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Palwaukee officials looking to Edgar for expansion help

11-21-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Airport Commission's relocation of the Hintz and Wolf roads intersection could move along more quickly if the governor signs a bill passed by state legislators during the veto session.

Under the bill, the airport could acquire the property needed to move the roads faster using "quick take" power.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said the airport would be able to gain title to property it wishes to acquire immediately after entering condemnation proceedings on that property.

"On or after the date of condemnation filing we can petition the court for title to the land," he said. "The court will have a hearing where we submit our appraisal and if the judge deems the offer reasonable we can have the title to the property."

Stewart said if the owner objects to the price he can go ahead with a trial and if a jury decides the land is worth more, the airport then has to pay the difference between the jury's price and the appraised price, which has al-

ready been deposited with the courts.

There are six parcels of property in condemnation suits and 28 parcels still need to be acquired for the relocation of the intersection. It is being moved farther west and north to create a Federal Aviation Administration required clear zone at the end of the airport's longest runway.

If Gov. Jim Edgar signs the bill, work on the relocation could begin as early as next year, only one year later than airport officials had originally hoped.

"We can be relatively assured of getting the property we need for next year's construction — which is the relocation of bridges," said Stewart.

This is the second time the co-owners of the airport — the Village of Wheeling and the City of Prospect Heights — have attempted to get the "quick take" legislation through Springfield.

"This is a very sensitive issue," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "Legislators are very reluctant in giving this kind of power, but with us it is so specific — the parcels involved in the relocation are named in the legislation."

## Wheeling officials look at anti-discrimination efforts

11-26-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees took their first step Monday toward dealing more effectively with discrimination complaints when they began looking at ways to update village ordinances dealing with the subject.

While the Cook County board has drafted a countywide ordinance, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village should have its own.

"As far as the village is concerned, we do have some obligation to assure non-discrimination," he said. "We need to have something in place we can administer that does not allow us to be pre-empted by the county. We would like to have control over our ordinances and how they are administered."

The village currently has ordinances creating two commissions that could deal with fair housing and discrimination issues but, neither commission has been active for several years.

And although trustees first looked at combining the two commissions into one to handle any complaints, they later decided that was a job for the village staff and the village board.

Trustee William Rogers said he was leary of giving a group of appointees the role of deciding discrimination cases and assessing fines.

"This is a very difficult situation," he said. "We could be talking about a lot of money. I'm not sure a volunteer group serving on a commission would feel comfortable taking on these issues."

And while he thought it might be best to let discrimination cases be dealt with on a state or federal level, village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village should get involved.

"Local elected officials should put themselves on the record as opposed to this type of behavior and be ready to back that up," she said.

Trustees decided that any complaints should initially be brought to the village manager, who should try and mediate a solution. However, if that does not work, the village board could step in, with its decision being final.

Before making any changes in the current ordinances, village staff will look to other municipalities to say how they are handling any problems.

Trustees also are leaning toward holding open forums on a regular basis to give residents a chance to voice any complaints.

## Appeal denied in condemnation case

11-25-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling flower shop owner's six-year battle to keep the village from taking his land ended recently when the Illinois Supreme Court decided not to hear his appeal of an appellate court decision giving the village the go-ahead to condemn his property.

Erwin Dreiske, owner of the Wheeling Flower Shop at 88 N. Milwaukee Ave., said he has received notification from his attorney that his appeal has been denied.

Dreiske, who has operated the

flower shop for almost 40 years, could have appealed to the United States Supreme Court, but he said he has exhausted his money and he will try to use public opinion to get the village to pay him what he feels his land and business are worth.

"I spent so much money on lawyers," he said. "And I think it is too late now for another appeal."

Dreiske said he hopes to send out a mailing to Wheeling residents, take out newspaper ads, and circulate petitions asking the village to pay him more than the \$310,000 offered to him for his land six years ago.

The village wants Dreiske's land

and three other parcels around the corner of Dundee and Milwaukee Roads for a tax increment financing (TIF) district. TIF districts are commonly established to improve blighted or rundown areas.

A Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled in 1988 that Wheeling had not met the state criteria for establishing a TIF district halting village plans to condemn Dreiske's property, Tien Tsin Restaurant, Dunkin Donuts and Wheeling Auto Repair — all of whom filed suit to stop the condemnation proceedings.

But his decision was overturned by an appellate court earlier this year

leading Dreiske to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Village officials, who had not received word of the court's decision, said they would begin condemnation proceedings.

"If it is indeed true that the Supreme Court is not going to hear the matter we will proceed with condemnation suits on several properties," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Anderson added that the village is obligated to pay only what the fair market value of the property was when condemnation proceedings began on the properties in 1986.

# False alarms come at a price now

12-3-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling businessmen and homeowners can expect to start paying for repeated false burglar alarms under a village ordinance passed last March now that the grace period instituted by the police department has expired.

While the ordinance became law last May, the police department began documenting false alarms that will lead to fines on Nov. 1. And Sergeant Juan Rivera said several Wheeling businesses could soon begin paying fines.

The ordinance, which was prompted by a 14 percent increase in false alarms in the police department alone, sets a fine of \$50 for each false alarm between five and 10 in a permit year. That fine jumps to \$100 per alarm after 10.

"In August we gave out notices that on Nov. 1 we would start documenting and taking count," Rivera said. "We were expecting people to take corrective action to get their alarms working properly."

But Rivera said there are already three companies that have had four false alarms this month alone.

"There are some companies I

want to curtail the problem," he said. "It has a lot to do with employee error. It is not something that can't be corrected and the clock is really running now."

Alarm owners must register with the village and pay a \$20 annual licensing fee. New owners are allowed a two-month grace period when no fees are charged to work out any bugs in their systems.

False fire alarms are also covered by the ordinance and Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said his department did not allow a grace period between the

the time it became law.

He said only one alarm owner has been fined so far.

"Ninety-nine percent of false fire alarms can be avoided if the systems are cleaned and maintained," MacIsaac said. "The ordinance has worked for us. It has made certain people correct problems."

And MacIsaac noted that only people with system malfunctions are fined.

"They are not charged when someone pulls a fire alarm," he said.

In October, there were 35 false fire alarms — including 19 system mal-

## Wheeling trustees OK property tax increase

12-3-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will see a slight increase in property taxes they pay to the village now that trustees have adopted a 1991 tax levy of \$6.5 million.

And although that amount was 18 percent higher than the 1990 tax levies, trustees immediately abated a portion of the levy, bringing the actual amount to be collected in property taxes down to \$5.8 million — 4.9 percent higher than last year's levy.

Trustees abated \$758,076 of the levy because although they are required to levy that amount to pay off general obligation bonds, the money is not needed.

Village Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said the village has been able to abate some money in the general obligation bonds fund for the past several years because the village has not acquired much new debt.

The general fund levy will increase 21 percent under the new levy, from \$2 million to \$2.4 million.

That money is used to pay day-to-day operating expenses for the police, fire, finance and community development departments, the administrative services of the village

board and vehicle maintenance. About 66 percent of the general fund goes to pay salaries in those areas.

Fialkowski said there has been a gradual increase in the cost of providing general government services, with that cost rising about 50 percent over the past nine years. But he said public safety costs — including the hiring of police and fire personnel to accommodate village growth — has doubled in that same time period.

The levy increase is based on a 5 percent increase in the 1992-93 village budget.

"We will keep things the way they are with a normal increase in operating expenditures for next year," Fialkowski said. "Revenues other than the levy are not going up significantly."

Fialkowski said he expects the village tax rate of \$1.12 per \$100 assessed valuation to go up no more than 5 cents as a result of the levy increase. At a rate of \$1.17, a Wheeling homeowner living in an average-priced house of \$100,280 will pay about \$318 in property taxes to the village.

Fialkowski said the village would not have had trouble operating under a 5 percent property tax cap over the past few years as levy hikes have hovered around that amount.



Geoff Schreiner/Pioneer Press  
Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac stands in front of the Spanish-worded sign on the marquee in front of the municipal center. The sign urges smoke detector use.

## Spanish-speaking signs have Wheeling talking

COUNTRYSIDE 11-28-91  
BY IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

"Did you see what was on the sign out front of Village Hall?" asked the woman, laughing. "People are talking about it all over town. But I'll be darned if I know what it says."

What it said was, "Instale y de mantenimiento a los detectores de humo." What it means is, buy smoke detectors, and make sure they're in working order.

It may represent the first-ever appearance of a foreign-language message on the marquee sign in front of the Wheeling Municipal complex. Residents gave it mixed reviews this week, but that doesn't bother its author very much.

"The calls ran the gamut from very emotional that it was very inappropriate to have it there, to others who thought it was a great idea," said Fire Chief Keith Mac-

### No boundaries

"But having or not having smoke detectors, and not maintaining them if one has them, knows no ethnic boundaries," he added. "Hopefully, this will prevent a tragedy."

Spanish snippets on the sign are something no-habla-espanol Wheeling residents might as well get used to, according to the fire chief. It's likely that messages in Spanish recommending having furnaces checked or adopting a home escape plan will be among those displayed the remainder of the year. Similar messages in English have already run this season.

The bulletins are changed weekly, and don't necessarily appear on both sides of the sign. While the west surface spoke to smoke detection last

### Increased numbers

According to the 1990 census, about 8 percent of Wheeling's 29,911 residents are Hispanic, though many have no problems with the English language. Though Hispanic represent less than two percent more of the total village population than they did a decade ago, their numbers doubled, from 1,282 to 2,508. In the same period, the total village population rose 29 percent.

When the fire department held its first public open house last year, brochures on safety were distributed in both English and Spanish, to facilitate communication of life-saving topics to Spanish-speakers. None of the village firefighters speak Spanish, however. The sign's exact wording was created by MacIsaac's old friend Mario Tristian, a fire inspector from the Mt. Prospect department. No

### LOCAL REPORT

## Wheeling organizations win awards for aesthetics

12-6-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Appearance Commission has recognized four Wheeling organizations for their efforts to enhance and improve their buildings or properties.

Representatives from Crescent Cardboard, the Polo Run subdivision, Pizza Hut Restaurant and the Community Presbyterian Church were presented with the awards this week by Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

This is the 11th year for the awards which are given in four categories: industrial, multi-family residential, commercial and non-profit.

"We are very proud of the continuous improving appearance of the village," said Schultz.

Each organization was presented with an award for the owner, architect and landscape architect.

The purpose of the awards is to encourage companies to improve and keep up the aesthetics of

their property, said Thomas Fennell Jr., building, housing and zoning administrator.

The appearance commission will consider any building that fits into one of the four categories and village residents are encouraged to do the nominating.

The buildings are awarded points in overall site planning, architectural design and detailing, landscape design and how lighting and signs are integrated into the site design. Each of the five appearance commission members judge each entry.

Also for the first year, several other organizations were recognized with certificates of merit or letters of commendation for the upkeep and maintenance.

They were: Dundee and Wolf Automotive Services, Inc., In-deck Power Equipment Company, Smalley Steel Ring Company, J.W. Allen Company, Love Controls Corporation, Parker Hannifin Corporation, 94th Aero Squadron, E Z Por Corporation and Penta Construction Company.

# Trash transfer station meeting set

By CHRISTINE HAWES  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting — not a public hearing — over a solid waste agency's plans to build a \$11.3 million garbage transfer station in unincorporated Wheeling Township.

Greg Mishaud, spokesman for the EPA, said Tuesday that EPA Director Mary Gade decided to hold the meeting after researching arguments for and against the garbage transfer station. Gade also received pressure from a number of suburban legislators, including Sen. Virginia B. Macdonald, R-Arlington Heights.

No date has been set for the meeting.

Mishaud could not specify why

Gade decided to hold the hearing, or why she chose to hold a public meeting rather than a public hearing.

"They're really pretty much the same thing," Mishaud said. "A public meeting is just more informal, but it still requires a statement of responsiveness and that type of thing."

Opponents to the transfer station, including Des Plaines Alderman Nicholas "Nick" Chiropoulos, had varying reactions to the news. Chiropoulos, who has fought the transfer station from the start, said he's just glad residents will have a chance to speak out on the possible negative consequences of the station.

"I'm more pleased than surprised," Chiropoulos said. "I was very hopeful and confident after our meeting last week, but you never

know until you get final confirmation."

Gail Steriadiis lives 1,000 feet from the proposed transfer station site, and she said a public meeting isn't enough for her and other residents who are objecting to SWANCC's move.

"We have people we have to notify, people who are experts," Steriadiis said. "So far, nobody's been heard from except for experts that SWANCC has hired."

Sheila Schultz, SWANCC chairman and Wheeling village president, said she "has faith in Gade's judgment."

Schultz said last week that a hearing would be a waste of taxpayers' time and money.

The proposed transfer station would compact garbage for a proposed balefill in Bartlett.

pleted were an addition to Bob Chinn's CrabHouse, and a low-rise office center next door to the midwest's largest grossing eatery.

But he denied that the village is opposed to all Milwaukee Avenue development except office buildings, and dislikes strip malls in particular, a claim made by some real estate operators.

## Strip malls

He said that the strip malls that have been proposed were often positioned end-on on narrow lots, and had too little parking and perilous access onto the highway. As it is, a large portion of the accidents in Wheeling occur on Milwaukee Avenue, as do many drunk-driving arrests, according to police statistics. Taverns are a common land-use on the old highway, both within and beyond the village.

One Wheeling commercial

realtor said he "tried to do (a strip mall) on Milwaukee Avenue. . . permitting was taking so long (the customer) got discouraged. 120 days for approval. They're not tying up property unless they can be sure."

Joe Mastrototaro just won village approval Tuesday to open a new Wa-Pa-Ghetti's pizza restaurant on rented land at 208 McHenry Road. He has outgrown his Wheeling store at its present location at 46 W. Dundee Road in the Creekside Shopping Center.

## Deal refused

But two years ago, he bought land at Mors Avenue and Milwaukee to build a restaurant on the first floor of a projected two-story office building. But when he balked at that deal, approved by the village, and tried a six-store strip mall, he was refused.

"\$225,000," he moaned

when asked what he paid for the land. "Oh, man I'm taking a beating. The real estate tax is \$9,000 a year, plus the mortgage." And he hasn't been able to sell the land.

Village Planner Janeck said Wheeling just doesn't want take-out-delivery restaurants that close to single-family residences. He said they cause fumes, noise and traffic from the delivery trucks, and sanitary difficulties from the garbage.

## Sympathetic

Schultz was sympathetic to property owners who can't sell property, waiting for something to happen in the Crossroads or for planned Milwaukee Avenue street widening.

"People have kind of been on hold," she said. "They don't know, and we can't tell them."

# Wheeling downtown takes center stage

A decision by property owners to stop fighting condemnation may give Wheeling the green light to shift its plans for downtown redevelopment into higher gear.

By Irv LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling finally has the green light to resume condemnation procedures on land known as the Crossroads Development, and it may be not a moment too soon for the village's east side.

The project in the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road is seen by village officials as a spur to development on Milwaukee Avenue, something that has been nearly non-existent in recent years.

Concerned with the lack of growth on Milwaukee Avenue, the village created a Tax Increment Finance district in 1985, and then passed a \$4.3 million bond issue to fund it. The district stretches along the highway from about a half-mile north of Dundee to about a mile south of it. Owners of properties within the Crossroads Project in the northwest corner of the TIF area have recently given up fighting condemnation, as the Illinois Supreme Court refused to consider their last appeal. Meanwhile, almost nothing has been happening anywhere along Milwaukee Avenue.

"It's really unfortunate the objectors chose to work against us instead of with us. . . it's been a real hardship on the rest of the business people along Milwaukee Avenue," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

## 13-acre retail development

She said the village plans a 13-acre retail, pedestrian-friendly development anchored by the present Sportmart and at least one other large store. A good anchor would be a Jewel food store. There once was one there, but it is long gone.

Some of the bond money has been used to buy Crossroads lots, but much is left, to pay court-regulated prices for condemned land, according to Schultz.

She and other village officials would like to encourage owners of property throughout the



Kurt Butcher/Pioneer Press

Hardy Maniora, manager of Futrell Auto Sales, pulls on the unlocked gate that opens onto 611 N. Milwaukee Avenue, which has served as an unoffi-

cial meeting place for drunks and gang members. The property is one of several on Milwaukee that has long been vacant.

entire 120-acre district to combine to sell in groups, for upscale land uses. But the owners have largely refused, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson. He said owners of narrow lots want to sell the property for houses, not large commercial uses, because they can get more money per square foot that way.

But some local commercial real estate agents say they have a hard time selling anything on the road for any purpose. Some say a principal reason is that the village is very particular about what it allows.

"Most of Milwaukee is in that (TIF district),"

said one long-time real estate operator, who asked not to have his name published. "I've got to do business here," he laughed.

"We've tried to develop a couple of pieces and ran into all types of difficulties," he said. "I don't even know what they want there," he said.

"I've nixed most of them," agreed Village planner Mark Janeck of the TIF-area development proposals that have come across his desk. "There's been very little new development," he said, adding that over the last half-dozen years, the only projects he knows of that were com-

(Continued on page 9)

# Abandoned building makes progress tough

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

11-5-91  
The uncertainty faced by prospective developer of Milwaukee Avenue property, and the resultant lack of progress, is more than an urban-planning problem. For some whose livelihoods depend on what happens on Route 21, there are very human consequences.

Patty Futrell knows what that's like. She owns Futrell Auto Sales at 577 N. Milwaukee in Wheeling. "We're not making the nut," she said. And she wasn't helped

any in her effort to pay the bills, when, about three weeks ago, nine cars were vandalized and three were stolen in the same night.

Her son-in-law, Hardy Maniora, said that nearby vacant, undeveloped property may have a lot to do with what happened the night of Nov. 11. Just to the north of the auto dealership is the Wonder Bread truck terminal and thrift shop. To the north of that, at 611 Milwaukee, is an old auto auction and salvage yard. That property bends around back of Wonderbread to about the

Futrell lot.

On the salvage property is an old building that used to hold the big truck used as a podium in the auctions, according to Maniora, who manages the dealership for Futrell, who also employs his wife, Cathy.

The vacant building has been used as an after-hours drinking den and all-night crib by seasonal workers at nearby stables, according to Futrell, Maniora, and Sandi Jarm, the manager of the thrift store.

"They were goin' over there in sneaky times," said

Wheeling Patrolman Mike Rompala.

## Locked up tight

Jarm said she keeps the back door of her shop locked, worried about the people she said she's seen come staggering out of the building to urinate or wander around. She said they often stayed in the salvage building all night and all morning on holidays, waiting for the taverns to open up at 11 a.m. or noon.

Maniora thinks the building attracted two men who

switched keys on a salesman the morning before the cars were stolen. He said Wheeling police had computer-generated pictures of the men, but police officials did not return calls.

The building has apparently also attracted gang members, as indicated by elaborately painted gang signs within. They read "King Killer" and "Royal Nation," apparently referring to Latin Kings and Simon City Royals, a Caucasian gang originally from Chicago's Northwest Side.

(Continued on page 8)

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling eyes tough plans to erase graffiti in village

12-10-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees took their first look at two potentially controversial ordinances to curb graffiti in the village when they met Monday night.

One of the ordinances would ban the sale of spray paint to minors and the second would give the village the power to clean graffiti off buildings or structures and then the property owner would have to pay the village for the cleanup before the property could be sold.

So far in 1991, the Wheeling police department has recorded 56 incidents of graffiti — not all of which is categorized as gang graffiti. Seven of the incidents have been classified as hate graffiti, two as satanic graffiti and four as non-specific incidents.

And Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the statistics are a bit skewed because 17 of the incidents were reported during the weekend of Nov. 22-23.

"Very honestly this is not a lot of activity," said Haeger. "We have had some increased activity on the east side attributed to one or a couple of individuals."

If trustees approve the ordinance that prohibits the sale of spray paint, the village would be one of three communities — including Chicago — in northern Illinois to have such an ordinance.

The ordinance would also make it illegal for minors to ask an older person to purchase the paint for them or for minors to present false identification in an attempt to purchase spray paint.

Village attorney James A. Rhodes said that while there had not been court challenges to spray paint ordinances in other communities, he expects there will be.

"Spray paint can be used for illegal purposes, but it can also be used by minors for legitimate purposes," he said.

He also said there might be some challenge to the ordinance that would give the village the authority to clean up graffiti if a property owner does not do so in a "reasonable" amount of time.

"Ultimately, what is reasonable is going to be decided by a judge," he said. "And the burden will be on us to prove reasonableness."

And Maniora said he's found debris piled up on the other side of the fence, in an obvious attempt to use it as a ladder to vault over to Futrell.

Maniora and Futrell said they called Police Chief Mike Haeger and City Manager Craig Anderson after the crimes, demanding the property be locked up. Police officers responded by locking the building on Nov. 14th, though they left the gate unlocked and the windows unboarded. At least one of those windows has since been shattered.

Village President Sheila Schultz said Tuesday she would have the police investigate what could be done to make the property more secure.

Maniora has an idea what to do. He said he's thinking of putting a locked chain around the fence to hold it closed.

But he and Futrell said police have been wonderful to them, trying to keep an eye on their place and trudging through high weeds and thorns to reach the vacant building last summer after another theft.

And they can't blame circumstances for all their problems. Futrell lost her husband, Short, two years

ago, who she says was an ace in the auto business. A tornado ripped up the roof last August. And a motorcycle got away from Maniora, seriously injuring him, and putting him out of action for awhile.

"He did about \$1,400 dollars worth of damage to two cars with his body," she said, shuddering at the memory of his leg and head injuries. Right after he got back to work, he got appendicitis.

Ira Frank said his Joseph Freed and Associates, of Buffalo Grove, has owned the old salvage yard for about a year, and knocked down other buildings on the property soon after its purchase. He said he gave keys to the police to lock the building up a few weeks ago.

He said he has not been approached by the city about demolition of the remaining building, now unattractive to squatters in the winter cold. He said he would not commit to tear it down, and would not consider it until the village asked him. He said he knew nothing of who might have abused the building, or what crimes they may have committed.

Tom Fennel, head of village building inspection, said he has not actively pursued getting the old building demolished. Anderson said

demolitions are requested of property owners "on an informal basis."

"Quite honestly, there are several buildings along Milwaukee Avenue that we'd like to encourage the owners to take down if they're never going to be used. They're a liability to the village as well as the owner, and often sites for illicit activity," he said.

Fennel said he has succeeded in getting two Milwaukee Avenue buildings torn down recently, including one that will make room for a two-story office building at Mors Avenue.

Presently, village officials are struggling to get the Schneider house torn down, object of vandalism and trespassing since the well-liked Wheeling sisters who lived there passed away. But the property is tied up in probate court, and so far, the village's hands are tied, too.

The house, at 183 N. Milwaukee, caught fire shortly before Halloween. After Wheeling firefighters struck out the blaze, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac ordered the lower floors boarded up as a hazard.

Anderson said there are ten to twelve vacant properties in the Milwaukee Avenue area.

## Recorder to monitor airport traffic

12-9-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Airport officials this month will begin monitoring nighttime air traffic via a \$4,100 tape recorder to determine what type of airplanes are using the airport at night and how much noise they create.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said a voice-activated recording device will pick up radio transmissions going through the control tower after it closes, giving airport officials a better ear for what goes on at night. The tower is open on weekdays from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on weekends

from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Stewart said noise complaints from neighbors are "negligible" — with less than one per week coming into the airport's administrative offices.

"It's not that we don't generate noise," said Stewart. "Most of our complaints are from people who have just moved in and were not aware of how much noise the airport generates."

He said the airport purchased the \$4,100 tape recorder so officials would be better able to respond to any complaints that are received.

"We are concerned about the noise created by aircraft departing at night," Stewart said. "Right now we have no way of verifying if such a thing happens or finding out who it is. We are trying to be as good a neighbor as we can."

Fighting the noise battle is not new for Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners or the pilots who use the airport.

In 1990, the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association instituted a "good neighbor policy" in which they encouraged members to avoid flying over residential areas whenever possible during takeoffs and landings.

And in October commissioners voted to ask the tower chief to adopt new takeoff patterns and runway procedures that would direct planes away from nearby homes. They are also seeking federal funds to update a noise study — completed in 1985 — so the Federal Aviation Administration can decide whether to recommend a nighttime curfew on takeoffs and landings by large aircraft at the airport.

Stewart said the recorder will give the airport an actual traffic count and could some day lead to the tower being open longer hours.

# Home business ordinance goes to plan commission

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling citizens who may be affected by a proposed ordinance that would allow some residents to operate businesses out of their homes have an opportunity to voice their opinion when the Wheeling Plan Commission meets Thursday.

While all home businesses are now prohibited under village code, officials have conceded that the code is almost impossible to enforce.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the only way the current ordinance can be enforced is if someone complains to the village.

He said the village receives complaints "from time to time" and officials would like an ordinance that would make it easy to eliminate businesses that are causing problems.

And Mark Janeck, village planner, said the proposed ordinance would more clearly identify what types of businesses may or may not operate out of homes.

"The ordinance will lay out constraints and guidelines," he said. "Such as how much of a

home can be used for a business and storage guidelines. It will say more of what can't be done than what can."

Janeck said he encourages people who are now operating businesses in their homes to speak out now — while they have the chance.

"This could affect a lot of people," he said. "We want to give them their chance to have a say in the proposed ordinance."

And while some trustees wanted the ordinance to deal with service vehicles parked in driveways, that issue will be handled separately.

The ordinance is modeled after a similar one passed by Mount Prospect trustees last July. They also decided not to include any vehicle regulations in the ordinance, allowing for the issue to be covered in other areas of the village's zoning code.

Before it was passed, the Mount Prospect ordinance underwent several changes — including the deletion of a measure that would have required the businesses to register with the village.

The hearing on the proposed Wheeling ordinance will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

HERALD 12-13-91  
Wants to keep shop X

The Village of Wheeling is determined to take my flower shop and home from my wife and me. We have lived in Wheeling and have had a very successful business for almost 40 years. When we moved here from Highland Park there were very few people living here in Wheeling.

My father and I have been in the flower business for 117 years. I have run this business for 69 years in all. Last year our net income was \$102,000 of which \$66,000 was from the flower shop. The Village of Wheeling wants to steal it from us for \$310,000. In the past three or four years I have paid out \$40,657 in lawyers' fees in order to keep them from stealing my property.

Years ago the Wheeling grammar schools held an honors meeting at which they presented me with a lovely silver plate and a lovely commendation. Two years ago the Wheeling High School, at an honors meeting, gave me another silver plate and commendation. Both times, it was for being selected as the Wheeling citizen who had done the most for the schools.

A lady came to me when I was at the library and said she was Mrs. Schultz, the mayor. She said she was concerned about my properties. I answered her saying, "Then why try to steal them from us?" She went on to have the properties condemned. We were offered \$310,000. She is absolutely determined to take the property and business from me.

This business is 117 years old. It is full of life and is loaded with beautiful orchid plants. Our lovely ladies in the store are wonderful artists.

Erwin F. Dreiske  
Wheeling Flower Shop  
Wheeling

# One village sign everyone noticed

Tribune - 12-11-91

The marquee sign in front of the Wheeling municipal building a few weeks ago certainly caught the attention of Wheeling residents and commuters on busy Dundee Road.

It's rare for such community bulletin boards, which usually remind residents to get their vehicle stickers on time or to adhere to sprinkling bans, to garner much attention. But the sign in Wheeling prompted about two dozen calls to the village, and a good deal of community discussion, according to Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

The message that caused the hubbub was pretty innocuous: It just urged residents to get and maintain home smoke detectors.

However, the way it was worded might have something to do with the strong feelings it provoked: "Instale Y De Mantenimiento A Los Detectores De Humo," it read.

Wheeling and the east side of Prospect Heights, which is also in the Wheeling fire district, have a "fairly good-sized Hispanic population," Chief MacIsaac pointed out.

"It's our theory that fire knows no ethnic boundaries," he said. "I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't recognize that everybody in my district doesn't speak English."

Although some Wheeling residents called to give the public service announcement a thumbs up, there were plenty of thumbs down as well.

"I heard from some interesting people, and a lot of Archie Bunkers," said MacIsaac, who admitted he was called "un-American," among other things.

But the Fire Department was undaunted by the mixed reviews it got on its first-ever fling with the Spanish language, and will probably do it again, he said.

In fact, he mentioned that he has a Polish language fire safety slogan in his desk that he got from a firefighter of Polish descent.

"Maybe someday I might be gutsy enough to try that one, too," he said, adding there are also some pockets of East Europeans in the fire district. However, he joked, the Polish slogan might have to be pared down to fit the board, and they may have to order a few extra P's B's and Z's.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Trustees learn their roles in an emergency situation

12-13-91

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees reviewed the village's emergency preparedness plan recently and while much of the communication and handling of a disaster would rest on the village's fire and police departments, trustees also learned what roles they could assume if a disaster struck the village.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said each of the village's departments has their own disaster plan and that the individual plans come together into a master plan in an emergency.

"One of the keys to being prepared is that you don't always follow the plan detail for detail," he said. "The officers who are first on the scene kind of establish what is going to happen."

Haeger said the village has handled flood emergencies on several occasions, and with Palwaukee Municipal Airport and several corporations that handle hazardous materials located in the village, there is the potential for aircraft crashes and chemical spills.

Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said the police and fire departments handle six or seven mini-disasters per year.

"Anything that is going to tax the internal resources of the village and make or break up could be considered a mini-disaster," he said.

An example would be the recent fire at a strip shopping center along Dundee Road where assistance from other fire departments was needed, he said.

Trustees also took a look at the village's emergency operating center.

While the room is used for police and fire department training, it also has been equipped with six phone lines and radio hook up so it could become a communication center if necessary.

"The village manager, fire chief, police chief and other department heads would be in the room," Haeger said. "It would be difficult to get key personnel into the room but that is where decisions would be made so they would have to be there."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said one of the most important things trustees could do in an emergency disaster situation would be spreading information.

"You need to be informed because as a recognized public figure people will ask you," he said.

# Wheeling planners focus on home business limits

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Plan commissioners took their first look Thursday at an ordinance that would regulate home businesses in the village and decided to take some time to scrutinize it before recommending any changes to the village board.

While Thursday's meeting also was meant to be a public hearing for residents having any questions about the proposed regulations, only three people attended the meeting and they chose to listen rather than voice any opinions.

However, plan commissioners had several concerns about the ordinance, which would prohibit some types of businesses and gives guidelines about how others could operate without affecting the residential areas in which they are situated.

The ordinance would require that anyone wanting to operate a business out of their home register with the village, although there is no plan for a registration fee at this time.

Village Planner Mark Janeck said village officials want to get a better handle on what is going on in the village and have some sort of tool for eliminating businesses that are a nuisance to their neighbors.

"We hope people in our community also are prohibited repair also are prohibited."

# Village panel pushes for more K mart landscaping

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling K mart could get a new look early next spring, now that representatives of the discount store chain have approached village officials for permission to refurbish the store.

Although K mart representatives will not ask the plan commission to approve plans to remodel the front and interior of the store until next month, they recently asked commissioners to look at preliminary plans to add more landscaping to the store's parking lot.

And while the commissioners were pleased that some greenery would be added to the sparsely-landscaped K mart, they said they wanted more.

The K mart plan calls for a two rows of landscaped islands to be put in the middle of the parking lot, a design that would give the appearance of breaking the lot into two smaller sections. A landscaped island would also be added in the middle of each of the new, smaller parking areas.

But plan commissioners also

wanted to see more trees and bushes on the outer perimeter, especially along Dundee Road.

"On the west and south sides, I would like to see 10 feet of asphalt ripped out and a berm and bushes that would raise the line of sight up six feet or so, so you can't see that sea of asphalt," Commissioner Otis Hedlund said.

Commissioner Steve Walanka agreed with Hedlund, saying the K mart was not the only place along Dundee Road that could use some more grass.

"I would like to see some more grass along Dundee," he said.

"It's a horrible sight. All you see when you go down Dundee is concrete and asphalt."

Frederick J. Goglia, chairman of Arcorp — K mart's architects — said he would like to be able to do more landscaping at the site, but he was fighting a budget battle with K mart executives.

"There is no way we could get enough money to fully landscape the site," Goglia said. "Normally K mart spends very little on landscaping on refurbishing sites."



Suburban SWAT team members practice in an abandoned house in Wheeling Thursday while being filmed by Greg Koeppen, 16. Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

## SWAT units now standard for suburbs

When Rolling Meadows sent several of its police officers to the FBI academy in 1978 for SWAT team training, it was considered a novelty.

But police officials in the city said they were anticipating a growth in serious crime in the Northwest suburbs.

As serious crime has increased in the suburbs, the need for a suburban SWAT team is no longer questioned. In fact, area police departments now work together to run SWAT operations through the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Emergency Services Team.

Members practicing in Wheeling Thursday said the need for the team is now generally accepted among Northwest suburban police departments.

"People are finally perceiving the reality that incidents requiring this type of response can happen everywhere," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke, also a NIPAS commander. See Page 5.

# Suburban SWAT teams no longer a novelty

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Rolling Meadows sent several of its police officers to the FBI academy in 1978 for training in special weapons and tactics, it became one of the first communities in the Northwest suburbs to recognize that more serious crime was coming to the area.

Although the Rolling Meadows special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team fell by the wayside a few years later — the victim of budget constraints — the idea that a specialized police team of that magnitude was now needed was here to stay.

"There were mixed feelings at the time," said Rolling Meadows Deputy Chief Donald Ballantine, of the inception of that first SWAT team. "Most of the police departments knew there was an arising need and the idea was well perceived and accepted by our residents."

The idea of a suburban SWAT team is no longer a novel idea, and is now operated jointly by suburban police departments through the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Emergency Services Team.

Members of the team practicing in Wheeling Thursday said the need for the team is generally accepted

among Northwest suburban police departments.

"People are finally perceiving the reality that incidents requiring this type of response can happen everywhere," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke, also a NIPAS commander. "We need to be prepared to respond in the suburbs as we would in the big cities."

More than 40 northern Illinois police departments make up NIPAS and each department has one or two police officers that are trained in the special tactics and weapons the team uses to respond to situations in which hostages may be present or armed suspects have barricaded themselves into a building.

On Thursday, they used an abandoned farmhouse in Wheeling to

practice building entry, covering each other as they searched the house for suspects. Palatine Police Commander Mark Kjellstrom said the practices are especially valuable because they build camaraderie among team members.

The group is also used to serve arrest warrants on suspects who may be armed. Since January, it has been called out five times in incidents that have ranged from assisting the Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement

Group in a drug arrest to resolving a hostage situation at a bank in Lincolnwood last summer.

Kjellstrom said the team has given area police departments a boost because they can call on it when they need to. And when the team is called in, he said, it does not take over control of the incident from the local law enforcement agency, working with the police to find the best way to handle the situation.

## Wheeling trustees endorse highway cleanup program

ways and the village's liability for any accidents that could occur.

Under the Adopt-a-Highway program, safety training is required and groups wanting to adopt a portion of the highway must sign a contract accepting liability risks for their members.

Anderson said efforts to bring the program to Illinois in the past have failed for a variety of reasons — including local union opposition.

Wheeling public works employees are not unionized and Anderson said the program would not be opposed in this area.

Dundee Road, Milwaukee Avenue, Elmhurst Road and Wolf Road would be eligible for adoption by civic groups.

Village President Sheila H. Scholtz said she hopes the state will adopt the program and some groups will be able to go beyond cleanup to beautification.

"It will be interesting to see if residential neighborhood groups that about state highways get involved," she said.

Under the program, groups would adopt a stretch of highway — not less than two miles — and pick up litter on that stretch at least four times per year.

# Commission OK's town house plan

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A three-acre piece of land sandwiched between two multi-family housing developments on McHenry Road could become the site of another group of town houses, if Wheeling trustees go along with a recommendation made by plan commissioners recently.

TMK Development LTD wants to put 25 town houses on the land at 745 Old McHenry Road, between Lexington Commons and Cedar Run. And after the developer modified the pro-

posal to meet plan commissioners' demands, they voted to recommend the project to the village board.

While he originally wanted to build 27 units, TMK president Terence King settled for 25 units, after plan commissioners seemed immovable on the issue.

King also agreed to add more outdoor lighting to the development and put in a deceleration lane on McHenry Road for motorists turning right into the development.

And King said he had met with the Cedar Run homeowner's association — bordering the proposed develop-

ment on the west — to address any concerns its members might have about the proposed development, but he said he was unable to get together with the Lexington Commons homeowner's association.

Several residents from Lexington Commons — the eastern neighbor — were concerned the new development would cause flooding on their property.

But Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold told them that the village has required TMK Development to have a stronger storm water management plan.



Daily Herald Map

# Pair charged in Wheeling drive-by shooting

12-17-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Police have arrested two former Wheeling residents in connection with an alleged gang-related drive-by shooting in the village Monday afternoon.

The shooting occurred at 5:20 p.m. near the Colonial Townhomes at the corner of Elmhurst Road and Colonial Drive.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said 21-year-old

Jose R. Perez and 35-year-old Gabriel Lopez, both of Racine, Wis., were charged with unlawful use of firearms. Perez was also charged with discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, a new law that Hermes said is meant to deal specifically with drive-by shooting incidents.

Hermes said the two are former residents of the Colonial Townhomes.

Three juveniles, who were also in the car, were not charged.

Hermes said the five people were

riding in a Chevrolet Blazer — on their way to visit someone in the area — when they began talking with a man who investigators would not identify Monday. After exchanging words with the man, the suspects drove north on the dead-end street, police said. The man then heard two shots fired and called police while the blazer turned around and sped off.

After members of the Wheeling police tactical unit began knocking on doors and looking for witnesses, the

blazer returned to the scene at about 6:20 p.m. and the five people were taken into custody.

While the people in the car initially said they knew nothing about the shooting, they began talking when a search of the vehicle turned up a .347 magnum revolver with two rounds expended, police said.

Perez and Lopez were to be held overnight pending a bond hearing in Cook County Circuit Court in Rolling Meadows today.



## Drive-by shooting heightens concerns on gang activities

12-18-91  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of the Colonial Townhomes in Wheeling say they are familiar with incidents of gang activity in their neighborhood, but a drive-by shooting near their homes this week still caught them off guard.

"I heard the shots and was standing outside when it happened," Colonial Townhome resident Leon Juventino said Tuesday. "I was surprised, because I thought gang activity had gotten lighter because of winter."

No one was injured in the Monday afternoon shooting near Elmhurst and Old McHenry roads, and it took Wheeling police less than two hours to catch the men who allegedly fired the two shots.

But Wheeling residents are still concerned about the community's first-ever drive-by shooting.

"It does concern me. No one likes to hear of incidents like this close to home," said Linda Lund, head of the Valley Steam

Community Watch Group, which represents some nearby homeowners.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he has met with members of the Colonial Homeowner's Association in an effort to rectify parking and lighting problems at the complex, and the shooting may be an impetus for quicker action by both the village and the association.

"We know of the graffiti problems in that area," he said. "This is the first act of violence that we know about."

Wheeling police do not consider the shooting a sign that gang activity is increasing.

And the Rev. James O'Malley, of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Wheeling, said residents will not be overly concerned about the shooting because it did not look like a random act of violence. "It is very important to note that it sounds like there was a purpose," he said.

Jose R. Perez, 21, and Gabriel Lopez, 35, of Racine, Wis., were charged with unlawful use of firearms.

# Wheeling cracks down on water woes

homeowners who have not had their houses inspected have had ample warning of the consequences. "In addition to six unregistered letters, at least two registered letters have been sent," he said. "And inspectors from R/JN Environmental made at least three passes at every house."

Klitzke said that while repairs must be paid for by the homeowner, the cost of getting a permit for the work has been waived by the village. A list of contractors has also been prepared by the village to assist homeowners who need to make corrections.

Michael Klitzke, director of community development, said 618 violations were found under that study, but more than 90 percent of those homeowners have corrected their problems — which usually involves a sump pump that pumps rainwater into the sanitary sewer system. But because the village could be fined by the MWRDGC if they do not bring the entire community into compliance, officials are cracking down on residents who have not let inspectors into their homes or who have not corrected problems.

Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance, said 16 The MWRDGC is requiring that the village make sure storm water is not running into the sewer system because the water from the sewer system is treated, an unnecessary and expensive step for storm water, which is considered clear water. The village has spent \$6 million during the past six years in upgrading its sewer systems — replacing manhole covers and old piping to comply with MWRDGC regulations. And a study began in 1989 by R/JN Environmental of Carol Stream identified more than 600 houses and businesses that could be contributing to the problem.

Under zoning variations approved by the Wheeling village board, a Wheeling company will not have to increase its number of parking spaces to meet increased office space at its Carpenter Avenue facility. Although A. Daigger and Company is required to have 73 parking spaces now that more of the building has been turned into office space from warehouse space, company officials

said the extra spots were not needed because of employees' efforts to car pool to work and village officials agreed. "I would like to commend the representatives from A. Daigger for their enlightened policy for getting workers to work, increasing green space and contributing to clean air," said Trustee Elizabeth Hartman.

The laboratory supply company moved to the village from Chicago almost five years ago. The village will have \$100,000 available in this year's single-family residential rehabilitation program now that the village has entered into an agreement with Cook County to receive the money. The money is used to help low-income families make health and safety repairs to their homes. Residents wanting to see if they qualify for the program should call village hall.

## Company won't add parking

Under zoning variations approved by the Wheeling village board, a Wheeling company will not have to increase its number of parking spaces to meet increased office space at its Carpenter Avenue facility.

The village will have \$100,000 available in this year's single-family residential rehabilitation program now that the village has entered into an agreement with Cook County to receive the money.

## Village offers repair loans

The money is used to help low-income families make health and safety repairs to their homes. Residents wanting to see if they qualify for the program should call village hall.

## Thanks, rescuers

A very Merry Christmas to the Wheeling paramedics — from a grateful Wheeling resident. On October 28, suffering from chest pains at 4:20 a.m. I called 911 and talked to a lady known only to me as "Meyer." She kept me on the phone line while dispatching a paramedic unit and did not disconnect until the medics had entered my apartment. Paramedics Joseph Deppong and Tom Biermann, along with two other gentlemen — whose names unfortunately are not known to me — stabilized my medical problem and transported me to Holy Family Hospital, where in E.R. a doctor leaned over me and said "Mr. Lindstrom, you're trying like hell to have a heart attack." I was back home by November 8 almost none the worse for wear, but with a deep sense of gratitude and thanks to these people for the efficient and competent manner in which they worked to save my life. Have a very happy and prosperous new year.

Roland R. Lindstrom  
Wheeling

## Seniors receive early gifts for Christmas

A number of Wheeling seniors received early gifts this Christmas season when they were announced winners of the Holiday House Boutique Raffle. Congratulations to Leona Rood, who won an iced tea maker; Marilyn Chrumy who won a jade plant; Judy Kats who won a radio; Isabelle Stevenson who won a cake; Elaine Anderson who won a craft Santa; Eleanor Brozek who won a baby quilt set; and double kudos to Jerrie Schweitzer who won both a doll and an afghan.

The Holiday House Boutique and Bake Sale is an annual event at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center. Rocky Rusek, this year's chairman, extends thanks to all those who helped make the 1991 event a successful one.

## Celebration

The Sons of the Wheeling AM-VETS will host a New Year's Eve celebration from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at the AM-VETS Post Home, 700 Old McHenry Road in Wheeling. Admission of \$20 per person will help you ring in the new year with live music, food and favors and an open bar. Tickets are available at the Post, or for more information, call 537-0440.

## Award

Congratulations to Jackie Pol-



Lisa Schab  
Wheeling

lack, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who recently received a distinguished service award for recognition of more than 10 years in her position, and for demonstrating the qualities of leadership and ability which have enhanced and enriched the profession of chamber of commerce management. Jackie also received a certificate of appreciation for serving as Scholarship Chairman for the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, a position she has held for two years.

The awards were presented at the IACCE Fall Conference during November in Decatur. Our thanks to Jackie for her continued efforts on behalf of our community.

## Bowling

Omni Youth Services, a youth and family counseling agency with offices in Wheeling, has been chosen as beneficiary of the 1991 Brunswick Memorial World Open Bowling Tournament.

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A small group of Wheeling residents could find themselves without water in late January if they do not let inspectors into their homes to make sure storm water is not being discharged into the village's sanitary sewers. The elimination of storm water discharge into the sanitary sewers has been required by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). The MWRDGC provides Wheeling with water from Lake Michigan.

Handwritten note: H. Wells, Sect. 1, Dec. 21, 1991

Handwritten note: WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Handwritten note: Daily Herald - Sect. 1, 12/21/91

# Balefill battle heats up with effigy burning

More than 100 people defied cold weather Sunday to burn effigies of public officials, protesting a proposed balefill site near Bartlett.

The protest follows a state appeals court decision to lift a restraining order that prevented the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County from clearing trees on the site, at West Bartlett and Gifford roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

Among the demonstration participants were the mayors of Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin and St. Charles.



Effigies of three public officials burn Sunday at a protest against a proposed balefill.

Daily Herald Photo

# Balefill opponents burn effigies of public officials in protest

By REBECCA CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wearing "Bale-buster" pins and carrying homemade poster-board signs, Citizens Against the Balefill defied cold weather Sunday to burn effigies of public officials, protesting a proposed balefill site near Bartlett.

The protest comes on the heels of a state appeals court decision to lift a restraining order preventing the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County from clearing trees on the site, located at West Bartlett and

Gifford roads in unincorporated Hanover Township, near the Kane County border.

SWANCC — a consortium of 26 Northwest communities — is proposing to build a 142-acre balefill on the land to handle a predicted overflow of garbage now being hauled to landfills.

If SWANCC moves forward with its plans to build on the site, Citizens Against the Balefill charge it would destroy the homes of endangered birds such as the Coopers Hawk and possibly contaminate drinking water

**"They (SWANCC) are playing Russian roulette with hundreds and thousands of people's lives."**

— Mary Byrne, president of Citizens Against the Balefill

supplies.

"They (SWANCC) are playing Russian roulette with hundreds and thousands of people's lives," said

Mary Byrne, president of Citizens Against the Balefill. "We were here to tell SWANCC that they should be tarred and feathered and run out of

town. Hanging would be too good for them."

Byrne said the effigies represent two men and one woman, who she described as unnamed officials from SWANCC, the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals and ENCAP, an environmental consulting firm.

SWANCC must still obtain permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before it can begin construction of the controversial balefill. The court's action a little more than one week ago gives SWANCC permission to begin digging monitor-

ing wells and clearing cess.

The protest drew 100 people to the site, including mayors of Bartlett, Elgin and St. Charles.

"We are stepping out there," said Bartlett Mayor John Stark, whose village has spent \$600,000 on the SWANCC proposal in the last six years. "Our battle is at the midpoint and it's not over. The fight is just beginning."

## INSIDE THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS

# Balefill protesters leave some questions

HERALD - 1-1-92  
Let's play a little game of suburbia Jeopardy:

Q: The answer: Bill Abolt, Shiela Schultz and Dr. Bill Southern.

Q: The question: Just who were the effigies supposed to represent at the recent Citizen's Against the Balefill protest?

A: When nearly 100 balefill opponents gathered near Bartlett at the site of the controversial landfill, their motive was clear: they were protesting a recent court decision allowing the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County to begin clearing work on the site.

What wasn't made clear was the identity of the effigies.

As they strung the life-sized dolls, some were clad in business suits and one in a prim dress — up with nooses and doused them with gasoline, the balefill opponents would only say they represented certain anonymous figures who backed building the 142-acre balefill.

With a little prodding however, the protesters revealed that the effigies represented Bill Abolt, the executive director of SWANCC; Shiela Schultz, the village president of Wheeling and chairperson of SWANCC and Southern, the president of ENCAP, which is now negotiating with the agency on a multi-

gation plan for the landfill.

When asked how it felt to have his image incinerated, Abolt said, "It didn't have much of an impact."

But at least Thomas Burney, attorney for Palatine and SWANCC saw some humor in it. He noted that the attack on Southern's likeness probably was the first time an ornithologist was burned in effigy.

John Slania



Inside Northwest



Just who were those effigies supposed to represent at the recent Citizen's Against the Balefill protest?

Daily Herald Photo

# Airport manager leaves pilots group

1-1-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Citing disappointment about recent comments made by the president and some members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart has let his membership in the organization lapse.

Stewart said he has been disappointed by comments made by PAPA president Madeleine Monaco in the PAPA newsletter and in the press, in which she has put forth a "negative attitude about Palwaukee."

"In recent months she has been highly critical of the airport commission's activities," Stewart said. "The fencing has been called a joke, there has been objection to the work on the T-hangars and she has made unfavorable comments in the Herald and the Tribune."

Stewart said he hopes his action will cause PAPA officials to reassess their activities and actions.

"Our relationship ought to be positive," he said. "That would be to the best benefit of both us and them. We have made a concerted effort not to institute an adversarial relationship. I don't believe what's going on accu-

rately represents opinions of most of the PAPA members."

PAPA president Monaco said her comments, many of which have expressed dismay at the slow rate of land acquisition at the airport, are not intentionally adversarial.

"An airport action group by definition is not a cheerleading squad," Monaco said. "It is an organization that gathers together users to lobby for improvements."

And she said she is comfortable with the relationship between PAPA and the airport commission.

"Our purpose is to funnel information from management to users and

users to management. That was our main purpose when we were founded and it still is."

Monaco said the most critical issue for PAPA is the need for a second fixed-base operator at the airport to supply fuel and service.

"Free enterprise helps keep service at the highest level and prices at lowest level and that is what we want," she said.

Although there are plans for other fixed-base operators north end of the airport, the competition for all airport services continues to move slowly, naturally anticipated by com-

Hol

Text by...

# It was year of mapping future in Wheeling

12-26-91  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In the next few years when Wheeling residents see the village undergoing some major physical changes and consider it a better place to live, they will look back to 1991 as the year when things seemed to get moving.

■ It was the year when the Illinois Supreme Court refused to consider the appeal of Erwin Dreiske, owner of the Wheeling Flower Shop. Dreiske wanted the court to overturn a lower court decision enabling the village to condemn his land under its TIF (tax increment financing) district.

The court's refusal effectively ended the six-year battle between Dreiske and the village, which can now proceed with plans to condemn the property where Dreiske's shop and home, a now defunct Dunkin' Donuts, Tien Tsin Restaurant and Wheeling Auto Repair are located. That northwest corner of Dundee and Milwaukee Roads is the cornerstone of the TIF project.

During the court process, plans for an \$8.7 million shopping center to be built on that corner have been put on hold.

■ While the Wal-Mart department store and the Sam's Wholesale Club will not be open until early 1992, over the course of the year



**Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger was found guilty by a federal court jury of discriminating against a black Wheeling police officer after being named Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police president.**

neighbors of the development — at the corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads — saw 37 acres of farmland replaced by nearly 246,000 square feet of shopping space and more than 1,500 parking spaces.

■ After spending most of 1991 wrestling with the fate of their proposed family aquatic center, Wheeling park district commissioners took the plunge and bor-

rowed the \$5 million needed to build the 3.5 acre pool complex.

The 17,000-square-foot pool, which should be ready for the 1993 swimming season, will have five water slides, a diving board and lanes for lap swimming. Also included in the complex will be a snack bar, sand volleyball courts,

See WHEELING on Page 4

## WHEELING: It was year of mapping future

Continued from Page 1

grass for sunning, a sand area with playground equipment and an adult-only spa.

■ 1991 also saw the beginning of construction projects at two of Wheeling's elementary schools. Work at Mark Twain Elementary School, which began in late spring, is expected to be completed in early 1992. The remodeled school will have a new learning center, multi-purpose room, six classrooms and separate traffic lanes for buses, automobiles and pedestrian traffic in front of the building. Thanks to a cooperative effort between the park district and Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, the school will also have a new gymnasium.

Students at Whitman Elementary school looked out their windows and watched a new school go up as they spent their last year in the 65-year-old building, 133 S. Wille Ave.

The new building is expected to cost District 21 \$3.69 million and will have between 22 and 25 classrooms, an art room, a music room, three kindergarten rooms and four special education rooms. It should be ready for students by the beginning of the 1992-93 school year.

Like many of its neighboring communities, Wheeling hooked up to the Enhanced-911 emergency telephone system in 1991, giving residents access to the nearly universal three-digit emergency number.

But no where else in the Northwest Suburbs did 911 and the accompanying tape of incoming calls get as much publicity as they did when the tape became a clue in the murder of a 27-year-old Wheeling resident.

Police say it is possible that the man who called 911 on Nov. 28 to report that exotic dancer Jamie L. Santos was not breathing may be her murderer. And in an effort to find that person, they released the tape recording to television and radio stations which played it on the air. Police have interviewed at least four people who called and said they thought the voice was fa-



**Wheeling resident Kurt Voigt (left) looks over a leaflet dropped by allies in the Persian Gulf War**

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

miliar but they have not made an arrest in the case.

For Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger 1991 was a series of highs and lows. He was installed as president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police in late January. And just a few weeks later he was found guilty by a federal jury of discriminating against Robert Pressley, who for 11 years was the department's only black police officer, in 1982.

The jury awarded Pressley \$40,000 in compensatory damages. U.S. District Judge Paul E. Plunkett ordered Haeger to pay \$177,000 for Pressley's attorney fees and \$10,000 for court costs.

However, Haeger appealed the jury's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals in May.

The lawsuit stems from a 1982 incident in which Haeger pursued

charges of illicit sexual activity against Pressley, even though he believed the charges were false.

Several Wheeling veterans of the Persian Gulf war returned home and readjusted to life on the homefront but one of the them had the chance, in early July, to relive his experiences with a prisoner of war from the other side.

Kurt Voigt was a guard in prisoner-of-war camp in Saudia Arabia when he met Shant Kenderian, a fellow Wheeling High School student who was drafted into the Iraqi Navy during a visit to his homeland.

Voigt said it "blew him away" to find someone who had attended his high school fighting on the other side and the two spent some time talking. Voigt gave Kenderian his Wheeling phone number and he was surprised again when Kender-



**Murder victim Jamie L. Santos**

ian gave him a call last summer. The two spent the afternoon together sharing their experiences.

# Second fire in as many days guts Wheeling mobile home

12/24/91

By KIM MIKUS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling woman was listed in stable condition Monday night suffering from smoke inhalation after fire destroyed her mobile home located in the Wippletree Trailer Park.

Officials from the Wheeling fire department said this is the second mobile home in the park that has been destroyed by fire in two days. Firefighters are investigating the cause of the fires, which they believe are not related.

Firefighters doused the flames of the most recent fire at 302 Shay Court at about 12:45 p.m. Monday, said Wheeling Fire Lt. Michael Proebstle.

Paramedics rushed the owner of

the trailer, Carol Kane, in her mid-30s, to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Officials said Kane would remain in the hospital Monday night for observation.

Proebstle said he believes the cause of the fire was due to careless use of cigarettes. However he added, "we have to wait to talk to the victim before we know for sure."

A firefighter was slightly injured while battling the other trailer fire late Saturday night.

In a separate fire in Buffalo Grove Monday night, \$100,000 in damage was caused to a home at 740 Kingsbridge Way.

The family, who moved into the house less than two weeks ago and was home when the fire broke out, was not injured during the blaze.

READERS

Daily Herald - Monday, 12/23/91

# Santa? Here's what municipal leaders want for Christmas



**William O. Maki**  
Arlington Heights

"I would hope for an improved economy in order to lend prosperity to all our citizens, especially the homeless. And I would hope for future success in medical research for fatal diseases such as heart research, cancer research and AIDS."



**John Stark Bartlett**

"I'm hoping for a belated Christmas gift and that would be election to the DuPage County Board and to be able to represent the people of the 6th district. I would be willing to forego any and all Christmas gifts if I could have that bestowed upon me March 17."



**Rita Mullins Palatine**

"Peace and prosperity — mostly prosperity — for all. Everyone is in need of resources. I don't care if it's human resources — people helping people — or monetary resources."



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"I think the city council is really working well together and getting things done quickly compared to the way it's been in the past. That's a big enough present for me. That's good enough to make me happy."



**Al Larson**  
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"Six weeks of winter. I'm talking about white snow on the ground and bright lights and roasted chestnuts. I hate long winters. But from my kids I asked for a pair of binoculars."



**Sheila H. Schultz**  
Wheeling

"I wish for a strong sense of community in the village. Involved and interested citizens make a big difference. With them the community can move ahead and continue to accomplish our goals. I would also like continued economic stability for the village."

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling says development won't contribute to flooding

1-7-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved plans for another multifamily housing development on McHenry Road when they met Monday.

The 25-unit Brookvale town house development will be built on a three-acre piece of land at 745 Old McHenry Road, between two other developments — Lexington Commons and Cedar Run.

And while some Lexington Commons residents said they are concerned the new development would cause flooding in their own homes, Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said he has looked at the plans for Brookvale and is comfortable with the flow of storm water.

"We are concerned about the retention ponds," said Lexington Commons resident Muriel Mortell. "One is right at the top of one of our units and we have been told the water will swirl to our storm sewer, but I don't feel comfortable with it."

But Klitzke said development of the site will assure that water runoff is controlled.

"Currently the entire site sheet drains to a corner of the property

and into a stub that was provided for drainage in the development of this site," he said.

He acknowledged there has been water running down streets in Lexington Commons during periods of heavy rain but pointed out that flooding has not been a problem in any of the homes.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz also assured the homeowners that the village looks very carefully at storm water management plans for new developments. "It is hard to understand drainage until you see it in action," she said. "But I can tell you, it is one area the village is very careful with."

TMK Development Ltd. received the plan commission's backing after making several modifications to their original plans — including reducing the number of units from 27 to 25, adding more outdoor lighting and putting a deceleration lane on McHenry Road.

And while three acres does not seem like a big enough space for a townhouse development, village officials said the Brookvale density of 7.33 units per acre is significantly less than the density of neighboring developments.

## LOCAL REPORT

### Village Manager Balling to receive \$95,500 in '92

1-10-92  
By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling got a pat on the back for a job well done, along with a promise of \$95,500 in salary and a bonus in 1992.

Balling's new salary is \$91,000 a year, up 3.4 percent from \$88,000 last year. The rest of the money comes in the form of a performance bonus of \$4,400, compared to the \$2,000 bonus he received last year.

The total package is up 6 percent from last year.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said the raise is based on the high marks Balling won in his annual evaluation by the village board.

"Although the evaluations are not made public, I believe that to a man, everyone on the board feels you have done an excellent job representing the village and its residents, and we hope you will continue to represent the village for many years," Mathias said.

Balling thanked Mathias and the board for the vote of confidence, saying, "I appreciate the salary consideration and it is a pleasure to serve you and the board."

The salary boost makes Balling one of the highest paid managers in the Northwest suburbs. Last year, his \$88,000 salary ranked him second, behind Elk Grove Village Manager Charles A. Willis, who earned \$89,000 last year with no bonuses. Willis, whose salary is reviewed in May, will retire in August.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson also received a salary hike recently, boosting his salary to \$72,450.

The village board also increased Buffalo Grove's contribution to Balling's retirement trust to 2.9 percent of his salary.

Last year, Balling's salary was increased to \$89,000 from \$85,000, a 3.5 percent increase, not counting the bonus.

Balling originally was hired in 1977 at a salary of \$26,000.

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VOICES OF OUR LEADERS

Daily Herald - Monday, 12/23/91

## Listening Santa? Here's what municipal leaders want for Christmas

Leadership is not as easy when times are tough and resources are tight. With that in mind, we asked village presidents and city mayors what they wanted for Christmas and why. Here is what they told us would brighten their holidays.



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# TV helps cops with killing clue

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Moments after local television stations broadcast a security camera videotape Monday, trying to identify a man Wheeling Police thought might help them solve the Jamie "Sasha" Santos homicide, calls flooded into the police department.

Within an hour or so, police were questioning the man they think might be able to describe the 911 caller who originally alerted them to the dying exotic dancer Oct. 28.



Santos

Police believe the 911 caller was the last person to see Santos alive, and may have been the one who strangled the 27-year-old stripper in her Wheeling apartment.

They obtained the security camera tape of Buffalo Grove's Worldwide Liquors the day after it filmed a tall, heavy-set man with a beard and glasses, apparently in his 30s or 40s, buying a bottle of rum and two bottles of Coke in the store Oct. 28.

By "tediously comparing" register receipts and films of customers and their purchases, police figured three weeks ago that he had to have walked into the store about two minutes after the call was placed on a phone outside the door, according to Deputy Chief Mike Her-



Geoff Scheerer/Pioneer Press

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes points to the video screen image of a bearded man who may have seen the murderer of exotic dancer Jamie Santos, Oct. 28.

mes. And detectives believe he walked right past the phone on the way in.

"He may have seen something without even realizing it," said Hermes. He said at a Monday afternoon press conference he hoped someone who recognized the man, or the man himself, would call Wheeling police.

Once more, a horde of Chicagoland print and electronic media was invited to the Wheeling Village Hall Monday to assist police in finding the caller. Days after the killing, police had offered up the audio tape of a man phoning for an ambulance to come to Santos' aid in her home at 1765 Stonehedge Court.

Monday, the cameramen and reporters mobbed the council chambers again, this time to relay security camera pictures of a man buying rum in the liquor store

a few blocks from the Santos apartment.

"That's real good resolution," said veteran Fox 32 news cameraman Vic Mellor, as he peered into the viewfinder of his TV camera, aimed at the monitor playing the tape Monday. "Somebody'll recognize him tonight."

"I'd bet money on it," Mellor added later. "He walked right toward the camera. We've done stuff with the Chicago police where the tape wasn't nearly as good."

Mellor was right, according to Hermes.

"We had about 25 to 30 calls come in right after the news. We had seven calls that said the (same) name," said the deputy chief. "Shortly after six, he (the man in the videotape) just called and said he thought he saw himself on TV."

He said the man, a

Wheeling resident, was "cooperating fully" with police, and was "absolutely not" believed to have been the 911 caller or a suspect in the crime.

While detectives interviewed the liquor store customer Monday night, Hermes said he did not know how much the man remembered about that day two months ago.

In similar cases across the country, hypnosis has been used to "replay" a mental picture of a seemingly meaningless event in order to help a witness recall it in detail.

"A lot of departments have done that," said Hermes, who added that a decision about using that tactic would not be his, but would be made later by detectives.

The October broadcast of the audio tape drew dozens of leads, but none remain suspects today.

# Villages air wish lists for 1992

By IRV LEAVITT  
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Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney Mathias sees his village as a more communicative, less litigious, more accessible place in the coming year.

And in Wheeling, long-time Village President Sheila Schultz had no trouble telling what's on top of

her list for Wheeling this year. She wants a commuter train station, and a Metra train for residents to ride to the north and to the Loop.

Mathias said his village is dropping its old lawsuit with Long Grove over the annexation of the LaSalle Bank property at Arlington Heights and Route 83, and is looking forward to settling legal animosities with

Wheeling over annexation of the Schwind property on the northeast corner of Lake Cook and Weiland Roads.

As long as Buffalo Grove can be sure that the Lake County parcel of land won't be overdeveloped, the village won't fight its incorporation into Wheeling, Mathias said.

He said as the relation-

ship with Wheeling grows, he hopes to fulfill plans to extend Weiland Road to the south a few blocks through Wheeling so that it joins Buffalo Grove Road. At present, Weiland dead-ends at Route 83.

To the end of better relationships with its neighbors last year, Buffalo Grove passed reciprocal resolu-

(Continued on page 12)

# Witness 'hottest' lead on murder

By BONNIE BOOTH  
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Wheeling police said Tuesday that an interview with a man who may have witnessed someone phone in information on the strangling of an exotic dancer is the "biggest and hottest" lead so far in their two-month-old murder investigation.

But the father of 27-year-old Jamie Santos, who was strangled in her Wheeling apartment on Oct. 28, said he does not think the murder of his daughter will be solved anytime soon.

"I'm hoping someday this will be over," Vasil Santos said Tuesday. "But from what they (the police) said when I talked to them last night, (the witness) came down and didn't know anything."

But because the murder investigation is ongoing, it is unlikely police would divulge any of the particulars of the witness' statements — even to the family of the victim, investigators said.

The witness, whom police are not identifying, called the police station Monday night after seeing himself on a videotape on television.

The release of that videotape and photo, taken by a liquor store securi-

release of the tape of the 911 call that sent police and paramedics to Santos' Arlington Club apartment.

Police are hoping this witness will help them identify that 911 caller who, even after his voice was played on several radio and television stations, did not come forward and could not be identified by police.

Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said the police department received nine calls Monday night identifying the man on the videotape, who is a Wheeling resident, and the man himself called in around 8:30 p.m.

"We wish to be clear that he is not a suspect in the murder nor do we look at him as being the 911 caller," Hermes said of the new witness.

He said the man was questioned for about two hours and will be questioned again after the first of the year.

"Jogging his memory is a slow process," Hermes said. "But right now this is the biggest and hottest lead we have in the case. We are still working on some other leads but this is the biggest."

On the 911 tape a male voice asked the operator to send someone to 1765 Stonehedge Drive in Wheeling.

"There is a woman there not breathing and turning blue," the

tions with Long Grove, Riverwoods and Lincolnshire promising not to sue each other without warning. And meetings have been held between various Lake County villages to get them talking about their mutual problems in boardrooms instead of courtrooms.

## Smoothing the way

One of the purposes given for meetings with neighboring towns is to integrate efforts at improving transportation area-wide. These include expansion of Half Day Road to a four-lane through street, as well as upgrading Lake-Cook Road. Mathias favors extending Route 53 so that Lake-Cook Road will not have to carry as much traffic to and from the highway.

Buffalo Grove has already completed a design study for a commuter rail station on the Wisconsin Central line. Mathias sees that as a first step toward winning federal funds for rolling stock for a Metra train line through his village and others on the former Soo Line tracks.

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Schultz, entering her second decade as Wheeling president, said her top wish for the coming year is also for a station along the Wisconsin Central line in her village. She said she doesn't care much what kind of station is built, since economic times are hard and the value of the train line is inestimable.

"We're willing to go the 'poor boy' approach," she said, meaning little more than bus-type shelters on a platform along the tracks, as long as they were safe, and there is storage space nearby for cars and bicycles. "Or we could go for joint-

# Suspected tipster calls police on unsolved slaying

By KIM MIKUS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A possible witness in the two-month murder investigation of a Wheeling dancer will be questioned today after he saw himself on the news Monday evening.

Wheeling police released a videotape and photo, taken by a store security camera, of a man they believe may hold clues to the Oct. 28 murder of 27-year-old Jamie Santos. The videotape was broadcast on Chicago-area newscasts early Monday evening, prompting a call to police at 8:30 p.m. from a man who reportedly identified himself as the man in the video.

Police, however, have not released the identity of the man.

Santos, who worked as an exotic dancer, was found strangled in her Arlington Club Apartment after an anonymous caller telephoned emergency 911 leading police to Santos, who was found suffocating.

Police have been attempting to locate the man who made the emergency call asking a police dispatcher "to please send someone to 1765 Stonehedge Drive in Wheeling. There is a woman there not breathing and turning blue." The call was made from a pay phone just outside a Buffalo Grove liquor store, less than a mile from Santos' home.

After two months without a clue, police are hoping the security camera at World Wide Liquor, 765 S. Buffalo Grove Road, may yield the break they've been searching for.

The store security camera taped the man, who police will question today, during the time frame the 911



Store picture of police tipster.

call was placed. The call, made from the phone directly outside the store, was made at 11:31 a.m.

An examination of cash register receipts at the liquor store — which are marked with the time of the purchase — showed that the man on the videotape entered the store just two minutes after the call was made, police say.

"The time frame is the key here," said Deputy Chief Michael Hermes.

Police, however, are not saying that the man on the videotape is the person who placed the 911 call.

See TAPE on Page 4

are hoping that the man in the tape may have some answers in the ongoing investigation.

Hermes said investigators have talked to between 1,200 and 1,500 people in area canvasses. Between 100 and 150 people have been formally interviewed. According to police, some of these people have been interviewed in depth, some more than once and some have been given polygraph examinations.

Over 200 leads have been followed up so far, police say.

"As of this date, we do not have any solid suspects," Hermes said. Investigators continue to go through personal objects owned by Santos, including diaries and appointment books.



Jamie Santos

Police are planning to interview four witnesses under hypnosis because they feel he has information that could lead them to the man. They also believe it is because they feel he has information that could lead them to the man. They also believe it is because they feel he has information that could lead them to the man.

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# Wheeling police hope hypnosis can lead to dancer's killer

JOHNNIE BOOTH  
Herald Staff Writer

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Continued from Page 1

Hermes noted that the man on the tape "didn't appear too much out of the ordinary. He seemed calm and relaxed."

"The man is not a suspect, but someone we would like to talk to," Hermes said. "He could have seen something and not even realized it."

The man, who had to walk past the pay phone to enter the store, purchased a bottle of rum and a couple bottles of cola while he was in the store for about 12 minutes.

The store clerk, who police said has been very helpful in the investigation, told investigators that he clearly remembers the man. Police

# Hypnotist to help unlock clues of slaying

Two new potential witnesses in the slaying of a Wheeling exotic dancer have come forward after reading press accounts that a hypnotist might be employed. The mother and daughter may have passed by the liquor store at the time the killer may have been dialing police from a public phone.

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling police investigators have decided to enlist a hypnotist to help them find the killer of Jamie "Sasha" Santos, the stripper strangled in her home Oct. 28.

The mesmerizer will have more than just one subject to work on. The first will be the Wheeling man who walked past the phone from which the now-famous anonymous 911 call was made, the one that led them to Santos' apartment where she clung to a shred of life.

Police found the possible witness by releasing a picture of him buying rum in Buffalo Grove's Worldwide Liquors shortly after the call was made from a phone just outside. Their best hope of him remembering what he may have seen outside the store is hypnosis, according to Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Mike Hermes.

Hermes said two more subjects will be interviewed. They are a Buffalo Grove mother and daughter who think they passed the same phone at 765 S. Buffalo Grove Road on their way to shop elsewhere in the same strip of stores.

Hermes said the two were aware they had been in the vicinity of the pay phone at about the time the call was made, 11:31 a.m., though they remembered nothing. But after reading of the possibility of hypnosis in an article last week in the *Countryside*, they volunteered, hoping the hypnotist might be able to unlock some clue buried

in their subconscious, according to Hermes.

At presstime, detectives were receiving advice from village psychiatric consultants Neuropsych, of Libertyville, and Illinois State Police investigators on which hypnotist to hire. Hermes said they hoped to get started with interviews Wednesday.

## Detectives loaned

The investigation began last October staffed by seven Wheeling detectives, six experienced village street officers, and a half dozen detectives loaned from other departments. All but three Wheeling detectives are off the case.

"As a case goes on, leads thin out, and there's less to do," said Hermes Tuesday.

"In a case like this, you can't be disappointed," he said. "Sure, we'd like to arrest somebody today... but we still have more evidence, more leads to follow up" if the hypnotic path proves to be a dead-end.

Santos was found by police and paramedics (Continued on page 12)



Santos

Oct. 28, dressed in her underwear, on the floor of her apartment at 1765 Stone Hedge Court, a few blocks from the pay phone that has become the center of the investigation. Hermes reiterated earlier statements that she had a quiet Sunday the day before she died, and her killer "definitely knew her, and knew the area."

The unusual involvement of the media in the case began shortly after the killing, when Hermes invited

# Preparation work gets under way at site of balefill

BY DAN CULLOTON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After being forced to leave the property dormant for nearly a year, a suburban waste agency planning to build a balefill near Bartlett on Tuesday broke ground for the first of several monitoring wells on the site.

The start of preparation work by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County comes nearly a month after a state appeals court dissolved a restraining order that had prevented the agency from moving dirt or cutting trees at the proposed site of the 142-acre landfill at West Bartlett and Gifford roads.

It also deals a blow to the residents of several communities who for the last six years have sought to thwart SWANCC's efforts to build the landfill, which they claim threatens the area's environment and drinking water.

"It's a setback, I'm sure, because we didn't want to see any of the trees destroyed," said Larry Byrne, a member of Citizens Against the Balefill.

Byrne said his group fears SWANCC now will begin clear-cutting trees to make room for the balefill, destroying the wooded habitat of at least three species of birds in the process.

He said SWANCC should not be allowed to drill the wells until it receives a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Last year, the corps denied the agency that permit, saying it did not study alternative lo-



Drilling begins at the balefill site near Bartlett.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

ocations, and that the landfill would jeopardize the site's wildlife habitat.

SWANCC plans to reapply for the permit this month.

However, SWANCC Executive Director Bill Abolt maintained that only a handful of trees and some brush needed to be cleared for the wells, and that the agency's restoration plan for the site will enhance the property.

Opponents, who said they planned to conduct fly-overs of the site to survey the property, take pictures and

See BALEFILL on Page 7

## Proposed balefill project

- **What:** A 142-acre landfill targeted for a parcel near Bartlett.
- **How much:** Expected construction cost of \$15 million to \$20 million.
- **What's next:** A decision on two lawsuits seeking to block its construction is pending; and the project still needs a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Source: Daily Herald interviews



Daily Herald Graphic

# BALEFILL: Agency begins work at site

Continued from Page 1

check out Abolt's claims, remained skeptical. "I think this is just another one of their tactics," Byrne said.

On Tuesday, crews plowed over muddy access roads to the northwest corner of the rugged property, which about 50 years ago was the site of a strip gravel mine. There, they began digging the first cluster of several wells that SWANCC will drill during the next few months. Workers plumbed one 90-foot well on Tuesday.

The wells will be used to analyze the quality and chemical content of the ground water beneath the site. SWANCC is required to gather that information before starting full-scale construction under the terms of its Illinois Environmental Protection Agency permit.

The historical data will enable the agency to better detect chemicals

that may seep into the ground water table from the landfill if or when the facility opens, officials said.

"We need a good record of what the ground water quality is before we introduce any constituents in the area," said Daniel P. Dietzler, president of Patrick Engineering Inc., which is overseeing the project that, including the construction of two waste transfer stations in Wheeling Township and Rolling Meadows, is expected to cost nearly \$60 million.

Besides lacking a permit from the Army Corps, SWANCC also faces two lawsuits seeking to block the construction of the balefill. Those suits currently are awaiting the decision of the First District Appellate court.

In December that court lifted the Kane County restraining order that since last February had prevented SWANCC from performing any work on the property.

# Panel nears fire protection decision

tions because members of that group said they did not feel comfortable making those choices.

The city recently reached an agreement with the village of Glenview that it would provide fire protection if the Glenbrook Fire Protection District either dissolves or becomes a "paper" district — one that collects taxes and contracts out the fire service.

The Prospect Heights Fire Protection unsuccessfully tried to consolidate with the Wheeling Fire Protection District in 1988, but because of a voting mix-up, the referendum failed.

to city officials.

Shirley said the city could municipalize and hire a department to provide fire protection or buy its own equipment. A municipal department would be financially more equitable for residents.

"I think the goal would be to have a fire program that would unify the city that wouldn't cost the residents anymore," Shirley said.

Members of the committee are gathering information from various fire departments on municipal fire departments.

Another ad hoc committee formed in 1990, hesitated on recommenda-

Protection District and the Mount Prospect Fire Department.

Third Ward Alderman Thomas W. Shirley said the committee is strongly considering the formation of a municipal fire department, but is not ready to recommend any option.

"It's still in the study stages," Shirley said. Committee members are also considering other options such as leaving the fire protection as it is now.

Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said if the city were to pursue a municipal fire department the cost of doing so and the means of financing it would have to be found first. Historically, a property tax is not an option

BY LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An ad hoc committee studying the possibility of one fire protection unit for the city of Prospect Heights may be close to making a formal recommendation to the city council.

Residents of the city now are served by four fire departments and city officials have wanted for a long time to find a way for jurisdiction under one protection entity.

Right now the city's residents are served by the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, Wheeling Fire Protection District, Glenbrook Fire

## LOCAL REPORT

# Village manager's service rewarded with salary raise

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently expressed their continued satisfaction with the job performance of Village Manager Craig G. Anderson with a 5 percent pay hike.

Anderson will be paid \$72,450 in 1992, up from 1991's \$69,000.

"The board feels he is doing a fine job in all expected areas and we wanted to show that," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "One of his biggest attributes is that he is a steady person. He seems to be able to handle such diverse issues."

Schultz pointed to Anderson's continued involvement with bringing a commuter rail line to the village, and his knowledgeable handling of Palwaukee Municipal Airport business as two of his accomplishments in 1991.

And she said 1992 will be a busy year for Anderson and the village with continuing efforts to make Wheeling a stop on a commuter line that could run along the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks, the possible start of the relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf Roads, and moving ahead with tax-increment financing (TIF) development along



Craig G. Anderson

Milwaukee Avenue.

"There are no tremendous peaks and valleys," Schultz said. "But we do have a lot going on."

As village manager, Anderson oversees 183 full-time employees. The village's five department heads, village attorney and assistant village manager report directly to him.

He came to Wheeling in 1988, after eight years as assistant village manager in Glenview, and started at \$55,000. He replaced Thomas Markus, who had been village manager for eight years.

# Villages not quite seeing eye to eye on Weiland Rd.

1-16-92  
By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER  
COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling village officials wouldn't mind seeing Weiland Road extended a few blocks southwest to join Buffalo Grove Road, though they claim the improved traffic flow wouldn't help their village much.

But if Buffalo Grove wants to pay to pave over a few acres of farmland in Wheeling to build the street, that's all right with them. Especially if their neighbor to the north pays for it.

Buffalo Grove has already spearheaded the capture of nearly \$2 million in federal funds to build out Weiland from McHenry Road (Route 83) southwest to Buffalo Grove Road. As it stands now, southbound traffic must first turn west on Lake Cook Road before it can proceed to the south on Buffalo Grove.

But the feds won't pay for rights-of-way, and only Wheeling can condemn the narrow strip of land needed for the two-lane road, plus exit lanes. Wheeling City Manager Craig Anderson figures it'd cost \$800,000 to buy the land, and he advised the village council a week ago not to pay for any of it.

## Low priority

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz tempered the resolution, to be sent to Buffalo Grove, to read that paying for the land was "not a priority," since, as Anderson said, "it has not as much benefit to Wheeling as to Buffalo Grove."

"We work well with Wheeling, but I just don't understand this," said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling.

"It'd make it easier to get to Walmart," Balling added. "It's of direct benefit to Wheeling."

# Wheeling narrows search for new health inspector

1-16-92  
By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

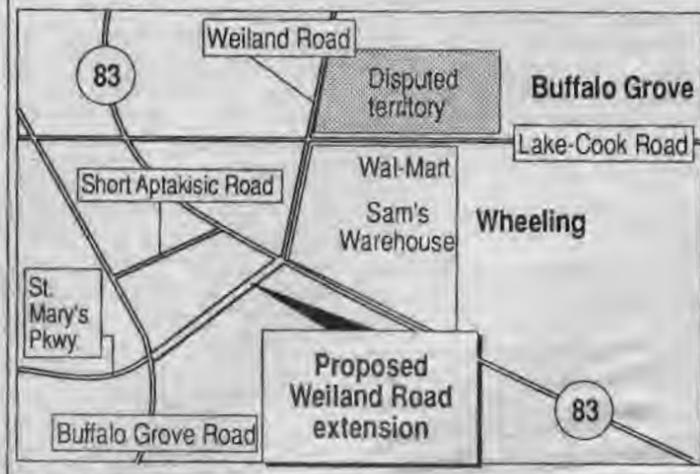
Wheeling will soon hire a new health officer, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

He said last week the search for Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams' replacement has narrowed to one person, who will probably be hired within "a couple weeks."

Adams resigned Jan. 10 to join his wife Donna in Sun Prairie, Wis., where she has

## Weiland Road extension

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling officials have shown interest in extending Weiland Road to Buffalo Grove Road, allowing traffic to progress north and south from Weiland and Route 83, and perhaps relieving tie-ups there and where Buffalo Grove and Lake Cook Road intersect. Last year, both villages annexed the land on the north side of Lake Cook Road marked "disputed territory."



Source: Buffalo Grove zoning map, other maps

Pioneer Press Graphics

"It would be an absolute tragedy to lose this money."

## Busy intersection

He added that the new road would relieve congestion at Buffalo Grove and Lake-Cook Roads, an intersection completely within Wheeling following an annexation battle won by the village last year.

Anderson said it was true that a longer Weiland Road would enhance travel to Wheeling's new Sam's Warehouse and Walmart. "No doubt it'd probably get people there more directly. But I think they'd get there anyway."

"Don't get me wrong, it's not a bad idea at all. It's just not a priority for us." He said the village has a study underway that would soon reveal its road improvement priorities.

Meanwhile, he agreed with his Buffalo Grove counterpart that the possibility of the

feds pulling funding for a project slow in getting underway would be a shame, but added, "I suppose (the project) would alleviate some of the congestion on Lake-Cook Road, but Buffalo Grove doesn't want to widen Lake-Cook Road" beyond its present four-lane girth through the village.

He said Wheeling is in favor of the widening because it would receive nothing but benefit from it. All the needed land would be pared from Buffalo Grove, and few Wheeling residents would be affronted by the six-lane highway running almost entirely through the other town.

Sid Mathias, Village President of Buffalo Grove, hoped that the villages could get together on the road improvement.

"I think if people are going to (Wheeling) shopping places, . . . (Wheeling) might as well help them get there," he said.

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove's plans to extend Weiland Road through to St. Mary's Parkway hit a financial snag recently when the Wheeling village board decided against contributing money to the project.

Although Buffalo Grove can use federal funding to pay for construction of the road, they wanted Wheeling to pay half the costs to acquire the necessary land — which is in Wheeling.

Buffalo Grove officials are interested in extending the road to help

alleviate traffic congestion along Lake-Cook Road.

"It is probably a good idea," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "But it is less of a benefit to us than Buffalo Grove in terms of traffic."

Anderson estimated Wheeling's half of the cost of land acquisition would be near \$800,000.

"It is not a high priority to us," he said of the project. "It is a matter of dollars and cents. There are other things we need to do before that."

And while Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias expressed dismay that Wheeling would

not help fund the project, he said he held out some hope village officials would change their minds.

"I'm still hopeful we can negotiate," he said. "Funding is a serious problem. But I'm not going to say this will kill the deal. There may be other sources available."

However, it seems unlikely negotiation will result in Wheeling picking up any of the cost.

"We have no objection to the project although we are not sure of the exact configuration," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "The only thing the board did agree on was the board is not



willing to fund it."

# Extension of Weiland Road hits snag

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling area governments talk over mutual concerns

1-14-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Money and facing a future with less of it in tax revenues was the main topic of discussions between representatives of several governmental bodies who got together Monday to share successes of the past and plans for the next several years.

Village of Wheeling trustees convened the meeting to give government officials whose voters lived in the same area a chance to get to know each other and hear state of the government addresses.

In attendance were elected officials and administrators from the village, Wheeling Park District, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling Township, Wheeling Township Elementary School District 21, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23 and Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

"No two of us have exactly the same territory, but we do have many constituents in common," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz told the group. "We have successes and failures — real and perceived — that spill

over and affect our constituents and each one of us. It is important to know, understand and support one another as much as possible."

As a representative from each organization spoke of the issues they face they all said they were on sound financial footing. But they acknowledged there were tougher times ahead with the property tax assessment freeze in 1992 and those times would get even tougher if the state legislature imposes a property tax cap on Cook County.

"We — along with other taxing bodies — are expecting a considerable loss of revenue due to the assessment freeze," said District 23 Superintendent Ronald Bearwald.

Stephen Berry, superintendent of District 214, said that district will lose \$18.5 million over the next two to three years with the assessment freeze and may be forced to cut staff and possibly programs.

"As many have mentioned, the tax cap would be even a more serious problem," he said.

"We can all get together and console one another," Schultz said.

# Wal-Mart, Sam's Warehouse get ready for grand opening

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE  
1-23-92

Wheeling's new Sam's Club has sold about 4,000 memberships through Monday, at \$25 a pop. And they don't even open until next Tuesday.

But that's nothing. "A good store can get it up to 75,000 or 100,000," according to manager Mike Matheson. That's \$2.5 million a year, folks — before the store sells a single item."

Sam's is a cash-and-carry warehouse store at 1055 McHenry Road. It's one of about 150 nationwide, and caters to business people looking for stock at wholesale or near-wholesale prices.

It's coupled with a Wal-Mart store, both the brainchildren of Arkansas septuagenarian Sam Walton. The new Wheeling Wal-Mart, on the Lake-Cook Road portion of the same property, shares a 1,500-space parking lot with its wholesale brother. Their walls surround a total of almost six acres of selling floor.

Though allegedly the oasis for small business, just about anybody can play the game

with Sam, according to Matheson.

"We try to keep it on a membership basis," he said, "but an ungodly number of people can join."

## Membership card

People with registered businesses get in, of course, plus anyone with a government job. Employees of anything can get in if their bosses set the company up in the deal. Anybody in management automatically gets a membership card.

"Even editors," said Matheson.

Absolutely anybody can get into a Wal-Mart. There's no membership or initiation fee. Once one is in, however, it's hard to get out with as much cash as one entered with.

Many of the prices, seen at the Mt. Prospect Wal-Mart, are enticing. A can of 9-lives cat food goes for 26 cents. Eighty-eight cents buys a gallon of Purex bleach. If you like Clorox, that's \$1.22. A 3-pack of Hanes boxer shorts costs \$8.26.

"The prices come basic out of our general office," said

manager Charles Haar, whose store, the 83rd in Illinois, will open Feb. 4. "But they have to be the cheapest.

"If a customer brings it to our attention that somebody else is cheaper, we will lower our price," he said flatly. "We will be the cheapest."

## Scary business

That's a scary thought to local retailers, since Wal-Mart carries a lot of items, nearly all brand-name. They have a right to be scared, according to Haar.

"K-Mart, Target, Venture, we move in right next to them, right next to major malls," said Haar. "It hurts 'em."

Even restaurants can worry. Wal-Mart sells a hot-dog in its snack bar for 83 cents. The quarter-pound version goes for \$1.18, as does a rather impressive barbecue sandwich.

The most novel thing is the wheelchairs. Available at the door, they're fitted with big baskets on the front of the handles. Weak-legged customers can sit and shop, as they wheel through the wide, uncluttered aisles.

# Village eyes garbage station plan

contract with a hauler, something they do not do now.

Although SWANCC is still applying for permits for both the Wheeling Township transfer site and the baling, Abolt said he is confident both facilities will get government approval. And he expects the transfer station to be open for business by Jan. 1, 1994 with the baling opening 18 months later.

Trustees have heard progress and non-progress reports on the baling since the project was undertaken by the village and 25 other communities seven years ago.

"This is the first time in all these years I can tell you we are planning to turn the first spade of dirt," Abolt said. "It is exciting that for the first time we are here with specific plans."

the baling. "Almost every community has an active hand in residential solid waste collection," Abolt said. "Most communities have much less involvement in the commercial end."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said it seemed likely Wheeling would follow that model, although it would mean some changes for multi-family housing developments.

"We have been focusing our standards, rules and regulations on single-family residences," he said. "That will have to change so we can direct the waste stream. It will be a bigger change for businesses and multi-family developments who are used to picking what hauler they will deal with."

In order to control what percentage of the village's garbage goes to the baling, village officials would

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling could be one of the first communities to use the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's proposed Wheeling Township garbage transfer station if trustees approve a use agreement with the agency later this spring.

But before trustees approve the agreement they must decide when they will start sending garbage to the transfer station — and then on to the proposed baling near Bartlett — and whose garbage they will send. They are expected to make those decisions within the next 60 days.

William Abolt, executive director of SWANCC, said he expects that most communities will send 100 percent of their residential and 20 percent of their commercial garbage to

## LOCAL REPORT

# Top cops prepare to join Wheeling police force

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two of the three Wheeling police officers sworn in last October graduated first and second in their class at the Chicago Police Training Academy.

In a class of 55 recruits, Officer Preston M. Robertson finished first and was voted the most outstanding recruit by his fellow classmates while Officer John B. Connolly finished second. Officer John Bonk, also sworn in last October, was already a certified police officer in Illinois and did not need to attend the academy. He has completed his 12-week field training program and is now working a regular patrol shift.

Now that Robertson and Connolly have finished the 13-week academy program, they too have been assigned to a veteran police officer who is taking them through Wheeling's field training program.

A typical day at the academy includes classroom time, physical fitness drills and tactical lessons.

Push-ups, sit-ups, weight lifting and jogging are part of the physical education drills while hand-to-hand combat training and other

defensive tactics fall under tactical training.

Robertson and Connolly knew early on that they stood to finish at or near the top of their class because scores are posted weekly. And while they said the environment at the academy is very competitive, they are modest in discussing their accomplishments.

Robertson said he is pleased that his classmates thought he was the best recruit in his class but he said he is prouder of his academic achievement.

"It was my intention to do the very best I could do," he said. "Outstanding in the class was nice because it was something other classmates determined. But the academic award is more important to me."

Both Robertson, 28, and Connolly, 24, just recently decided they wanted to pursue careers in law enforcement.

While Robertson thought about police work during high school, he opted for a career in business. However, two years ago he decided to change careers.

Connolly also decided he wanted to be a police officer two years ago.

# Waste agency firing back at its opponents with facts

By CHRISTINE HAWES  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County — blasted two weeks ago by opponents of a proposed garbage transfer station along the Des Plaines River — fired back Wednesday with a 100-page document responding to opponents' concerns.

The detailed response comes one week before the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's scheduled decision on whether to approve construction of the \$11.3 million transfer station, which is the latest component of the solid waste agency's regional garbage disposal system.

The agency already is planning two other elements of the regional garbage disposal system — a transfer station in Rolling Meadows and a landfill near Bartlett — and has proposed a third transfer station in Elk Grove Village.

Under the solid waste agency's plan, garbage from 26 Northwest suburban communities will be transported to one of the three proposed transfer stations, where the garbage will be compressed into bales. The agency will then truck the bales to the Bartlett

landfill for disposal.

The Des Plaines garbage transfer station has attracted the attention of opponents to all of the other sites, and more than 250 people turned out at an EPA-sponsored public meeting two weeks ago to explain their opposition to the station. According to the report released by the solid waste agency Wednesday, opponents exaggerated and misunderstood the transfer station.

"The objectors to this facility have lost their perspective," wrote William Abolt, executive director of the agency. "This is not a hazardous waste treatment center. This is not a landfill. This is simply a transfer station for municipal refuse which is generated in households every day, put out at the curb and collected on the area streets."

Much of the report disputes objectors' claims that hazardous liquid would be produced during the baling process, leak out of the facility and pollute the Des Plaines River and surrounding residential water wells. Solid waste agency officials said the amount of contaminated liquid — or "leachates" — produced would be inconsequential.

## The village's version

A recent issue of the Daily Herald contained a letter to the editor written by Erwin Dreiske alleging that the Village of Wheeling was attempting to "steal" his flower shop property for \$210,000. This statement clearly requires a response so that the facts are clear.

In 1985, concerned over the appearance and business conditions along Milwaukee Avenue, the Village of Wheeling created a Tax Incremental Financing District for that area. The intent of the TIF District was, and is, to encourage retail/commercial redevelopment. Successful implementation of the TIF District would meet a real and clearly recognized need in the community, improving both the economic viability and appearance of the area.

Contrary to Dreiske's claim, the village does not want to "steal" property and has never contemplated buying out any business. It was always the intent, publicly stated, to include his flower shop in the redevelopment plans. The shop is a popular and successful part of Wheeling's business community, one which could be an asset to any retail center. Though several attractive offers were offered to Dreiske, he refused to respond to any letters, phone calls or personal contacts.

Acquisition of the Dreiske property at a fair market price is necessary for the Crossroads Project (the first phase of the redevelopment) to proceed. Unfortunately, the legal challenge to the TIF District by Dreiske and others has delayed the redevelopment for several years, putting his fellow business owners at a severe disadvantage. That challenge, ill-advised and costly, now has been resolved in favor of the village.

The Village of Wheeling remains willing to explore the possibility of including Dreiske's as part of the new center. But, in all fairness to our residents, the other businesses, and property owners, the village must proceed.

Sheila H. Schultz  
Village President  
Wheeling

# Static in cable TV's future

## Senate votes to restore federal regulation

Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday to bring the lucrative cable television industry back under federal regulation because of complaints about high rates and poor service.

The bill, which passed 73-18, gives the Federal Communications Commission authority to regulate basic cable rates in areas where there is no effective competition to cable service.

Supporters of the bill said it was needed because rates for basic service have increased 56 percent since 1986 industrywide, with fees in some

areas doubling and tripling.

The bill "will stop price-gouging by the cable industry. It will restore competition," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, one of its chief sponsors.

"These cable rates are going to continue to go up unless (the bill) is passed," said Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn.

But Sen. Tim Wirth, D-Colo., said the bill would impose too much regulation.

"If cable TV is such a rip-off ... why have so many American households subscribed?" he asked in arguing for a less-restrictive substitute that failed on a 35-54 vote.

Congress ended federal cable television regulation in 1984, leaving most cable systems as unregulated monopolies in the areas they serve.

Because some cable systems have different rates for basic and expanded service, the bill requires that if fewer than 30 percent of subscribers take the basic service, FCC regulation would apply to the next most popular rate taken by at least 30 percent of customers.

The National Cable Television Association strongly opposes the bill, saying it would hinder the growth of the industry. President Bush may veto the legislation if it passes Congress.



### The rise of cable TV rates

Basic service\* rates  
1984 1991

Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Wheeling	\$5.95	\$17.55
Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, Rolling Meadows	\$6.95	\$20.50
Barrington, Lake Zurich, Wauconda	\$7.75	\$21.95
Mundelein, Libertyville, Vernon Hills	\$6.95	\$21.95

\*Basic service is lowest-priced package available at that time; number of channels and types of channels varies with each company.

Source: news reports

Local Impact of Senate vote, Page 3

Daily Herald Graphic

## Landowner abandons fight, Wheeling OKs mini-mart

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans for an Amoco mini-mart at the corner of Hintz and Elmhurst roads can proceed now that the Wheeling Village Board has given final approval to the proposal.

Although trustees tentatively approved the plan last fall, they would not authorize final approval until Gene DeBartolo, owner of the property, agreed to give a portion of the land to Cook County for right-of-way access along Hintz Road.

Village officials said property along county-owned roads is commonly given to the county or local governments for parks, road improvements and future uses.

And while DeBartolo said last October he was not willing to give up the land, his apparent change of heart permitted trustees to approve the plan.

"It is a common practice to ask people to donate right of way," said Trustee Anthony Allieri Jr.

DeBartolo will give the village 17 feet of land — from Hintz Road inward — running the length of his property along the road.

DeBartolo has operated a gas station with towing and salvage operations at that corner for many years,

but recently closed the gas station to make way for the mini-mart and car wash.

He will lease his land to Amoco. Under the plan, salvaging and repair operations will be discontinued.

While village officials have said the mini-mart will enhance the neighborhood with additional landscaping and new buildings, neighbors were initially opposed to the plan. They said the car wash would bring more noise to the area.

Originally more than 25 residents voiced their opposition to the proposal, but changes in the site plan, including additional landscape buffering between the car wash and residential neighbors, dulled some of the opposition and prompted plan commissioners to approve the proposal.

Village officials have also said the mini-mart and car wash will create less noise than DeBartolo generated at the site.

Amoco representatives have said the Wheeling layout is standard for many mini-marts in the Northwest suburbs.

And, they said, the company has not had any past problems with the Environmental Protection Agency over noise issues.

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

#### Purchase of 8 new police cars approved

Trustees approved the purchase of eight new police cars for \$118,700. They will get the 1992 Chevrolet Caprice four-door sedans from Tom Todd Chevrolet in Wheeling instead of through the state bid process.

Although Tom Todd's price is \$500 higher than the price offered by the state's contractor, police department officials found several benefits for the village in going with a local dealer.

Tom Todd Chevrolet will furnish the cars — seven marked and one unmarked squad cars — within 90 to 120 calendar days of award of the contract while the state's contractor promised delivery sometime during the 1992 vehicle model year. Police officials also said purchasing the cars locally will also mean less wear and tear from transportation.

#### Bob Chinn's gets new sign approved

Bob Chinn's Crabhouse customers should have less trouble finding the restaurant's additional parking lot now that Wheeling trustees have approved a new sign for the lot.

Although trustees approved the additional parking lot, on the building's south side — in 1989, they did not approve a new sign for the lot and representatives from Chinn's said customers often do not see the additional lot and either park in no parking zones or leave the restaurant.

Trustee Judy Abruscato voted against the sign — which will be painted with the same colors as other signs at the restaurant — saying she thought it was too large. But

#### Palwaukee panel can start condemnation

Trustees gave Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners the go-ahead to start condemnation proceedings on a parcel of property needed for the relocation of the Wolf Road bridge over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

The owner of the property, at the southern tip of the Foxboro Apartments, has refused to accept the price offered by the airport commission or negotiate.

Construction of the Hintz and Wolf roads bridges needs to be completed before the intersection of the two roads can be moved. Commissioners are hoping to acquire all the property for the bridges so they can be constructed in the summer of 1993.

lion of the vehicles and support the local economy.

other trustees approved the 5-foot by 7-foot sign.

## Wheeling OKs \$5,000 for train station plan

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees gave Metra a sign they are serious about bringing commuter rail service to their residents with the decision Monday to pay an engineering firm \$5,000 for a preliminary plan for a train station.

Representatives from villages along the Wisconsin Central Railroad to Prospect Heights have been talking with Metra representatives and the Northwest Municipal Conference Transportation Committee about the possibility of running a commuter line for two years, and Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said it is time for the communities that would use the line to show they are committed to the project.

"We have passed a resolution in

the past showing we are very desirous of the project," Anderson said. "We want to go back to them, say, 'We have done the preliminary engineering, here is what it looks like, this is as much as we can do' and put the ball back in their court."

He said preliminary studies show at least 1,000 people would catch the train daily in Wheeling.

Plans call for the station to be built near Wickes Furniture Co. on Dundee Road with access to the station from Boehmer Road.

Anderson said communities along the rail line will probably have to pay some of the cost of building a station and related improvements to the proposed sites, including parking.

The Wheeling Park District is building a family aquatic center on

property it owns between Wickes and village hall, and officials from both governing bodies have expressed interest in an agreement that would allow commuters to use the parking lot at the aquatic center.

Anderson said the communities are looking to have Metra pay for track improvements, rolling equipment and to operate the system.

Other communities that may also bring commuter service to their residents are Libertyville, Mundelein and Vernon Hills. Buffalo Grove has already conducted an engineering study showing their commitment to the project.

McClure Engineering, of Rockford, will do the engineering work for Wheeling.

# Wheeling OKs liquor licenses for 2 new village businesses

1-21-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board, acting as the Liquor Control Commission, approved liquor licenses Monday for two new businesses in the village.

Approval of the liquor license for Bravo! A Bistro represented the last hurdle in the village approval process for Ike and Sophis Therios, who will be operating a restaurant at 521 S. Milwaukee Ave., former location of the Manchester Place restaurant.

While the trustees gave tentative approval to a liquor license for the restaurant, the two must contact the Wheeling Police Department for guidelines on how to train their servers on the various aspects of alcohol service, including spotting fake identification cards.

Proper employee training is one of the conditions that must be met to the satisfaction of village officials before any liquor license is granted. And because that plan is not in place for the restaurant, Ike Therios said he would be happy to have the police department guide him in set a policy.

"I didn't know if the village had

some guidelines for us to follow," he said. "It was my intention to contact the police department to see if they could give us any information."

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she wanted to make sure the conditions for selling liquor in the village are clearly understood.

"Being in the restaurant business you must be aware the village takes the sale of liquor to underaged patrons most seriously," she said. "We work hard to make sure that doesn't happen. We feel strongly about it for you as business people and for the young people themselves. This commission has been on the record as being strong on consequences when the ordinance is violated and I want to make sure you know the guidelines."

Wal-Mart Inc. was also granted a liquor license to sell packaged goods at its Sam's Wholesale Club, which will be opening later this month.

Sam's Wholesale Club will be open to members only and the manager of the store was hoping to be able to have customers purchase liquor at any of the stores more than 25 cash registers.

# Wheeling budget proposal features 2% spending cut

2-24-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wary of how the state's financial troubles will trickle down to municipalities and how the nation's recession will affect sales tax revenues, Wheeling officials are proposing a \$23.2 million spending plan, down almost 2 percent from last year's \$23.6 million budget.

If the budget is approved by trustees, who took a first look at it Saturday, it will be the second year that no new full-time positions will be added to the village staff.

Robert W. Fialkowski, finance director, said a curtailing of capital expenditures also contributed to the budget decrease.

But he said he expects a 20 percent jump in the amount of money the village spends on its group health insurance plan for employees and that at some point trustees may want to consider negotiating with employees to have them pay some of the cost.

Also included in the budget for fiscal 1992-93, which will begin April 30, is \$63,000 for a new demolition participation plan.

Under the plan, the money would be used to help owners of vacant buildings along

Milwaukee Avenue demolish the buildings.

Village officials have identified 14 sites as eyesores and the money in the proposed budget would be enough to clear away nearly one-third of the buildings next year, with money budgeted each year until all 14 are gone.

"Often the owners say they will take down the buildings until they find out how much it is going to cost," said Community Development Director Michael Klitzke. "We need to develop a procedure to get owners to do it on a reimbursement basis. They would tear it down, show us proof and we would pay for half."

On the revenue side of the budget, Fialkowski expects property tax revenue to decrease 2 percent from last year's \$6.09 million to \$5.9 million.

And he is expecting to collect \$1.6 million from the state income tax surcharge and \$3.08 million from sales tax.

"We have had poor receipts from sales tax revenue this year," he said. "Wal-Mart and Sam's will be significant sales tax generators next year but we have had a number of smaller retailers go out of business this year. That is not unique to Wheeling, it is happening all over the place."

## For members only II

While the ballot is not scheduled to open until 1995 and agency officials are still trying to secure permits to get construction under way, Wheeling Village Trustee William

Rogers doesn't think it's too early to begin thinking about what to do about those communities that decline to participate in the project but may want it once they run out of landfill for their garbage.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, also president of the agency, said the board of directors hasn't decided how they will handle requests from non-members.

## Painful debate

2-19-92  
The discussion could have given anyone a headache.

The Buffalo Grove-Lang Grove Elementary District 96 school board recently spent about 30 minutes debating whether students should be allowed to carry non-prescription medications such as aspirin while they are in school. That practice is forbidden under the district's medication policy. After the board finally agreed

# Palwaukee board mulls office move

2-17-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport staffers could find themselves working out of a new building later this year, if commissioners approve a plan to move the airport's offices from Hangar One to a building north of the airport at the end of Industrial Drive.

Airport officials are looking to vacate the hangar — which houses the airport's offices and maintenance equipment — so they can return the building to its original use as an aircraft hangar and charge tenants to

rent the 12,990-square-foot space.

The airport recently acquired the Brown & Kerr Inc. roofing company at 1020 Plant Road as part of its capital improvement plan and although the building could possibly be demolished in 1996 because it will sit too close to a parallel taxiway scheduled to be constructed under the plan, airport officials say it is the best place to move to — at least for now.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the commission could use the building for at least five years and that it was possible the building would not need to be torn down.

"There is some flexibility in-

volved, we don't know the construction schedule (for the east-west taxiway) yet," Stewart said. "And it is an existing structure, we have some latitude in allowing it to remain."

Stewart estimates it will cost \$108,000 to remodel the roofing company to make it suitable for the airport staff to use. Included in that cost would be \$12,000 in office renovation, \$32,000 to widen garage doors and renovate the garage to house the oversized snow removal equipment, and \$64,000 to construct a road from the building to the runways and taxiways.

And Stewart said the cost of remodeling the building would be paid

for with the revenues from the rental of Hangar One — which he said would generate "less than \$10,000 per month."

But some members of the commission's finance and administration committee thought airport estimates of how much money they could get for the hangar were too high.

"Do we have a possible tenant?" asked Commissioner Jim Nickel. "Say we are going to get \$9,000, the question might not just be price. Is there a demand?" But Nickles said the move would still be profitable even if Hangar One was rented out for less than \$9,000.

# Wheeling may help with road costs

2-19-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In what amounts to a small change of heart, Wheeling trustees have said that while they are still not willing to pay any of the cost of acquiring land for the extension of Weiland Road, they may be willing to pay some of the road maintenance costs if Buffalo Grove is successful in getting the extension built.

Buffalo Grove wants to extend the road from Old McHenry Road to Buffalo Grove Road — where it would meet St. Mary's Parkway — to alleviate traffic congestion on

Lake Cook Road. The extension will be in Wheeling. Although Wheeling officials agree it is a good idea, they do not feel it is a priority project for the village.

And trustees do not want to sign an agreement with Buffalo Grove saying they support the project until the costs to them are clearly spelled out.

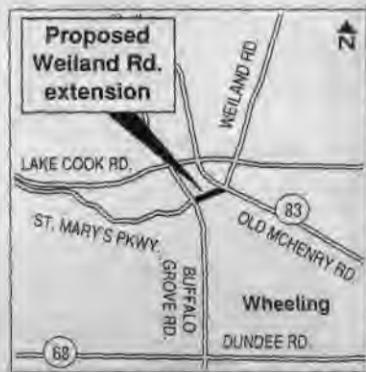
"The idea sounds good," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "But there would still be some costs associated with it. It is not crystal clear who would pay for road repaving."

While Cook County can build the road and use its power to acquire the

land, Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said he does not think the county will go through with the project until Wheeling and Buffalo Grove decide who is going take care of the road.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she is not opposed to paying some of the costs of maintaining the road, and she does not want the project to die because of a lack of agreement.

"I don't want to block this so they (Buffalo Grove) can't do it," she said. "Having a safe intersection there is a plus for the village of Wheeling."



Daily Herald Map

# Wheeling Senior Center abuzz with activity

Senior Center happenings at Pavilion, the Wheeling Senior Citizen Center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling, are listed below. Some activities are for members only; others are available to all 55 and up persons. For information and to confirm dates, times and fees, call Barbara Hansen, senior coordinator, at 459-2670.

For today, Thursday, Feb. 20: senior stretch at 9 a.m.; pinochle and canasta group and senior commission meeting, both at 10 a.m.; blood pressure readings at 11:30 a.m.; Chinese luncheon (\$3 for egg foo young, rice, salad, dessert and beverage) at noon; "Amazing Alaska" travelog by Bill Parlette (free but sign up) at 12:45 p.m.; bridge class at 1 p.m.

For Friday, Feb. 21: Medicare and secondary insurance form assistance (free, but appointment necessary) at 9 a.m.; Hatha yoga class No. 3 at 10 a.m.

For Monday, Feb. 24: Senior

## WHEELING

stretch at 9:15 a.m., 10:15 and 11:15 a.m.; Sew 4 Others Cancer Society Project at 10 a.m.; bridge group at 12:30 p.m.; movie at 1 p.m.

For Tuesday, Feb. 25: senior stretch at 9 a.m.; bowling at 9:30 a.m.; crafts group, German Club and current events, all at 10 a.m.; soup deli at noon; Pavilion-Aires Chorus at 1:30 p.m. at 1:30 p.m.

For Wednesday, Feb. 26: free tax preparation assistance for seniors (call 459-2670 for appointment) at 9 a.m.; senior stretch at 9:15, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m.; watercolors class No. 2 at 1 p.m.; weight support/nutrition group at 1:30 p.m.

For Thursday, Feb. 27: senior stretch at 9 a.m.; pinochle and canasta group at 10 a.m.; bridge class at 1 p.m.

For Friday, Feb. 28: Hatha yoga

class No. 4 at 10 a.m.

## Other activities

The defensive driving course, 55 Alive, a two-part course by A.A.R.P. trained volunteers, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays, March 12 and 19. Cost is \$8 for both days. Class is limited (send check made out to A.A.R.P. to Pavilion, 199 N. First St., Wheeling, IL 60090. Completion of course can make taker eligible for discount from car insurance carrier. Call 459-2670.

A St. Patrick's Day Luncheon Party will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. Fee for residents is \$10 (\$12 for non-residents) and buys corned beef or chicken breast lunch followed by Irish entertainment. Wear something green and join in sing-along.

Two family trips are scheduled, for which fees include transporta-

tion, admission and leadership. Bus departs and returns to Heritage Park. Shrine Circus trip is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Medinah Temple and costs \$9. Civic Orchestra/Civic Opera trip at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29, costs \$5.

Call the Pavilion Senior Center at 459-2670 for information on the following trips: Bahama cruise from March 9-13; Macon, Ga., from March 21-26; Mystery tour April 14; Fisherman's Inn and Bingo April 15; Our Lady of the Snows Alton Belle Riverboat from April 22-24; DuBuque Casino Belle April 29; Windsor, Canada May 1-3; Pella Tulip Fest and Mississippi Cruise from May 6-8; Kenny Rogers May 24; Indianhead Mountain Resort June 2-5; Bobby Vinton June 17; Ameriflora '92 June 22-25; Alaska July 13-24.

Call 459-2670 for information.

# Park district breaks even with raffle

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District baseball players will be selling raffle tickets, along with swinging bats and running bases, now that park district officials have instituted a "break-even" policy for the sport.

Under the plan, ballplayers will each be required to sell 25 \$1 raffle tickets. They will have until May 1 to sell the tickets and the raffle will be held on opening day, May 9, with prizes of \$500, \$250, \$150 and \$100 given to the winners.

Troy Butler, assistant athletic

coordinator, said the park district decided to require that ballplayers sell the raffle tickets so they would not have to pass the increased costs of the program onto its participants.

"The player fees are similar to what they were last year," Butler said. "We need the raffle money to buy more equipment and keep the program affordable for the participants."

Last year, 551 youth participated in the program, which is open to both boys and girls. And Butler said he is expecting a few more this year.

Baseball sign-up began in January

and runs through March 7. Youth who will be 7 to 15 years old on July 31 can sign up to play in one of four age-level leagues. Each league has its own fee. Fees range from \$35 to \$86 for players who sell the 25 raffle tickets. The season will run through August 1, and most teams will play twice a week.

The three ballplayers who sell the most raffle tickets beyond the 25 required will be given gift certificates to the Sportmart in Wheeling.

Friday is the registration deadline for youth spring soccer.

And while the spring soccer season

does not attract as many players as the fall season, because it overlaps with baseball, nearly 300 youth are expected to participate, recreation coordinator Eric Christensen said.

Soccer season runs from March 16 through May 17, and the games are played at Northside Park on Sundays so as not to conflict with baseball games.

There are three soccer divisions: Wee Wheeling Kickers for 4- to 5-year-olds; Division Two for first- and second-graders; and Division Three for third- and fourth-graders. The fee for the program is \$37.

# Judge to resolve annexation dispute

BY MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An annexation dispute between Buffalo Grove and Wheeling that began over a year ago is expected to come to a head today in Lake County Circuit Court.

The two villages are battling over the Roland Schwind farm, 20 acres on the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads. Wheeling annexed the parcel, surrounded on three sides by Buffalo Grove residential developments, on Jan. 28, 1991. Days later, Buffalo Grove annexed the same land.

While elected officials from both sides have made efforts to resolve the issue without going to court, they were not successful.

However, Buffalo Grove officials have hinted recently they do not expect to win the case. In a Wednesday public hearing on a draft of the village's revised comprehensive plan, plan commissioners questioned Village Planner Robert Pfeil about the designation of the 20-acre parcel as office and residential.

Pfeil told them that the land would not likely remain in the village. Earlier, Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said the same

thing to a joint meeting of village trustees, plan commission members and park board members.

Buffalo Grove became involved in the annexation dispute because neighbors of the parcel wanted to be assured that the land would not be developed for future uses.

The Buffalo Grove residents went to a Wheeling village board meeting, where Wheeling trustees agreed to annex the property with residential zoning. After the residents had left, feeling victorious, the Wheeling village board reconsidered the issue and annexed the land with commercial zoning.



Daily Herald Map

## SOCCER

### Ela Lion Pride puts down Warriors, 6-2

The Wheeling Warriors were defeated 6-2 by the Ela Lion Pride in Boys Under-10 action. Wheeling got on the board first with a goal by John Reid who was assisted by Jason King.

Ela then scored 2 goals to make it 2-1 at halftime. Ela scored 4 goals in the second half. Wheeling's second goal was made by Keith Plywaczynski, assisted by Reid and Tim Sanders.

Despite their loss, the Warrior defense had a strong effort by Jason Pasquinelli, Brant Bruner, Michael Wiltse and goalies Jed Pinley and Mike Fournier.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Commissioners reach accord on home business ordinance

property that impacts your neighbors, that is the purpose of this ordinance."

Commissioners have been mulling the proposed ordinance for two months as they worked out its intricacies and looked for ways to try and ensure the law would be enforceable.

Most home businesses are now prohibited under village code but officials concede the code has been almost impossible to enforce.

People operating businesses out of their home will be required to pay a \$20 annual registration and existing businesses will have one year to register after the ordinance takes effect.

Home businesses prohibited include food preparation, vehicle repair, doctors offices, animal hospitals, kennels and grooming, and educational classes for more than four students.

However, other businesses now prohibited will be allowed to operate under the proposed ordinance. They include attorneys, landscape architects, word processing and other consultant businesses.

Village officials will discuss the ordinance on March 16.

After months of scrutinizing its language and mulling over its intent, Wheeling plan commissioners approved an ordinance Thursday that will put some restrictions on home businesses in the village while allowing others to legally operate for the first time.

Plan commissioners made one last change in the ordinance, lowering the number of children that can be watched in a home licensed for day care by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Under the proposed ordinance, which must be approved by the village board, day care of four children in addition to those living in the house is the maximum allowed.

When a day care provider is not licensed by the state, four children including those living in the house is the maximum number.

DCFS allows up to 16 children in a licensed day care facility.

"That many kids would burden a neighborhood," said plan commission Chairman Paul Elster.

hold. "DCFS doesn't care about the impact on a neighborhood. When you do something on your

your standard of living after retirement.

FREE WORKSHOP

Monday, March 26, 1992



Daily Herald  
2-28-92

An airplane comes in for a landing at Palwaukee Municipal Airport over the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads. The low clearance factor at that intersection is one reason officials want to move it.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

## Airport plan leaves land owners up in the air

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When John Cartland purchased the land at the northwest corner of Larkin Drive and Wolf Road in Wheeling three years ago, he planned to construct a commercial building that would bring he and his brother, Silas, rental income for years to come.

So he was more than a little surprised when he learned from a prospective tenant that the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission planned to relocate a portion of Wolf Road through his property.

"I knew they planned some re-configuration of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads," Cartland said. "But the plans we were shown missed our property. The problem with public bodies is that they don't have a clear direction of where they are going and when they are going to get there."



The relocation of the Hintz and Wolf Road intersection is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million capital improvement plan at the airport designed to bring it up to Federal Aviation Administrative standards.

When Palwaukee was privately owned it did not have to meet those standards but when it was purchased by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights in 1986 it fell under FAA jurisdiction. And airport of-

icials need to acquire property and move the intersection to create a clear zone for the airport's longest runway — which now ends just 250 feet from the intersection.

Because he cannot tell prospective tenants how long they will be able to stay in the building, Cartland said he has had to offer discounted rents and has lost many possible long-term tenants.

Last summer, Cartland went to

airport commissioners and asked them to make him an offer on the land as soon as possible. He said he and his brother were losing money and living in a "never-ending purgatory" with real estate taxes rising monthly.

Fred Stewart, airport manager, said he is hopeful the airport will get enough funding from state and federal authorities, who are financing about 90 percent of the land acquisition, to make the Cartlands an offer this year.

"We should get enough money this year to take care of the land needed for the relocation of Hintz Road and the land needed for the construction of two bridges with some left over," he said. "We understand the problem but unfortunately it is an unavoidable situation."

While much of the road relocation process is a game of waiting for funding, airport officials are

See AIRPORT on Page 2

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## New ordinance gives owner 30 days to remove graffiti

3-17-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling property owners whose buildings have been damaged by graffiti will have 30 days to remove it or face court ordered removal and fines under an ordinance passed by the village board Monday.

"We have had good cooperation with a lot of business owners," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "But we have had some where cooperation is lacking."

Under the ordinance, which goes into effect immediately, the village can take businesses to court and fine them up to \$500 per day until the graffiti is removed.

Anderson said village staff will soon be sending out notices to businesses that have not cleaned up damage to their property in the past 30 days informing them they must now do so.

And one Wheeling resident said it is about time.

Wolf Road resident Mary Rita Frances, who has lived in the village for 21 years, said she has been looking at graffiti on two apartment buildings near her house since Thanksgiving.

"I am irritated every morning when I leave my driveway and irritated every night when I come home and it is still there," she said. "I am ashamed to have company come to my house. I have been happy here until the last couple of years."

Village trustees took their first look at the graffiti removal ordinance in December and were hoping at that time to be able to have village workers clean off the graffiti and then charge the property owners for that removal.

But that option was removed from the final draft of the ordinance because Village Attorney James Rhodes said it would be illegal in the state of Illinois. But he said the state legislature may look at a law soon that would allow village officials to enact such a provision.

Village officials have also put on hold an ordinance that would ban the sale of spray paint to minors. Anderson said while the ordinance is still under discussion, there are some problems with it.

"Unless everybody (neighboring municipalities) pass an ordinance, it probably won't do much good, and not all graffiti is done with spray paint," he said.

## AIRPORT: Plan leaves land owners up in the air

Continued from Page 1

hoping a piece of legislation passed by the state Legislature last fall and effective March 1, will help them take possession of land quicker once the money becomes available.

Under the legislation, the airport will be able to take title to property it wishes to acquire immediately after entering condemnation proceedings on that property.

But the "quick take" legislation will not speed up the airport's ability to make offers to property owners. Many property owners cannot find a private buyer for land that will someday be taken by the airport nor do they want to make any improvements on buildings that sit on that land.

It will, however, help the airport when wrangling over price with landowners reaches an impasse.

Currently, three parcels of land needed for the relocation of the intersection are in condemnation proceedings and 26 more are being appraised.

Stewart said commissioners would prefer to reach price agreements with property owners without having to condemn the property and possibly use the "quick take" power.

In order to exercise that power, airport officials will enter their appraisal of the property in question with the court. A judge will decide the amount of money to be held by the court while condemnation proceedings continue. At that time title to the property passes from the landowner to the airport — giving the airport the power to go ahead with their plans for the land.

If the owner wants to fight the airport's appraisal he can go ahead with a trial. If a jury decides the land is worth more, the airport then has to pay the difference between that amount and the court-held deposit.

To date the airport has acquired 18 of the 42 parcels needed for the relocation. Stewart said agreement on nine of those parcels was reached after condemnation proceedings had started with none actually making it to the trial stage.

# Wheeling endorses rec center plan

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hoping to remove any questions about its backing of the Wheeling Park District's proposal to build a new recreation facility, the Wheeling village board approved by a 5-1 vote a motion of support for the project.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz asked trustees to discuss the project during their regular meeting Monday to make clear their individual feelings about the proposed 51,000-square-foot building.

"I have heard some comments that show there is confusion about this board's position on the recreation building," said Schultz.

"We need to give the correct information. And for those voters who are interested, I do support the recreation center as a real asset to the vil-

lage. We have excellent facilities here that we are proud of, but our needs have changed. The park district has looked at our recreational needs and has responded with a responsible proposal to put before the voters," she said.

The park district is looking for a 10 cent increase in the tax rate to build the new recreation building on land it owns on Dundee Road, between Wickes Furniture Co. and Wheeling Village Hall.

Park district officials can borrow the estimated \$4 million to build the center but they need the tax rate increase, which they will ask voters to approve on March 17, to run the center.

After hearing that a majority of the board members approved of the project, Trustee Lois Gaffke asked the board to make the support offi-

cial. Only Trustee William Rogers voted against that official show of support.

While he would not say that he was for or against the park district's plan, he said he could not support the concept of one taxing body supporting another taxing body's building plans.

"I believe you might be setting a precedent which might be ominous in the future," said Rogers.

"If they (the park district) have done a good job with the citizens they don't need this or any other group's support," he said.

But Phil Pritzker, co-chairman of the Friends of the Park, asked the board to join Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 in supporting the project.

Tribune Wheeling 3-17-92

## Community service officer hurt in wreck

A Wheeling community service police officer was listed in critical condition Monday after his police car struck a tree in the 300 block of West Dundee Road, police said.

Richard Herdus, 45, a 19-year veteran of the Wheeling Police Department, apparently lost consciousness while driving a community service police car before the vehicle left the road about 9 a.m. Monday, Cmdr. Eric Larson said.

A spokesman for Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines would not disclose whether Herdus' injuries were due to the medical condition that led to the one-car accident or to the accident itself.

The car suffered significant damage, Larson said.

# Wheeling chief named to task force

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has been appointed to serve on a special state task force on prison overcrowding.

Appointments to the 21-member task force, which includes representatives from law enforcement, community leaders, legal scholars, prison employees, judges and state legislators, were made by Gov. Jim Edgar.

It is the job of the task force to find alternatives that are cost effective and innovative to building more pris-

ons in Illinois.

Among other issues, Edgar has asked the task force to explore making greater use of boot camps and electronic monitoring devices to free up room in the state's prisons while still making sure the more dangerous criminals are kept behind bars.

Haeger and Terrance W. Gainer, director of the Illinois State Police, are the two law enforcement representatives on the panel.

"I can provide input as to what is actually taking place on the streets as to the arrest of persons, etcetera," said Haeger of his appointment. "I am pleased to be a part of

this, and I have ideas which I can share relative to the system and changes that can be made."

Haeger, who has been Wheeling's police chief since 1982, is not new to statewide commissions. He served on the Police Officer's Memorial Committee and is the immediate past president of the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association. He also served as president of the North Suburban Police Chiefs Association in 1986.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said Haeger's appointment shows once again that Wheeling hires and retains quality department heads.



Michael F. Haeger

# Wheeling mulls agencies' requests

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees, looking to complete their fiscal 1992-93 budget on April 6, heard funding requests Monday from social service agencies.

Seven agencies are asking the village for a total of \$113,600 — up 23 percent from last year's \$92,050.

The largest funding increase is being sought by Horizons Children's Center. The child-care center is asking for \$25,000 this year — up 70 percent from \$14,700 supplied them last year.

Suzan Sclove, executive director, said the center is looking to expand its program to serve more families who cannot afford to pay full tuition for child care.

"We hope by funding more children to serve more of the need than

we have in the past," she said. "By expanding our programs for school-age children we can include a lot more Wheeling children."

Also heard from were representatives from Shelter, Inc., CEDA Northwest, Fighting Back, OMNI Youth Services, Resource Center for the Elderly and the Salvation Army.

Trustee William Rogers expressed concern that so many of the agencies were asking for increases in funding this year.

"We are going to have to answer to the taxpayers," he said. "I don't think anybody in these organizations thinks of the ramifications of asking for more money in times like these."

But Harry Wells, executive director of OMNI Youth Services, said it is in times like these that people need more help than ever from social service agencies.

"We are hoping local government and local resources can help us withstand larger state and federal cuts," he said. "You are using precious tax resources to purchase services for your citizens."

Several students from Wheeling High School were also on hand to ask trustees for money to fund the Serve Our Seniors program. Serve Our Seniors, a branch of the Resource Center for the Elderly is a program in which students go to the houses of senior citizens and do minor repairs.

Although Resource Center for the Elderly is asking for \$2,500 for next year, a small portion of that would go to Serve Our Seniors.

The student shared their experiences with trustees and told them they had become friends with many of the seniors, saying they had gained adopted grandparents.

# Palwaukee Airport OKs \$2.88 million budget plan

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are planning to spend \$2.88 million in the upcoming year, including \$1 million to continue buying land needed for their long-term capital improvement plan.

While the spending plan, approved Wednesday, is up 134 percent from last year's budget, \$2 million will be spent on capital improvements — including the \$1 million for land.

Also included in the capital expenditures for the fiscal year that begins May 1 is \$40,000 for a mower, \$30,000 for fencing and \$200,000 for pavement improvements. The airport's engineers will also work on an environmental assessment study, expected to cost around \$74,000, for the relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch. The ditch needs to be relocated so land at the airport's north end can be developed.

Commissioners are hoping to spend \$487,000 on two construction projects under the Jobs Works Program — one of several programs Congress is considering to end the current recession.

If the Jobs Work Program becomes reality and the airport's construction projects are accepted by the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal government would pay 90 percent of the projects' cost — expected to total \$2.5 million — and the airport would pay 10 percent.

Airport officials are expecting \$1.53 million in revenues and will make up the \$1.35 million difference between revenues and expenses with \$1.4 million now tied up in investments.

Airport manager Fred E. Stewart said the commission will have to consider borrowing money to fund capital improvements in the future. Ninety percent of the cost of these improvements is paid for by federal and state grants but the airport must pay 10 percent and Stewart said that if all the money budgeted is spent next year, the airport will be left with only \$213,000 in reserves.

The village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights as airport co-owners would borrow the money but it would be repaid using revenues generated from hangar leases, fuel flowage fees and rental fees for T-hangars and tie-downs for smaller aircraft.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Commission approves plan to spruce up K mart's lot

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The corner of Dundee and Elmhurst Roads could be greener than usual this spring now that Wheeling plan commissioners have given approval to a plan that would spruce up the K mart's parking lot and bring a new look to the inside of the building.

While the interior remodeling plan calls for the relocation of some departments, some display replacement, the discontinuation of cafeteria service and the opening of a Little Caesar's Pizza at the front of the building, plan commissioners were most concerned with landscaping plans for the store's parking lot — which they have referred to in the past as a "sea of asphalt."

Under K mart's proposal, eight islands of trees, shrubs and grass would be constructed in the parking lot — a design that would give the appearance of breaking the parking lot into two smaller sections.

Construction of the islands would cut out some of the lot's 700 parking spaces but village code requires the retailer provide only 400 spaces.

Additional street trees, evergreen trees and shrubs are also proposed for the perimeter of the parking lot — running along Dundee and Elmhurst roads.

"This will be a tripling of the landscaping on the perimeter," said Mark Janek, village planner. "And the islands will create a corridor of trees going up to the building."

Many plan commissioners would have liked to see the retailer add even more landscaping to the site.

"We would like to see more," said Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold. "But we understand the problems K mart is having with the landowner and we know they are giving us the best they can give us at this time."

Although landscaping improvements are often taken on by the property owner, Janek and K mart representatives said he has been unwilling to pay for any of the exterior improvements.

Owner Don Geller, who has offices in Chicago, could not be reached for comment. K mart also plans to improve the front facade of the building by painting it and putting up a the new, smaller K mart sign.

The Wheeling village board is expected to look at the plans later this month and if they are approved, K mart representatives said they hope to have the work completed by early summer.

# Wheeling named Tree City USA

Wheeling has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. It is the second year Wheeling has received this national recognition.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards: a tree board or department, a city tree ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

3-3-92

3-3-92

3-10-92

3-19-92

3-12-92

# Local merchants adjusting after Wal-Mart

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE - 3-12-92  
Local merchants faced with their own personal World After Wal-Mart have found that maybe it isn't so terrible, after all. Some of them are even glad to see the price-cutting giant come.

"I personally am happy Wal-Mart opened," said Neil Jolcover, who owns the Stride-Rite childrens' shoe store in the Buffalo Grove Town Center on McHenry Road, just across Lake-Cook Road from Wal-Mart, which opened on the Wheeling side of the highway about a month ago.

One of the charter lessees of the shopping center at its opening three years ago, Jolcover acknowledges there has been a significant lack of traffic among the largely upscale stores there. Now, as shoppers drive down McHenry Road to the Wal-Mart and its sister membership store, Sam's Warehouse, they pass the Town Center, and might be reminded of its presence.

"I have a spring promotion, and I put signs in the window, which I've never done before," said

Jolcover, who sells most of his shoes to parents of children under six. Parents are concerned with childrens' growing feet at that age, according to Jolcover, and desire expert service and high-quality footwear.

Although there are probably more smiles to

It's a beautiful town. I can't get over it. No trash, no dope, no prostitutes on the street out front.

K-MART MANAGER Dan McCully

the aisle in Wal-Mart than many other department stores, since the training program of the discount giant emphasizes friendliness, the shopping is largely self-service, aside from the pharmacy and optical departments.

Alan Sear, who is a partner in two Buffalo

Grove and one Wheeling Mark Drugs stores, said he, too, is unconcerned about losing trade to Wal-Mart.

"We're service-oriented. We deliver, and we have in-store charges. They're not going to affect us much."

## Survival plan

Howard Bluestone, general manager of Wheeling's Ace Hardware store, is helping prepare a survival strategy for his new boss, Chip Parr. Bluestone and his brother sold the store to Parr not long after Allan made an impassioned speech before the Wheeling Village Board asking them not to allow Wal-Mart in, claiming it would harm local retail businesses.

But he said so far, the store is doing more than surviving. "I'm looking down at the cash registers now, and there are a bunch of people in line," he said.

Bluestone believes one of the major advantages (Continued on page 20)

tages a large hardware store has in the fight to retain market share is that it carries a lot of the more esoteric items Wal-Mart does not, and has people who know how they work.

"Wal-Mart carries the hot merchandise. They skim all the good A and B stuff," he said, meaning that they stock the 20 percent of total items that reflect 80 percent of sales. He said the 80 percent stays on the shelf longer, but he's satisfied that customers will know they can depend on finding it there.

"We're known as having a lot of strange things," said Bluestone.

"If you want to thread pipe, we're the only game in town. If you want an industrial mop wringer, we're one of the few games in town,"

he added.

He said in the face of the invasion of the Arkansas-based retailer, he and Parr are considering tool rental, something they have done little of. They want to win the customers who "need to use a nail gun, or a drop spreader, but don't want to invest" in the equipment for one or two uses.

## Sharp prices

He said Parr has taken the challenge forced on him by Wal-Mart to "keep prices sharp, and sharpen them more, and beat them with knowledge, friendliness and attitude."

Wheeling's K Mart store, at 780 W. Dundee Road, has a significant overlap in market with Wal-Mart. It will be the

benefactor, however, of a new push from the Detroit headquarters to modernize the stores. Now in the planning stages, the Wheeling store will receive hundreds of thousands of dollars to break up its 700-car parking lot with curbing and landscaping, shift and remodel its snack shop, and otherwise remodel the interior of the store. It will get new signage, and hopefully customers drawn by the K Mart TV advertising push.

K-Mart Manager Dan McCully said he came to town at the same time Wal-Mart did, and so couldn't tell if there was any difference in sales. The 36-year K Mart veteran was just glad to be in Wheeling and away from the last town he managed in.



Staff Photo

Phil Pritzker finds few free evenings lately, between his duties as a school member in District 21 and his activities promoting the Wheeling Recreation Center.

## Wheeling activist finds time to fight for cause

COUNTRYSIDE 3-12-92  
When Phil Pritzker leaves the house in the evening his children often ask, "What meeting is it tonight, dad?"

Pritzker's evenings are mighty busy these days. In addition to serving on the District 21 School Board, he is heading up an effort to win passage of a Wheeling Park District tax rate referendum.

"When you believe strongly enough about something of this nature you're willing to put out the effort," said Pritzker.

The Park District is going to the polls for a second time seeking a rate increase of 10 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation to pay for staffing and maintaining a proposed new recreation center. The proposal lost by 62 votes last fall.

The loss at the polls came as a surprise to Pritzker and others on the Friends of the Parks Committee. He said some residents were displeased that the question of whether to spend \$5.3 million for an outdoor aquatic center was not placed before residents in a referendum.

"A lot of people were just upset at how the aquatic facility was handled," said

Pritzker.

"A general anti-tax sentiment" didn't help the cause either, he said.

Now Pritzker is gearing up for the March 17 referendum. With primary races also drawing voters to the polls, getting a tax rate increase approved will be especially difficult.

"This time it's a grass roots effort, get-out-into-the-trenches kind of thing," he said.

## No chances

Wedge into Pritzker's free time are presentations to homeowners associations, PTA members and open houses at Heritage Park with slides showing how the new center would look. The mailing list has been broadened and supporters are placing "a lot more emphasis on broadening the phone call list" than they did they first time around.

"This time we're not taking any chances, we're taking it to every corner of the village," he said.

Pritzker pointed out that Wheeling's population has tripled in 20 years, but the park district has not raised

its recreation fund tax rate since 1970. The current community center, Heritage Park, was built in 1966.

"The present facility is used to the brim," he said. "It's overflowing."

The new facility would be 51,000 square feet and would house a gymnasium, activity room, pre-school rooms, running track, classrooms, an aerobics/dance room, arts and crafts room, teaching kitchen, multi-purpose room with stage, fitness room, board room and an administration area.

For Pritzker, an 8-year resident of Wheeling, a new recreation center could help alleviate the purported transient nature of the village.

"Wheeling has had a reputation over the years as being a temporary stop-over. Are there amenities to keep people here? Are there quality of life issues here? No to a large extent there aren't," he said.

"To broaden the appeal, make Wheeling a more inviting place, we feel it's a super investment in the community with a great return."

# Wheeling plan commission rejects bid by auto mechanic to relocate

3-13-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

There will be no Porsches, no Mercedes and no Jaguars for sale at the southwest corner of Dundee and Schoenbeck roads if the Wheeling village board goes along with the plan commission's recommendation Thursday to deny a Wheeling resident's attempt to relocate his business to that site.

After hearing from residents opposed to the plan and several customers in support of Lorenzo Semeria Jr., plan commissioners voted 3-2 to deny Semeria's request to move his foreign-auto repair business to that corner — considered the western doorway to Wheeling. And although trustees could go against the commission's recommendation, they very rarely do so.

Semeria wanted to add two service bays to the abandoned gas station now at that site, so that he and his father, Lorenzo Semeria Sr., could reopen their business, which until recently, was on Milwaukee Avenue.

While their main thrust is auto repair, the Semerias also sell autos on consignment.

Many of Semeria's customers came forward to urge plan commissioners to approve his request.

Carol Crane, a Lincolnshire resident who has worked in Wheeling for 11 years, said the village should "do anything," to keep him in town.

"I have worked with Larry during winter food drives," she said. "Sometimes we were the only people. He gives back to the community, volunteering his time and heart. To send him off someplace else doesn't make sense. Wheeling should be

proud to have him in this community."

But plan commissioners were reluctant to grant the special-use permit, because it would allow future owners to locate a used car lot on that site.

For a while, it appeared a glimmer of a compromise could be worked out that would allow Semeria's request to be granted. But commissioners and Semeria's attorney agreed that hope was slim.

"In my tenure on this board, I have seen us make accommodations for some bizarre situations," said Commissioner Frank Proietti, who voted against denial. "I am astonished there are no accommodations that can be made here. There is no serious attempt to work with the petitioner. Let's tell him that. How long are we going to drag this out?"

# Wheeling makes commitment to waste agency

4-1-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board reaffirmed its commitment to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County with its recent approval of two ordinances the agency needs its member communities to pass so it can restructure debt to pay for development of regional garbage disposal facilities.

The first ordinance approves a project-use agreement between Wheeling and SWANCC in which Wheeling agrees to send all of its residential garbage to the proposed Wheeling Township garbage trans-

fer station beginning Jan 1, 1994. Wheeling also agrees to having that garbage sent on to the proposed landfill near Bartlett — when it opens around 18 months later.

"The agreement keeps our commitment to SWANCC in place," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "We undertake a financial obligation but in return we have an assurance that we have a place to put solid waste."

And while Wheeling will eventually be billed by SWANCC for the amount of garbage it sends to the landfill, Anderson said he expects that cost to be covered by the fees residents will pay for garbage pick-

up. Now that the village has committed to sending all of its garbage into the SWANCC system, it will begin looking — within the next few months — for ways to make sure it can live up to its end of the bargain.

Currently, a village homeowner can contract with any garbage hauler that has a license with the village to pick up garbage. The company can then dispose of it at whatever landfill it chooses.

And that will have to change if the village is going to keep control of where its garbage goes.

Anderson said it is likely the village will look to franchise with one

garbage company to pick up all the village's trash to ensure it gets disposed of at SWANCC's Wheeling Township transfer station. And he said for the first time the village will look at having a hand in garbage disposal at its multi-family housing developments.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the upcoming discussion of a franchise agreement will give the village board another chance to look at ways to reduce the amount of garbage being sent to landfills.

"We will be looking at what kind of service we are going to have that will fit into our SWANCC agreement," she said.

# Residents rally against traffic in Eastwood

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling homeowners near a planned 85-unit home development are torn between their desire for quality structures nearby, and their concern over the practical effect the construction might have on their lives.

Village residents usually welcome the stabilizing effect of single-family homes built in their town, where about two-thirds of the housing stock is multi-family. Residents of Chelsea Cove and Kingsport Commons seem happy that Northbrook's Scarsdale Development wants to build custom homes starting at \$149,000 adjoining vacant property.

But they are not thrilled that cars belonging to their erstwhile neighbors would all pass through their subdivisions to get to the landlocked parcel, and some fear covering the prairie and swamps of the old Denoyer property would cause flooding in their own homes.

There are plenty of traffic problems in Chelsea Cove

already. Residents admit they see each other drive pell-mell through the winding streets of their developments, where sidewalks are rare. Pedestrians have no choice but to walk while constantly looking over their shoulders.

The Chelsea Drive entrance to Chelsea Cove is lined up where Elmhurst Road ends at Route 83. Residents say that over the years, strangers and drunk drivers have become confused, when what they thought was the continuation of northbound Elmhurst Road turned out to be a narrow, curvy local street.

Disoriented, they have been known to bounce off or drive through various obstacles, including a garage can and a safety island.

Scarsdale representatives claim the 85 homes they would build just north of Chelsea Cove would generate only 91 cars to ply Chelsea Drive and Denoyer Trail to get to them. Some residents claim the total would be closer to twice that.

Traffic engineer Dave Landeweer, hired by Scarsdale, told Wheeling plan

## Proposed Eastwood development

Northbrook's Scarsdale Development is planning 85 homes on a narrow parcel of land north of the Chelsea Cove and Kingsport Commons subdivisions. Residents appear glad to see single-family homes built, but they are unhappy that their new neighbors would have to drive their narrow streets to get to and from home.



Source: Scarsdale Development

commissioners at a hearing packed with residents last week that the traffic around Elmhurst and 83 is already so bad, the Eastwood homes could hardly make a difference.

But it might make a difference within Chelsea and Kingsport, especially to Tim Tucker, who bought a home years ago at what he thought was Chelsea Drive's

clean up."

Though Tucker's sewer complaints are not the rule in Chelsea, he's not the only one who sees a problem along the road to Eastwood.

"There are kids picked up for school right on the corner, and there are no sidewalks. And you want to put more cars there? You're nuts," said resident Tom Manson.

Not only do children play and wait for buses on the streets of Chelsea and Kingsport, but they walk to Chelsea's clubhouse, with its tennis court and swimming pool.

The problem hits close to home for Commissioner Ellen Ruter, who lives in

dead end. But Scarsdale staffers were told in February that the newer, wider Denoyer was inadequate to feed their development. An old right-of-way easement would have to be used to provide additional access to the new homes from narrow Chelsea Drive as well.

"I'm the poor sucker that's going to have the driveway in front of his

and being told there has been an accident.

"It's a Catch-22," she said Saturday. "We'd love to see it, but it would impact these people too much."

She said Scarsdale representatives "were smart in saying they wanted a continuance" last week. The developer won the commission's recommendation to the village board to change zoning to permit the construction. But several technical points were postponed, and remain for the commission to consider April 9, along with the needs expressed by the development's neighbors.

"I think they're going to come back with something,"

house," said Tucker Thursday, referring to the easement that today looks like a big, grassy yard.

Tucker figures he's taken enough abuse already. "I've had sewage build up twice in my unit there," he reminisced at the hearing. "The city's had to blow it out. I've had it coming into my house, which is real nice to

(Continued on page 8)

by Kingsport's developer.

But beyond that, neither Artman or anyone else can say what could allow vehicular traffic to move through the neighborhoods without causing hazards, both during construction and afterward.

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janek said there is no other way to provide adequate access to the property except as planned.

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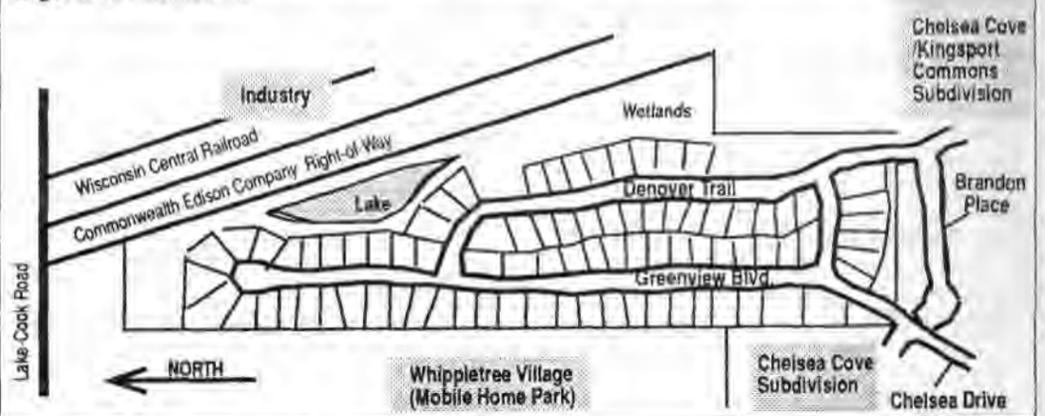
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The problem hits close to home for Commissioner Ellen Butor, who lives in Chelsea.

She's happy the house trailers of Whippetree Village didn't spread to the Denoyer property as was planned years ago, though she says Whippetree is pretty nice, as trailer parks go. She thinks a development like Eastwood, where homes are built largely to customer specifications, will increase her own townhouse's value.

But she also heard two mothers of small children tell at the hearing how they

dead end. But Scarsdale staffers were told in February that the newer, wider Denoyer was inadequate to feed their development. An old right-of-way easement would have to be used to provide additional access to the new homes from narrow Chelsea Drive as well.

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"I think they're going to come back with something," she said, meaning something designed to appease Chelsea. She may be right.

Monday, a Scarsdale representative asked to see the contract Kingsport has with Chelsea Cove, binding them to pay for a third of the maintenance of Chelsea's ponds.

The little lakes would receive overflow water from Eastwood, as they do from Kingsport. Chelsea Cove homeowner's association president Dan Artman has asked Scarsdale to make a gesture similar to that made

house," said Tucker Thursday, referring to the easement that today looks like a big, grassy yard.

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The embankment on Lake-Cook Road is too steep for an entrance there. Lots in Whippetree would have to be purchased to create access through there, and that community can withstand the increased traffic no better than Chelsea. An entrance over the railroad tracks would create too much hazard.

"There are no sidewalks on your streets," Janek told the throng of residents in the council room last week. "It is not the fault of the village, or of anyone else. It is the fault of the people who built your development," he said of the builder who went bankrupt before the job was done more than a decade ago.

Eastwood "is one of the most passive uses you could possibly have."

## Village hall to house fire safety talks, offer tours

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village hall, normally quiet on the weekends, will be alive with visits from seatbelt promoting dummies Vince and Larry, McGruff, the crime prevention dog, and demonstrations and tours today as the Wheeling fire and police departments hold an open house for the village's residents.

The open house will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the police and fire departments and the city council chambers at 255 W. Dundee Road.

This is the second year the fire department has invited residents to come and see its equipment and talk with firefighters and paramedics. And last year's event was so popular that the police department decided to join in.

The fire department will have a "survive alive house" so parents and children can learn proper techniques for exiting a burning house. Firemen will also set small fires in a sprinkler trailer that will demonstrate how residential sprinkler systems work.

Visitors to the open house can witness a fireman removing someone trapped in an automobile during a noontime demon-

stration.

Members of the department's underwater dive team, technical rescue specialists team and hazardous materials team will on hand to display their equipment and answer any questions.

Representatives of all units of the police department from the drug abuse resistance officer to the police chief will also be at the open house to greet residents and conduct tours of the department.

The department's new law enforcement explorer post, made up of high school students, will also be available to answer questions.

"We want residents to spend some time getting to know us and the fire department," said Barbara Kobishop, crime prevention officer. "We want to give them an accurate picture of what is going on and give them a chance to see where their tax dollars go. But this is also a family affair."

Visitors to the police department can tour the jail, witness a pistol range demonstration and tour the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System command vehicle.

Adults will also be able to ride on the "convincer," a sled that simulated the jolting effect on a slow-speed car crash. It is used to convince people of the importance of seat belts.

## Wheeling trustees approve budget with smaller figure

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village trustees passed a \$23.2 million budget Monday, down 2 percent from last year's \$23.6 million budget.

The budget, for fiscal year 1992-93, which goes into effect May 1, includes \$96,600 in funding for five social service agencies that serve village residents.

While seven agencies had requested funding, trustees for the second year decided against giving money to CEDA Northwest and Fighting Back — a northwest suburban high school District 214 community education program promoting substance abuse prevention.

"I don't feel we should be taking on any additional social service agencies," said Trustee Anthony Alterieri Jr.

While Trustee Judy Abruscato advocated a 3.5 percent increase in funding across the board for the agencies, Alterieri preferred an individual approach saying an across-the-board approach was not fair to those agencies receiving a smaller amount of funding.

Alterieri recommended in-

creases ranging from 4 to 5.1 percent.

Horizons Children's Center requested \$25,000 for next year, but Alterieri called that request absurd. And despite pleas from a Horizons board member, trustees voted to give the day-care center \$15,400, up 4.76 percent from last year's \$14,700.

Only one Wheeling resident spoke during a public hearing on the budget held before its passage.

"There is no respect for taxpayers here," said Steven Telow. "Government after government keeps raising our taxes."

However, village officials are expecting to collect \$5.9 million in property taxes next year, down 2 percent from this year's expected revenue of \$6.09 million. They also expect to collect \$1.6 million from the state income tax surcharge and \$3.08 million in sales tax revenues.

Village officials have called the budget a conservative one, but some capital improvement programs are continuing, including programs for street repairs, sidewalk construction and tree planting. The budget also includes the purchase of a new fire engine.

## Wheeling late-nighters may get new eatery

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents will probably soon be able to get something to eat all night long without leaving the village or opening their own refrigerator.

The International House of Pancakes has applied to open a 24-hour restaurant on Dundee Road. But you won't find it by looking for a blue roof rising above the trees. IHOP doesn't build those anymore, opting for bigger restaurants and flatter roofs.

This one is planned for the Arlington Club Commons shopping center, at Dundee and Huntington Lane. It would seat 124 diners, and take over an "end-cap" space, the three southernmost stores, giving the strip 70 percent occupancy for the first time.

Mindful of Route 68's status as a high-speed nighttime gauntlet, plan commissioners took measures to ensure that cars wouldn't fly westbound down Dundee at 40 mph, then continue into the parking lot without flagging their pace.

When they recommended the project to the village board, they told trustees they'd like to see speed bumps and additional cross-walk markings on the parking-lot pavement.

### Signage

Tuesday, the zoning

board of appeals will get a look at the project, and the chance to tell village trustees how big the Dundee Road-side sign should be.

"As large as possible," laughed IHOP President Richard Herzer, recognizing that IHOPs in general are a lot harder to find without a big blue roof.

"That thing in Wheeling will be invisible," said a manager of an area IHOP. "I was thinking about going for that location" as a franchisee "but that part of it stopped me."

"I just build 'em, and worry about franchising 'em later," said Herzer, calling from his California office. "People will come back for the food, and that's the issue."

The A-frame roofs were discontinued about eight years ago, mainly because too much fuel was wasted heating and cooling all that space between them and the ceiling, according to Herzer. But the chain of about 500 restaurants has a split personality, with 350 outlets retaining peaked roofs.

### New colors

"It is kinda crazy," said Herzer of abandoning a design visible for blocks and recognized all over the world. "But we can't build them anymore."

The roofs aren't the only thing that's different in the newer IHOPs. The insides



International House of Pancakes has applied to open a 24-hour restaurant on Dundee Road in Wheeling. If the village

grants the application, the restaurant would resemble this modern IHOP, without the traditional A-frame roof.

of the eateries are no longer decorated "in persimmon-and-blue; by definition, clash colors, move-em-out colors," said Herzer. Today, interiors are roomier and friendlier, decorated in peach, brass and glass, instead of harsh tones that psychologically induce diners to eat and leave quickly, according to Herzer.

He said there was "a great car count" on Dundee Road, leading him to believe there might be a lot of autos that would be turn-

ing into his new store. "And there are a lot of rooftops around there," meaning many homes full of people who might want to eat flapjacks and hamburgers and such. In the wee hours, the only competition would be a couple of Denny's and the Buffalo Grove Wag's.

He said a location at the nearby corner of Dundee and Buffalo Grove Road "would have been better, but, unfortunately, was not available."

One resident of the

Arlington Club condominiums told plan commissioners she thinks the corner would have been better, too, fearing that diners will cut through their streets all night to get to the IHOP. But they felt it wouldn't save drivers much if any time, and so would not be a common practice. The Huntington Road entrance to the Arlington Club needs to remain open for emergency access, and the lot of the shopping center would become perilous if it did not open onto Huntington.

# TCI cites increasing expenses in decision to hike rates by 5%

4-11-92  
 BY LARRY SMITH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Customers of TCI of Illinois cable TV company can expect a 5 percent rate hike in basic service this year, company officials announced.

The increase is caused by the cost of business expenses the company has incurred, Kelvin Fee, general manager, said.

On July 1, the rate for basic service in single cable communities will be increased 5 percent from \$16.71 to \$17.55 a month. Basic rates for dual cable communities will increase to \$20.95. Customers also will see Expanded Basic service, which includes the Arts & Entertainment, American Movies Classics, TNT, Court TV, ESPN and USA channels, increased from the current \$1.19 to

\$1.65. Encore, the newest premium service, will cost \$1.45.

"We continue to make every effort to control our costs and rates, but it is a fact, just as with every other business in our community, we face increased costs for insurance, telephone service, utilities, fuel and vehicle maintenance, property taxes and other operating expenses," Fee said.

However, as Fee admits, the bill customers will receive may be confusing. The company decided to create a separate line item on customers' bills for franchise fees it pays to municipalities. That amount is 5 percent of the company's revenues.

Cheryl Pasalic, communications administrator for Mount Prospect, said she can understand why resi-

dents might be confused by the increases.

Carole Stannard, executive director of the Northwest Cable Council, said the combination of separating the franchise fees and increasing the basic rates is poor timing.

"It almost makes the villages responsible for the rate increase when they're not," Stannard said.

With the 5 percent franchise fee added, customers will actually pay \$18.43 for single cable service, \$22 for dual cable, \$1.75 for expanded basic and \$1.50 for Encore starting July 1.

TCI serves Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Hanover Park, Bartlett and Wheeling.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Supporters keep plans for car shop relocation alive

4-15-92  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Thanks to a little help from his friends, a Wheeling man's bid to relocate his auto repair business on the southwest corner of Schoenbeck and Dundee Roads is still alive.

Last month plan commissioners voted 3-2 to recommend that the village board deny Lorenzo Semeria Jr.'s plan to operate a foreign auto repair business on the corner — considered the western doorway to Wheeling. But after hearing from several Wheeling residents who know Semeria and his father, Lorenzo Semeria Sr., at a recent village board meeting, trustees voted 3-2 against denying the request.

Of the several village residents attending the meeting, only one spoke against the auto repair business. And while she had signatures supporting her position from more than 100 neighbors, one neighbor charged that she exaggerated to get the signatures.

"When she came to my door she gave me information that was not totally incorrect, but was exaggerated," said Cheryl Witucke. "Had I not known the Semerias for the past 23 years and had I not

had more information, I might have been swayed. I was quite incensed by the accusations that were made."

Trustees also learned from a representative of Mobil Oil, current owners of the site, that plans to clean up contaminated soil would be put on hold if the Semerias' plans are not approved.

"The cleanup does not have to be done," said Chuck Wagner, of Mobil Oil's real estate division. "We have sites all over America that need cleaning up. We prioritize them by what is being sold."

Village President Sheila H. Schultz cast the tie-breaking vote that kept Semeria's plans alive.

"I thought there were enough questions still unanswered in terms of what the petitioner could do to respond to staff and board concerns," she said. "The special use classification allows us to set conditions for the operation of the business. That is why this is not clear cut."

Whether the Semeria's will return to the plan commission or simply try and work out some conditions with village staff and then go back before the village board is still unknown as Village Attorney James Rhodes researches the situation.

# Residents to choose traffic options

4-13-92  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of the Eastchester subdivision who have complained to the village of Wheeling about motorists cutting through their subdivision to avoid the intersection of Hintz and Elmhurst roads are being asked by village officials to offer their opinions on a couple of options to eliminate the problem.

The Eastchester Homeowners Association asked the police department to do a traffic study of the subdivision last fall. Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has recommended

some new traffic regulations for the subdivision.

However, because those regulations — which would be in effect between 4 and 6 p.m. — would inconvenience some of the subdivision's residents, trustees want to hear from them before making any changes.

"I wonder if the homeowners have thought through being held captive with one exit at Hintz Road from 4 to 6 p.m.," said Trustee Lois Gaffke.

The village board is considering either prohibiting right turns from Gregor and Kristy Lanes onto

Elmhurst Road or prohibiting left turns from northbound Garth onto Kristy and Gregor Lanes.

Trustees are concerned the homeowners association may not speak for all of the residents of the subdivision, so village staff sent letters to the homeowners association and residents of Gregor, Kristy and Hastings Lanes to let residents know they will take up the issue again April 20.

"If residents want the changes, that's fine," said Trustee William Rogers. "I don't want to get caught in the middle. If they say they don't want it, that should be fine also."



Daily Herald Map

# Budget OK expected after hearing

4-16-92  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will get their chance to comment on the village's proposed \$23.2 million spending plan at a public hearing during tonight's village board meeting.

After the public hearing, which will be held during the regular board meeting that begins at 8 p.m., village trustees will look toward passage of the budget for fiscal 1993 — which begins on May 1.

The budget is a conservative one — down almost 2 percent from last year's \$23.6 million budget.

If the budget is approved by trustees, it will be the second year that no new full-time positions will be added to the village staff.

Village officials also said they are curtailing capital expenditures to keep the budget down.

But Robert W. Fialkowski, finance director, said the village may have to consider alternative sources of revenue — including a home-rule sales tax, a utility tax or a food and beverage tax — in the future to bolster its coffers.

"We are not recommending any increase in fees or any increase in taxes because we are using the state

income tax surcharge as a revenue source," he said.

And Fialkowski said sales tax revenues have been down because of the recession. He said he expects the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club, opened late last February to generate significant sales tax revenue but he also said a number of smaller Wheeling retailers went out of business last year.

Village officials are expecting to collect \$5.9 million in property taxes next year, down 2 percent from this year's expected revenue of \$6.09 million. They also expect to collect \$1.6 million from the state income tax

surcharge and \$3.08 million in sales tax revenues which are collected and distributed by the state.

Also included in the budget is \$63,000 for a demolition participation plan in which the village would reimburse property owners along Milwaukee Avenue some of the cost for tearing down buildings on their property.

Village officials have identified 14 buildings along the thoroughfare they would like to see come down and are hoping to budget money to help take down five buildings each year until they are gone.

# Chelsea Cove residents bring gripes to panel

The plan commission cast a split vote on proposals for a new single-family development for the old Denoyer property. Now the village board will sort through complaints from Chelsea Cove residents.

By IRV LEAVITT

COUNTRYSIDE

The planning process involving the proposed single-family development on the old Denoyer property has become as much a critique of Wheeling Police service as a debate over the wisdom of building homes on the vacant land near Lake-Cook Road and Route 83.

Residents of neighboring Chelsea Cove have criticized police enforcement of parking, traffic and graffiti regulations in and around their own subdivision. They won-

Cove side would deter all but the most stubborn drivers. That way, narrow, winding, sidewalk-free Chelsea Drive would not carry added traffic to the new homes.

But that means Denoyer Trail, on the east side of Chelsea Cove and serving Kingsport Commons as well, would absorb all the cars bound for Eastwood's 85 homes if they're approved by the village council May 4. Police Chief Michael Haeger said there is no apparent necessity for any added stop signs on Denoyer to slow that traffic down.

Residents say they've requested the signs for years, and need them more with new development. They complained to plan commissioners at two recent meetings, and to Haeger at a homeowners' meeting in between. They said they haven't received the signs, and don't get other things they request of the police, either.

"I'm trying to get out of that business," said Haeger of the police's traditional job of researching the need for Wheeling traffic signs and devices, when requested by citizens and officials. He said Monday he's in the process of trying to negotiate it off the list of police responsibilities and into that of another village agency, freeing his own personnel for more active pursuits.

## Not up to standard

But he said a request for stop signs on Denoyer doesn't pass muster with federal standards anyway, according to his figures.

"In a one-hour period, there'll be 15 or 20 cars," he said, and U.S. guidelines recommend stop signs not be erected unless about 500 vehicles are coming through, when car counts are the criterion. Another criterion is accidents, and he counted 10 minor ones in the last three years.

"It's nice to know there isn't a large number of accidents," said resident Adam D'Auria. "But that doesn't take into account all the near-misses."

Like many residents, he worries about children walking to the Denoyer Trail recreational facilities, or waiting for school buses. The residents admit they and their neighbors are usu-

der whether they will have more complaints when new residents drive home through Chelsea Cove, if construction of Scarsdale Development's Eastwood proceeds as planned.

They and their Kingsport Commons neighbors didn't even get half what they wanted last week when they lobbied to keep traffic down, and to get help with water management, in the face of the development to their north.

Village Planner Mark Janeck said Monday the fire department will probably join the police in allowing the Chelsea Drive entrance to the new subdivision to be used for emergency use only.

## Denoyer traffic

A high curb on the Scarsdale side paired with another on the Chelsea (Continued on page 8)

Haeger said that a Chelsea-requested crosswalk on Denoyer will be painted this summer, stop signs or no stop signs.

## Unresponsive

D'Auria joined other residents in complaining police are unresponsive to their non-emergency calls. After Haeger accepted an invitation to come to a Chelsea Cove meeting last Wednesday, they were still complaining.

D'Auria and Daniel Artman, president of Chelsea Cove Homeowner's Association, were among those most critical of police responsiveness to requests for ticketing of illegally

**"I can have a car sit there for two hours, and in a two-hour period we might get two tickets. That's really not an efficient use of manpower."**

Chief Haeger

parked cars and speeding drivers within their subdivision.

"I've seen them myself go right by" illegally parked cars in Chelsea Cove, said Artman.

D'Auria said, "I've called the police department consistently — over a period of a week — and been told sometimes that people have an easement to park for a day or so. So I wait for a couple of days, and wait... and the cars are still there. And when I call in, I'm put off by the police officer on the phone."

"When I call, I've yet to see a police officer come down the street. I call, wait a few hours... even the next day, the cars are still there."

## Crazy quilt

Monday, Haeger said one of his problems is that the crazy-quilt of Wheeling subdivisions creates a myriad of parking restrictions that are hard for police officers to keep track of.

# Wheeling down \$.5 mil if Edgar sticks to his cuts

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Money due municipalities from the Illinois income tax surcharge was slashed 50 percent last year, and 25 percent for this coming year.

But last week, Governor Jim Edgar said the state budget was in such a fix, Illinois was keeping all of it.

Bob Fialkowski, Wheeling Finance Director, expects negotiations to result in some surcharge money coming to the cities. If Edgar got his way, it would result in about a \$500,000 difference in revenue. Wheeling is already paring fund balances by \$350,000 this year to keep taxes down.

"It would still be in time before we set our levy, so we would be OK for this year. But next year, we would have to look at other alternatives, like a home-rule sales tax or a real estate transfer tax, things we haven't done up to now."

"The people in the legislature made a deal, after a great deal of hand-wringing and gnashing of teeth. Now he wants to break it and I don't think that'll happen, knowing how this will affect the city of Chicago."

"A promise made is a promise kept," he

said, though he appreciates the fix Edgar is in with lower sales and income tax revenue. "People are not earning as much and they're not buying as much."

Deerfield Finance Director George Valentine said that he's not too worried about this year, either, with most of the surcharge money set aside for non-essential capital projects.

"Why do we do that?" he asked rhetorically. "Because we don't trust them."

"What he actually says and what he gets are two different things," said Valentine of Edgar. "He's a pretty powerful guy. Well, he will be until the next election."

He figures his village would take in about \$364,000 in 12 months of surcharge money under the deal Edgar is reneging on. There's \$340,000 worth of surcharge income budgeted on the revenue side of the Deerfield 1992-93 budget. The Illinois municipal league figures it comes out to \$21 for every one of Deerfield's 17,340 residents. Beyond that, Valentine can't explain how Illinois figures how the money is apportioned.

"They do it with black boxes, and guys dancing on fires waving chickens over their heads," he laughed.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sid (Continued on page 15)

Mathias said Tuesday, "I think it's ironic that a few weeks before the budget is to go into affect, all bets are off. After the staff put in all that work. The governor understandably has a major budget crisis, but he doesn't have to create another crisis with the villages. He can make promises of no new taxes on the shoulders of the villages, and that's what he did."

Buffalo Grove has about a half-million dollars worth of capital projects that would be paid for by the surcharge, but some obviously can be put off. There's \$175,000 set aside for a commuter station on the proposed Wisconsin Central line that can be saved.

"We don't even have a train yet," said Mathias. "Even though we want to make sure (Metra) realizes

were serious, we don't have to spend the money now."

"We had the foresight to plan ahead and make sure we were not going to use those funds to balance our budget," said Mathias. \$188,000 of the money would be used to pay for "those projects required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. We did not want to wait for deadlines, and wanted to make facilities ready as quickly as possible with funds that would come from the surcharge."

The village can afford to postpone planning the fire training center, and spending the \$72,000 those plans would cost. But that would mean another year of firefighters listening to lectures, sitting in the hall next to rooms too crowded to admit all the trainees.

stop calling. If it's illegal, they should take care of it."

Haeger replied that though his 53 sworn police officers are sufficient to control crime, his three community service officers and two traffic officers are overtaxed.

Haeger said new, enhanced roll-call training for patrol officers might help them learn how to ticket more efficiently, as the traffic officers and community service officers do. He said they are steeped in knowledge of traffic regulation, but work mainly during the day.

"People call and say cars are illegally parked, we go out and check it and they're often not illegal," said Haeger.

He added that if residents find the police unresponsive, they need not give up. "If they call the police, and don't get action, they need to call back and ask for the watch commander, or the deputy chief of field service, and if they don't get satisfaction, they can call me. If they want, if it's during the day, they can bypass both and call me right away."

When asked Monday what he could do about complaints of speeding within the two subdivisions, Haeger said, "I really don't think it's that big a problem."

"I can have a car sit there for two hours, and in a two-hour period we might get two tickets. That's really not an efficient use of manpower."

He said a check of typical speeds through Chelsea Cove was probably warranted, however, and would see that it was done before May 4 if the village manager requested it.

Last Wednesday, Haeger and the residents sparred over gang graffiti as well as traffic. Homeowners asserted the same graffiti remains on area stores for weeks, or longer. Haeger claimed it only seems that way, and that new taggings often appear as soon as the old are removed.

There is a new village law requiring property owners remove graffiti under threat of fine.

Complaints about police response are not the only worries of Chelsea Cove residents. They had yearned for a deal with Scarsdale to

# modern look

the parking Dundee and

stopped the work, he has only voiced his objections."

Owner Don Geller did not return phone calls.

Kmart has also agreed to be responsible for maintaining the new landscaping.

"We will hope the owner follows his pattern of objecting but not stopping (the work)," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "If there is anything the village can do, we certainly will try."

Kmart is hoping to start the interior remodeling of the store within the next few weeks and the landscaping shortly thereafter.

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Like many residents, he worries about children walking to the Denoyer Trail recreational facilities, or waiting for school buses. The residents admit they and their neighbors are usually the guilty parties when it comes to speeding and inconsiderate driving. They must be. Without Eastwood, they, their guests and people who are lost are the only drivers on the dead-end streets.

The village council could approve stop signs no matter what the police department opinion is, however.

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**Crazy quilt**

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"There are many unique parking situations," he added. "One part of a complex will have parking permitted on one side of the street, and not the others," he said.

After he made similar comments at the homeowner's association meeting, one woman said, "That's their job. That's why people

son Falkowski, Wheeling Finance Director, expects negotiations to result in some surcharge money coming to the cities. If Edgar got his way, it would result in about a \$500,000 difference in revenue. Wheeling is already paring fund balances by \$350,000 this year to keep taxes down.

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Wheeling's plan commission is only advisory. The final decision rests with village trustees.

why do we do that?" he asked rhetorically. "Because we don't trust them."

"What he actually says and what he gets are two different things," said Valentine of Edgar. "He's a pretty powerful guy. Well, he will be until the next election."

He figures his village would take in about \$364,000 in 12 months of surcharge money under the deal Edgar is reneging on. There's \$340,000 worth of surcharge income budgeted on the revenue side of the Deerfield 1992-93 budget. The Illinois municipal league figures it comes out to \$21 for every one of Deerfield's 17,340 residents. Beyond that, Valentine can't explain how Illinois figures how the money is apportioned.

"They do it with black boxes, and guys dancing on fires waving chickens over their heads," he laughed.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sid (Continued on page 15)

Mathias said Tuesday, "I think it's ironic that a few weeks before the budget is to go into affect, all bets are off. After the staff put in all that work. The governor understandably has a major budget crisis, but he doesn't have to create another crisis with the villages. He can make promises of no new taxes on the shoulders of the villages, and that's what he did."

Buffalo Grove has about a half-million dollars worth of capital projects that would be paid for by the surcharge, but some obviously can be put off. There's \$175,000 set aside for a commuter station on the proposed Wisconsin Central line that can be saved.

"We don't even have a train yet," said Mathias. "Even though we want to make sure (Metra) realizes

were serious, we don't have to spend the money now."

"We had the foresight to plan ahead and make sure we were not going to use those funds to balance our budget," said Mathias. \$188,000 of the money would be used to pay for "those projects required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. We did not want to wait for deadlines, and wanted to make facilities ready as quickly as possible with funds that would come from the surcharge."

The village can afford to postpone planning the fire training center, and spending the \$72,000 those plans would cost. But that would mean another year of firefighters listening to lectures, sitting in the hall next to rooms too crowded to admit all the trainees.

**modern look**

the parking Dundee and

king the immediate approval of erty, and has ,000 to the vil- if the owner ndscape work

eting the rent ney back into ick J. Goglia, le could possi- p them from owns several past he has not

stopped the work, he has only voiced his objections."

Owner Don Geller did not return phone calls.

Kmart has also agreed to be responsible for maintaining the new landscaping.

"We will hope the owner follows his pattern of objecting but not stopping (the work)," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "If there is anything the village can do, we certainly will try."

Kmart is hoping to start the interior remodeling of the store within the next few weeks and the landscaping shortly thereafter.

# Water rates increased due to costs

4-17-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will see slight increases in water and sewer bills now that village trustees have agreed to phase in a rate increase beginning May 1.

Village officials said increases in rates are needed to keep up with the rising cost of operating the plant and to begin to build a fund to be used to finance capital projects in the future.

This year's 5-cent increase is in response to concerns expressed by village trustees last year when the wa-

ter rate jumped 31 percent from 1.90 per 1,000 gallons to \$2.60.

At that time they said they would prefer to see the rates go up in smaller increments and more often so they were not socking residents with hefty increases that could put a kink in family budgets.

"I am happy we are looking at this every year," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "A small increment is a lot different than raising rates 30 percent. And a lot of people won't see the full impact of this increase until September."

This year the water rate will go up to \$2.65 per 1,000 gallons and the sewer

rate will go up to 41 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Village staff is in the process now of completing a water study that should help them determine the needs of the village in the future.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a third receiving point for Lake Michigan water and a tank may need to be installed at the south end of the village if that area grows as projected.

"The idea being that the south end — south of Palatine Road — needs more storage," he said. "If there is more residential and industrial development down there, we want to

make sure we can serve them."

The village would have to take down an old water tank and install a larger one at a site near the intersection of Wolf and Old Willow roads.

With the passage of the increases, trustees also passed a provision that would allow the village finance director to waive water and sewer bill late fees, once every two years and only if the resident has a record for paying the bill on time.

It is estimated that 10 percent of the village's 2,000 water users pay their bill late each quarter.

# Consultant search puts Palwaukee planning in limbo

4-18-92

By ARNOLD  
Staff Writer

Future development at the new Municipal Airport is on hold until the Prospect Heights City Council approves plans to hire a property assistance consultant.

The delay in approval is due to the fact that

the airport commission selected the third lowest bid, instead of the lowest, for the consultant services.

"The lowest bidder provided an incomplete bid, and (as for) the second lowest, we have had experiences with them that were less than desirable," explained Stewart. "You should not necessarily go with the lowest bid. You should go with quality."

The airport needs the consultant to

help them come into compliance with the Federal Relocation Assistance Act, an act that provides security for people whose property is bought by a government entity. The consultant, according to Stewart, would act as a liaison between the airport and the property owners whose land the airport intends to purchase. The consultant also would provide those owners with information to help them through the reloca-

tion process.

Airport officials need to acquire 36 more parcels of land for the relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads.

The intersection of the two roads must be moved west to create a Federal Aviation Administration required clear zone at the end of the airport's longest runway.

The first phase of construction,

scheduled to begin in 1993, is the construction of two bridges over the Wheeling drainage ditch — one for each road. Construction of the two bridges is expected to cost about \$2 million.

In addition to the delay on approval for the consultant, the city of Prospect Heights also has not yet approved the airport's budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year. The budget was

tabled by the council to give them more time to examine it.

The Prospect Heights City Council is scheduled to look at both issues again Monday.

"As far as the board is concerned if the airport doesn't have an approved budget by the first of May they cannot approve expenditures," said Stewart. "It doesn't stop us altogether, but it slows us down."

## MAN REPORT

### Planning to restrict vehicles through subdivision

4-21-92

By KATH  
Staff Writer

Trustees and residents of Eastchester subdivision Monday to try to prohibit motorists from turning left onto Eastchester Road from Eastchester between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to reduce traffic problems.

Trustees said they are considering prohibiting right turns from Gregor and Kristy Lanes onto Elmhurst Road or prohibiting left turns from northbound Garth onto Kristy and Gregor Lanes.

Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said prohibiting the left turns from Eastchester would be the easiest option to enforce.

"From a police department perspective I can almost ensure the message would get across real fast with five straight days of enforcement."

However, O'Rourke was reluctant to recommend that a stop sign also be installed at the intersection of Garth Road and Christy Lane to slow down traffic.

"What we have found with stop signs is that people usually speed up between them to make up time," he said.

"Whatever we do some people are going to be inconvenienced and aggravated," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "To assign a disproportionate number of police cars and spend a disproportionate amount of time discussing this is going to be very difficult to justify to the entire village."

Village officials also were considering prohibiting right turns from Gregor and Kristy Lanes onto Elmhurst Road or prohibiting left turns from northbound Garth onto Kristy and Gregor Lanes.

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"What we have found with stop signs is that people usually speed up between them to make up time," he said.

## Parkway trees undergo spraying

COUNTRYSIDE 4-23-92

Wheeling residents can get all their parkway trees that are infected with cottony maple scale sprayed for \$15 each.

Cottony maple scales are prolific insects that attack and kills many North American native and non-native trees and shrubs. They take on the appearance somewhat similar to that of tiny brown leaves.

In the summertime, they become covered with a light-colored secretion which protects its eggs.

The insect attacks woody plants throughout the United States.

lene Hendricksen, of Robert W. Hendricksen Co. of Des Plaines, immediately. The tree service company's phone number is 824-3302.

Residents can use any qualified tree service contractor they wish, however. The Wheeling contract with Hendricksen was granted April 6.

The village maintains that for the program to be effective, all trees with the insects present should be treated. The trees are sprayed with a dormant oil.

Village officials said all trees must be sprayed before the emergence of leaves for the process to be effective.

Residents with questions about the critters or the program should call the Wheeling Operations and Maintenance Department at 459-2624.

### Deadline

Officials say the trees will be sprayed prior to May 1, so residents are advised to get their requests in to Dar-

# Tuesday - April 28, 1992 Board looks down the road at bus costs

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District Commissioners, expecting to pay nearly \$70,000 for a new bus, have already begun looking to create a nest egg for the next new bus purchase 10 years or so down the road.

And at least one commissioner advocates increasing the fee for events in which the new bus is used to create a fund to pay for the next bus.

"If we tack on a minimal fee extra instead of pushing it and only covering our direct costs we may be able to get a newer one sooner next time because we have a nest egg," said

Commissioner Greg Klatecki.

The park district is looking to replace its school bus — fondly referred to as the "pickle" because of its green color — with a modern handicapped-accessible bus that would seat 29 people. The "pickle" was given to the park district in 1979 by the village.

Superintendent of Recreation Arnie Biondo said the fees for trips on which the bus is used are priced so the park district recoups the money it pays a driver and the money it spends on gasoline for the trip.

But he said parts and service costs are not figured into the fee, a policy to which Klatecki and at least one

other board member objected.

"When you rent a bus they charge you for everything," said Commissioner Edward Klocke said. "Why can't we do that here?"

Klatecki pointed to other park district programs — such as youth baseball — where he said all of the costs of the program are paid by the participants, saying that programs that require bus transportation should be no different.

But Board President Thomas Webber was against adding a surcharge to park district programs to pay all the costs of the bus.

Commissioner William Mattes expressed concern that the new bus

will have to be parked outside — at least until the new recreation center is built on Dundee Road.

"I don't want it sitting anywhere where it can be vandalized," Mattes said. "Its long life would be enhanced by housing it inside."

Mattes suggested looking toward working out a deal with the village that would give the bus a garage at the municipal complex. Commissioners also are hoping the village might be willing to pick up part of the tab for the bus because many of the park district programs it is used for originate out of the Pavilion Senior Center which is a village-funded program.

## Cost of 911 in Wheeling virtually same as last year

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Emergency Telephone System board approved a \$278,000 budget for the village's Enhanced 911 phone system for next year, down less than 1 percent from last year's \$280,000 spending plan.

Although village trustees — who are joined on the telephone system board by the fire chief, the police chief and the police department's communications supervisor — approved the budget as part of the village's overall spending plan earlier this month, state law requires that the emergency telephone system board also approve the plan.

Expenditures from the Enhanced 911 budget are paid for with revenues generated from the 75-cent monthly fee Wheeling residents pay to receive 911. Village officials said that fee would not increase as a result of passage of next year's budget.

Included in the budget is \$34,200 in payments to Illinois Bell for the monthly maintenance of the village's seven incoming 911 phone lines.

Also included is \$150,000 for

software and personal computers to implement a computer-aided dispatch system. The total expense for the system is expected to be nearly \$300,000 with the village paying for half of the cost in fiscal 1992-93, beginning May 1, and the remaining half in fiscal 1993-94.

The computer-aided dispatch system will give dispatchers the capability to send addresses and phone numbers now stored in the 911 computer banks directly to police and fire vehicles.

And while it will mean the police department will not need to use the radio for confidential crime calls, it also will benefit the fire department. "We will be able to plug in pre-planning information," said Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac. "We can call up the specifics about occupancy, any hazardous materials and a floor plan of the building from the nearest vehicle."

Wheeling voters approved the Enhanced 911 system in a referendum in November 1990. The system has been operating in the village since July 1991.

The budget also calls for \$20,000 to be spent on maintenance agreements.

## Planners fit Sportmart into redevelopment plans

BY RICK TILLER  
and BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Sportmart Inc.'s plans to expand its Wheeling store has village officials looking for a way to ensure their approval of that expansion does not hamper plans for the tax increment financing district in which the sporting goods store is located.

Representatives of Sportmart Inc., recently asked for plan commission approval of a site plan that would expand the sales floor space at the store, on the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, from 32,000 square feet to 42,000 square feet, about equal to the selling space of its stores in Schaumburg, Niles and other areas, according to Sportmart Executive Vice President Sanford Cantor.

The expansion is necessary to help the store's merchandising efforts, particularly now that the Kmart-owned Sports Authority is planning to expand into the area and present Sportmart Inc. with major competition, according to James Conroy, director of construction for Sportmart.

And although the plan commission approved the remodeling plans, it did so with the condition

that Sportmart would be willing to sell some of its property in the future if TIF district developers need it for the overall development of the site.

Village officials are in the process of seeking to forcibly acquire several of the parcels of land around Sportmart for development. Village Planner Mark Janeck said site plan approval for the expanded sporting goods store without any conditions would take away some of the village's authority over the site.

Conroy and Sportmart attorney Donna Pugh told the plan commission that the company is willing to grant the village access to the TIF property, but balked at the recommendation by Janeck to subject the site plan approval to an agreement concerning the development of the whole TIF District.

Commission chairman Paul Eisterhold reworded the caveat to read that the recommendation to approve be "subject to the approval of a development agreement by the village board that Sportmart be incorporated into the development of the adjacent properties."

The village board is expected to take up the Sportmart remodeling plans in May.

## Trustees send message with 'no' vote

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With their recent votes against a special-use permit for a liquor store in one of Wheeling's strip shopping centers, three trustees drove home the point that they think the village has enough liquor stores.

But they also were registering a protest vote against the owner of the Center Plaza shopping center, at the corner of Dundee and Wolf Roads, who they say promised them more "upscale" types of stores when he asked for their approval of plans of the shopping center in 1988.

Trustees William Rogers, Elizabeth Hartman and Judy Abruscato voted against granting a special-use permit to Scott Matiya, owner of Brook Run Liquors in Arlington Heights. Matiya was hoping to open a second liquor store in the Center Plaza shopping center.

"We were told this shopping center would be upscale — better looking than usual," said Rogers. "I'm still looking for that. I don't mean to denigrate what's there but I don't think we are getting an upscale operation."

Among the stores now located in

the shopping center are a video store, a Subway sandwich shop and a Mexican fast-food restaurant.

Rogers said it was his understanding the center would have tenants that were more "sophisticated and subtle" than the current group, citing the Riverside Shopping Plaza at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue as an example of the mix of stores he thought would inhabit Center Plaza.

"Riverside has its pizza emporiums to be sure," Rogers said. "But it also has its Swedish furniture store and an office supply store."

But Gust Tourlis, owner of Center Plaza, said he does not remember saying what type of stores would occupy the center and plan commission minutes of the public hearings held on the development in 1988 show no discussion relating to that issue.

And Matiya resented the implication that his store was not "upscale" enough for the shopping center.

"I don't know what his (Rogers') definition of upscale is," said Matiya. "It is a neighborhood shopping center there to serve the neighborhood. If you look at the mixture of stores there, that is the way it is designed."

## Wheeling cop suspended over unnecessary use of force

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police officer has been suspended for 30 days without pay after pleading guilty to misconduct charges brought against him by Chief Michael Haeger.

Patrolman Kenneth R. Sheffler — an eight-year veteran of the force — waived his right to a hearing before the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on April 21 and pleaded guilty to the charge of use of unne-

cessary force in the handling of a drunken driving suspect in the police station.

He also pleaded guilty to removing, without authorization, a videotape of the incident from the department's evidence room and to lying during an administrative review hearing, where he denied he approached the suspect and said he had permission from a supervisor to take the videotape home.

While Haeger refused to discuss specifics of the October 1991 inci-

dent, the complaint filed against Sheffler states the degree of force he used in restraining the suspect "was neither necessary or appropriate."

The charges also state Sheffler "untruthfully denied that he approached the subject on Oct. 11, 1991, with a telephone cord and further was not truthful when he stated that he had the permission of a superior officer to remove the videocassette."

Sheffler's attorney, Noel T. Wroblewski of the Combined Counties Po-

lice Association, would not comment on why Sheffler waived his right to a hearing.

"At this time the whole entire matter has been settled and I have no comment on it," he said.

Haeger said the charges were filed as a result of internal review — not as a result of a complaint by the suspect, who was not injured.

"The situation was discovered by the department's internal audit of all use-of-force incidents," he said. "Our system requires all officers in-

involved in the use of force or the threat of the use of force to prepare a report, and we also view the videotapes of the booking room when we see a use-of-force report."

He said in this instance, Sheffler did not exhaust all avenues of verbal persuasion to enlist the suspect's cooperation before using force.

No other police officers were charged in the incident.

Haeger would not say if Sheffler has been the subject of disciplinary action in the past.

## Well-known mortuary co

BY RICK TILLER  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling could become the home of a well-known mortuary college if village trustees go along with the recent plan commission approval of the school's plans to occupy a now-vacant building in the Northgate Parkway industrial district.

The Worsham College of Mortuary

Science, described by attorney Kenneth Rawson as the "Harvard of this kind of school," would attract prospective funeral home operators from all over the world — the most distant alumnus hails from Ghana — to study the "business, decorum and biology" of the funeral business, Rawson said.

While classes in anatomy, pathology, restorative art and microbiology will be taught on the site, Wors-

ham co-owner Bruno Bares involving the use of including Embalming and Anatomy Dissection, taught at the Cook County Forensic Medicine, and of indigents from the City Morgue.

The former office and building will be converted into some indoor parking in the house area, which, vill-

### ON HORATIO SUEWALK

BUFFALO GROVE — A resident's sidewalk was painted with black spray paint in the 300 block of Horatio Boulevard. The graffiti was indicative of gang symbols, police said. Estimated damage is \$100.

### Bike stolen from Green Knolls house

BUFFALO GROVE — A Schwinn Blossom bicycle was taken from a residence in the 1200 block of Green Knolls Drive. The owner apparently left the \$117



ter the agent left briefly, A duty Deerfield police comm and the agent chased and fi caught Foster on Aptakisic just south of Lake-Cook Ro

### Man charged with trying to steal film

WHEELING — Police ar a Chicago man on charges tail theft after he allegedly tempted to steal six packs dak film worth \$37 by plac them under his clothing an

# Central Wheeling in for major repairs

4-30-92

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

This month central Wheeling will see the beginning of both its street reconstruction and watermain repair projects, and the disruption of traffic that goes along with such endeavors.

But Public Works Department officials said the hassle should be kept at a minimum. All of the street repairs are in industrial areas, and according to contract, streets will be closed to apply asphalt on Saturdays only. And the old pavement and underlayment will usually be torn up one-half at a time, to allow traffic on the intact side.

Meadowbrook West's chronic watermain breaks will presumably come to an end as the last of the three-decades-old subdivision's watermains are replaced beginning next week. Old cast-iron pipe will be replaced by sturdier ductile iron mains, wrapped in polyethylene plastic for extra protection.

Some of the subdivision's 6-inch mains will be replaced by eight inchers

for better flow, according to Wheeling Director of Operations Robert D. Gray.

## Cast iron

The cast iron mains in the subdivision's west end were replaced earlier in the decade, in work finished in 1986. At the end of 60 days, watermain work by Di Meo Brothers of Park Ridge should be substantially completed on the east end, up to Wolf Road. Their bid of \$267,348 was lowest, and won the job.

"Substantially completed" means the new mains have been laid in the street, the water flow has been transferred to them, and the street has been filled in so as to be driveable. Water will be shut off for as short a time as possible.

"We're shooting for under two hours," said Scott Shirley, assistant operations director.

The old mains are in the parkways, but the new ones will be in the street, about five feet from one of the curbs. The service lines to the houses will remain the same, but be extended into

the street to join the new mains. Gray said if driveways are torn up to connect service lines, they will be replaced by the contractor. Grass dug out of the parkways will also be restored, according to Shirley.

## Brittle

He said the old cast iron mains became brittle, largely due to corrosive soil conditions, and broke more readily when heaved by frost or shaken by truck traffic. Though cast-iron mains abound throughout the village, whether they hold up depends on the soil they were laid in and how well they were installed, according to Gray.

The street work is scheduled to be done by Peter Baker and Son of Lake Bluff within 50 working days of their scheduled May 4 startup, though Gray said they may begin work later due to weather-related delays on current jobs. The contractor will still be held to the 50-day obligation, he said, and will probably have no trouble making the deadline on the \$632,000 job.

Gray said curb work along driveways entering

## Wheeling public works projects

Water mains will be replaced and roads will be repaved beginning the first week in May.



Pioneer Press graphic

plants will be confined to one side at a time if the drives are wide enough. He said all plant owners have

been notified, and can ask for special consideration to allow normal conduct of their businesses.

# Sportmart expansion proposal placed on hold by Wheeling

5-9-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sportmart Inc. officials, hoping to get approval for plans to enlarge their Wheeling store, came away empty-handed Thursday.

Members of the village board said they could not approve the plans until an agreement between the company and the village has been worked out regarding future development in the village's tax increment financing (TIF) district.

While trustees said they did not see any problems with Sportmart's proposal to add 10,000 square feet to the store at 240 E. Dundee Road, they said they were reluctant to approve the plans until the village and the sporting goods company could hammer out an agreement on how

the store will fit in with the retail development they are hoping to build on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

There is also some question about who will be the developer of the vacant land now owned by Wheeling Associates, the developer of Sportmart. While Sportmart representatives are pitching a plan that would see them develop the parcel, which is to the east of Sportmart and big enough for a 12,000-square-foot building, the village could also buy the land and sell it to the developer of the rest of the shopping center.

James Conroy, construction director for Sportmart, said he would like to see approval of the site plan now so the addition would be finished by the back-to-school shopping season. He said he needs to have village per-

mits for the project by June 1 if it is to be completed by Aug. 1.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said while the trustees do not want to delay the addition, they also need time to look over the developer's agreement that plan commissioners said should accompany trustees' approval of the Sportmart site plan.

"We understand your timing concerns, but we are not in a position to give site plan approval tonight," Schultz said.

Conroy said Sportmart has agreed to add onto the front of the building even though adding onto the east would be easier and about \$250,000 cheaper because village staff was concerned that building onto the eastern edge of the store would hamper traffic flow in the proposed TIF district.

# Despite protest, Wheeling backs pancake house plan

5-5-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved plans for an International House of Pancakes in the Arlington Club Commons Monday, despite objections from residents of a neighboring Buffalo Grove condominium complex.

Nearly 90 residents of the 110-unit Grove Terrace Condominiums voiced concerns about the odors and traffic problems they said would lower their standard of living if the pancake house moved into three vacant storefronts in the shopping center, at the corner of Dundee Road and Huntington Lane.

The village of Buffalo Grove also sent a representative to oppose the plan. Martin Silvernik, chairman of the Buffalo Grove Plan Commission, said approving the IHOP would go against Wheeling's own zoning regulations.

"This is more appropriate for a highway commercial district than a neighborhood shopping district," he said.

Grove Terrace resident George Collons presented trustees with a petition with 90 signatures oppos-

ing the restaurant, which could be open 24 hours.

And he painted a problematic picture for residents of Grove Terrace who, he said, would be subjected to motorists' turning around in their complex and the noise of the food deliveries and trash pickups behind the restaurant.

But John Baird, regional real estate manager for IHOP, said deliveries would be made during the day, with none after 7 p.m., and that garbage pickup times could be arranged so as not to inconvenience the residents.

And Baird said that although his company wanted the option of being open around the clock, he was not sure they would, indeed, be open all those hours.

"We don't know what hours we will be open yet," Baird said. "If there is sufficient business, we would like to be open 24 hours."

Baird said that while the restaurant will initially be owned by IHOP, eventually it will be franchised.

Owners of other shops in Arlington Club Commons supported the pancake house, saying it would bring much-needed traffic to the shopping center.

# Scarsdale Homes clears final hurdle

5-8-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board's recent approval of a plan that will bring 85 single-family homes to Wheeling brings to an end what was — at times — a heated debate over traffic and flooding problems in the village.

Scarsdale Homes received the unanimous support of trustees for its plan to put the homes on a 30-acre parcel of land between Lake-Cook Road and the Chelsea Cove and Kingsport Commons subdivisions. But it was not an easy road for the developer, who had to win over the

homeowners groups from Chelsea Cove and Kingsport Commons and who did not receive a favorable recommendation plan commissioners who, in a 3-3 deadlock, sent the plan to trustees with no recommendation.

Residents from the two neighboring subdivisions were concerned the development would cause flooding in their back yards and streets. They were also concerned because the only access to the new Eastwood subdivision will be on Denoyer Trail.

And while there were still a few holdouts against the subdivision to speak to the village board, members of the homeowners associations for both Chelsea Cove and Kingsport

Commons said their concerns had — for the most part — been addressed by representatives of Scarsdale Homes.

"The board of directors of Chelsea Cove is satisfied that storm water runoff will not affect us," said David Cantarell, a member of the board. "But we are looking for a way to control traffic. We realize that someday that land will be developed and we are happy with the low density of this use."

Although the new subdivision will be accessible only on Denoyer Trail, Chelsea Drive will become a one-way street into the subdivision for emergency vehicle use only.



Daily Herald Map

# Police to study Chelsea Cove traffic

# Officer suspended for use of force

Scarsdale Development has apparently won over Chelsea Cove residents, but village officials have a ways to go before the neighborhood rests its beef over traffic.

## Proposed Eastwood development

Northbrook's Scarsdale Development is planning 85 homes on a narrow parcel of land north of the Chelsea Cove and Kingsport Commons subdivisions. Residents appear glad to see single-family homes built, but they are unhappy that their new neighbors would have to drive their narrow streets to get to and from home.



Source: Scarsdale Development

Pioneer Press Graphic

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Chelsea Cove residents relented in their battle against the 85 homes of Scarsdale Development in their backyard. But they stood fast in their demand for safer conditions in their own subdivisions.

They met with Scarsdale representatives Monday night, then came to a village board meeting ready to accept the Eastwood homes project they had fought for weeks. No longer worried about water runoff, and resigned to the use of their Denoyer Trail as access for planned homes, they supported the village trustees, who approved the development for construction.

But they repeated long-standing complaints about traffic enforcement in their subdivision, and their requests for new stop signs.

"For five years, we've been asking through our management company for crosswalks and stop signs, and patrols for speeding. It's a big concern, and it gets bigger all the time," said David Cantwell, a Chelsea homeowner's association director, adding that his neighbors' complaints were directed "more at the governing bodies and not the developer."

## Speed study

After the Monday night meeting, Village President Sheila Schultz said she directed Manager Craig Anderson to order the police department to conduct a study to see if stop signs on Denoyer Trail are war-

ranted.

Earlier that same day, Police Chief Michael Haeger said his staff had begun a study of typical speeds in the subdivision, but it had not been completed yet.

In a speech before the village board, Scarsdale attorney Gerald Tenner had said, "Some residents (of Chelsea Cove and neighboring Kingsport Commons) complain of lack of enforcement of no-parking restrictions and existing speeding laws, despite our development."

"We heartily concur that the village should enforce its traffic laws... and add stop signs where required."

## Heavy traffic

Chelsea and Kingsport residents expressed fear of construction traffic entering the new subdivision through their own.

Cantwell said he knew the heavy equipment "would come barreling through Denoyer trail, way too fast to stop if any of our children are out there."

At the behest of Trustee William Rogers, an amendment was tacked to the ordinance requiring Scarsdale to be responsible



Geoff Scheerer/Pioneer Press

Chelsea Cove residents have relented in their opposition to 85 more homes being built next to their subdivision, but are still angry about traffic speeds on their streets.

for any damage caused while trucking through Chelsea and Kingsport.

Cantwell reiterated frustration at Haeger's wish to remove his department from studies about Wheeling traffic signage and signals. Schultz nodded, saying that it "was a recurring problem with the stop signs." Later, she said that Haeger continues to be responsible for guiding the village in such matters.

She also agreed with a

resident that Wheeling seemed to have exhibited poor planning to allow Chelsea to be built as it is, with few sidewalks, and its primary entrance at the confluence of two major streets, Elmhurst Road and McHenry Road.

Last week, another in a long history of drunk or confused drivers missed the turn at the intersection, and ran onto Chelsea property, killing a tree.

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger revealed last week that he had suspended Patrolman Kenneth Scheffler for 30 days without pay on charges of using unnecessary force to restrain a drunk driving suspect last fall, among other charges.

The eight-year veteran waived his right to a hearing before the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners April 21, and instead accepted the suspension.

Haeger refused to discuss what Scheffler may actually have done in the detention room at about 3 a.m. early on the morning of Oct. 11th. Scheffler was unavailable for comment.

The actual charges, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, said Scheffler had used unnecessary force while helping another officer restrain the suspect.

The charges state, in part, that "Officer Scheffler used unnecessary force in restraining the aforementioned subject in that the degree of force used by Officer Scheffler in assisting (another officer) in restraining the subject was neither necessary nor appropriate."

"Officer Scheffler untruthfully denied that he approached the subject in custody on October 11, 1991, with a telephone cord..."

Haeger said he charged Scheffler despite no complaint having been brought by the arrestee. He said that whenever force is used, a report is filed and investigated by the department.

In this case, that investigation included perusal of an automatic videotape of the detention area, where the incident occurred. Portions of the incident were recorded on the tape, according to Haeger.

Haeger said that Scheffler admitted to taking the tape from the department

(Continued on page 18)

# Wheeling board continues talk of home-business ordinance

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposed ordinance that would make it legal to operate some home businesses in Wheeling continues to make its way slowly toward becoming law, with village trustees taking a look at it again Monday.

Home businesses are now prohibited under village code, but officials concede that code has been almost impossible to enforce. And some trustees are worried a new ordinance would meet the same fate.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village only enforces the ordinance if someone is obviously running a business from the home or if neighbors complain because the business has become a nuisance. That would be the way a new ordinance would be enforced, also, he said.

Trustees first took up the home-business issue late last year. They asked plan commissioners to spend some time drafting a new ordinance. So plan commissioners spent several months scrutinizing language and mulling the intent of the proposed ordinance.

The result was a proposed ordinance that listed both prohibited and permitted businesses and required all residents operating home businesses to register with the village annually and pay a \$20 licensing fee.

Under the proposal, some of those that would be allowed to operate businesses out of the home included attorneys, accountants and architects.

However, trustees diluted the plan commission's recommendation, doing away with both the licensing fee and the registration process.

"It might be best to start out easy from there," Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said.

While Trustee William Rogers was afraid the licensing fee would keep people from registering, he also said registration would help village staff enforce the proposed ordinance.

"Wouldn't registration be a way of telling these people the rules?" he said. "My biggest concern is still enforcement."

Trustees have yet to vote on the ordinance, which will be reworked one more time and brought back before they vote on it later this spring.

property room after the Oct. 11 incident, and admitted to lying about it.

But Haeger added that the apparent purpose behind the officer's alleged removal of the tape was so that he could watch it at home, to see what it contained, not to deprive the department of evidence against him.



H. Rick Barnman/Pioneer Press

### May day, may day

Pavilion center senior get all tied up in their May Day celebrations, as the partake in the

traditional May Pole dance. Gertrude Trunda was crowned super senior.

## Grove Terrace residents oppose Wheeling IHOP

*CountrySide*  
By IRV LEAVITT 5-7-92  
STAFF WRITER

Angry opponents of a planned 24-hour IHOP in the Arlington Club Commons shopping strip thronged Wheeling Village Hall Monday night to protest against it.

Wheeling trustees listened to them — residents of Buffalo Grove's Grove Terrace condos, next door to the site — and then unanimously voted to approve the restaurant.

Residents worried that the pancake palace would increase the amount of noisy collection of smelly garbage a few dozen feet from their windows.

And they fretted about traffic in and around the center's parking lot, which will now lose all its remaining theoretical capacity to customers of the proposed International House of Pancakes restaurant, with 30 percent of the center still not leased, according to Wheeling staffers.

The neighbors also had reservations about a 24-hour restaurant on Dundee Road, a street that already has a lot of night-time, week-end traffic.

### Late night types

"We know what a gathering place it would be for, I don't want to say, undesirable," said Ethel Sadowsky of Grove Terrace. "But you know what kind of people there are going to be. . ."

"Who knows? There'll be motorcycles — they might be attracted to this kind of place. And my bedroom faces that."

IHOP representative John Baird said that the Wheeling store would not necessarily be open 24 hours every night, but might do so on weekends or, perhaps, not at all. He said the only one of the dozen or so Chicago-area IHOPs that is open 24 hours, seven days a week, is the Evanston store.

"Franchisees would like to make as much money as they can out of their restaurant investment," said Baird. He drew scattered guffaws when he said that prospective Friday or Saturday late-night cus-

tomers would want to drop in after "going to movies, or bowling, whatever."

The Buffalo Grove residents may have been pondering the Evanston location, across Howard Street from Chicago, within a mile of over a dozen taverns that close hours after midnight. The Wheeling location will be on Dundee Road, already an eastbound highway leading from bars in Rolling Meadows and Arlington Heights, and a westbound route from Milwaukee Avenue taverns.

### Fine with Wheeling

But Wheeling residents did not express concerns about how a 24-hour restaurant could change their lifestyles, and neither did the Wheeling Police. At a March plan commission meeting about the restaurant, only one Wheeling resident complained. She took issue with the prospect of cars driving through Arlington Club residences on the way to or from the hotcake heaven.

After more than an hour of complaint, led by Grove Terrace resident George Colons, and endorsements from strip center tenants and real estate operators, the trustees took about 10 minutes to decide to approve the restaurant. Most of that time was taken to discuss the speed bump near the entrance of the mall, which was recommended by the Wheeling Plan Commission to slow down traffic.

Center tenant Dr. Marc Oliver, a chiropractor, pleaded for the bump, saying the mall was already a cut-through for traffic avoiding the Buffalo Grove Road and Huntington terrace stoplights.

"Between four and six in the afternoon, three of four cars in the lot are just cutting through — and fast. Some of my patients have severe back problems, and they can't get across the lot fast enough."

But several board members, worried drivers suddenly stopping at the bump could cause accidents, so they left the speed bump out of their ordinance. They

(Continued on page 18)

*Continued from page 8*  
promised to investigate it further.

About 70 people left the chambers loudly grumbling, and when the noise died down, Village President Sheila Schultz told those remaining that the trustees hadn't ignored them.

"A commercial renter is something you want to have," she said, asking them to allow for tax-base needs for the village. "And we have been sensitive."

# Police, firefighters join battle of the bulge

5-11-92

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a perfect world, the image of a police officer might be one of a physically fit public servant leaping fences and chasing down a suspected criminal without breaking a sweat.

The ideal firefighter may be one that could single-handedly hoist a ladder off a fire truck, place it against a burning building and then easily haul heavy gear up the ladder to help battle a fiery blaze.

These people exist, but the image

that more frequently comes to mind is the stereotypical picture of a chunky officer pigging out on glazed doughnuts.

Area firefighters and police officers are all too familiar with their Dunkin' Donuts image. And, while they admit that in some cases it may be true, many departments are trying to shed the bad rap — and a few pounds — by promoting healthy eating habits and exercise among their employees.

Becoming a police officer or firefighter is no easy task. Applicants

must undergo a battery of difficult physical and mental tests to prove they can handle the stress that comes with the job.

Once on the job, physical exercise certainly is encouraged, but few departments have strict requirements in place that force their employees to stay healthy and physically fit.

"It's no secret, and I'm sure we're not the only department, we have firefighters that are not in the best of shape," Elk Grove Village Fire Chief James D. MacArthur said. "I think it's typical of departments

throughout the Northwest suburbs with departments that were founded 20 and 25 years ago. Some people are trying to maintain their physical fitness and others do not try as hard."

Though officials believe all of the officers and firefighters can perform their duties, developing a set of strict standards can only improve the physical condition of the employees, according to Ron Antor, Hoffman Estates acting assistant fire chief.

See FIT on Page 4

## FIT: Departments focus on employees' health

Continued from Page 1

"Historically, the job has proven to be strenuous, so the need for physical condition is part of the job and something that needs to be addressed," Antor said, adding that the village is in the process of studying a set of standards.

In some towns, like Arlington Heights and Wheeling, firefighters and police officers must have a physical every two years.

Failing the physical in Arlington Heights could result in placing an officer on disability or relieving the officer of his or her duties.

But, Wheeling officials are not privy to the results of any physicals and therefore cannot take any action if an employee is not meeting departmental standards. Wheeling Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said the policy requiring physicals was approved just last year and that officials already are looking into ways to put a little teeth into it.

Doing that may sound easy, but many local departments are finding out that that is not necessarily the case.

For starters, requiring physicals for every police officer and firefighter can be a costly venture for any municipality.

The city of Des Plaines, for example, requires physicals every two years for firefighters between ages 21 and 39. Employees over 40, engineers and members of the hazardous materials squad are tested annually, according to Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Farinella. The physicals cost about \$300 each — a cost that is paid by the city, Farinella said.

Dollars and cents aside, officials genuinely are concerned about what to do if the results of a physical show an employee is "unfit."

"If you go through the process and find out people aren't fit to be on the job, you end up pushing them into disability," said Raymond Rose, deputy police chief in Elk Grove Village. "The question is whose obligation is it for you to be physically fit? Is it your employer's responsibility to see that you're physically fit to do

your job, or is it your responsibility to see that you're physically fit to do your job?"

Drafting the perfect policy will take time, but officials say it's never too soon to start emphasizing healthy eating habits and exercise.

The Elk Grove Police Department now is teaching officers about nutrition and exercise. Receiving the information is mandatory, Rose says, but using it still is voluntary.

"There is probably no doubt that we have people who aren't physically fit," Rose said. "There used to be a joke about police officers hanging out in Dunkin' Donuts. But when you look at where they are eating lunch today, they aren't going to Dunkin' Donuts because they know now that is not good for you. You see them

eating a lot more salads and stuff like that."

Several departments have gym equipment at the stations, including stairmasters, stationary bicycles, Nautilus equipment and free weights. In many of these towns, officers and firefighters are required to spend a certain number of hours each day working out on the equipment.

Buffalo Grove firefighters must work toward meeting goals set with fitness trainers by performing some type of fitness activity each day they are on duty. Fire Chief Thomas Allenspach said. Though the department does not have an annual physical test yet, Allenspach said that could change in the fall.

In light of the Americans with Dis-

abilities Act, which allows testing only of essential job skills, the department is altering its test for fire department applicants.

Under the new system, firefighters will have to perform actions like climbing to the fifth floor of a building in firefighting combat gear while holding a 60-pound hose. Applicants then would put the hose down, haul another hose up using a rope, go back down to the first floor, pick up and maneuver a charged hose, open the nozzle and pick up a 165-pound dummy and move it 100 feet within seven minutes.

Allenspach says he would favor putting all firefighters through the entry-level test each year.

"They have to be essential job skills, so that means that everyone should have to do them," he said.



Buffalo Grove firefighters, from left, George Lillig, Phil Barry and Tom Wisniewski, work out at the station.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierri

## NIPC seeks growth input at meeting in Wheeling

Forest Preserve District's purchase offer for a park. Local officials are clearly disappointed that their request for a park has apparently been ignored, and concerned about the potential environmental impact of waste sites at Fort Sheridan. As members of the Fort Sheridan Commission, they had insisted that the federal government promptly undertake extensive cleanup and assume continuing liability for present and future damage due to wastes generated under federal ownership, so

The deadline for letters is noon Monday. Send letters to: Managing Editor, Country-side, 2201 Waukegan Rd., Ste. E-175, Bannockburn IL 60015.

believe you, the editors, could perform a better job of covering and reporting on other sports, like softball, girls soccer, water polo, and badminton, instead of concentrating mainly on basketball, baseball, volleyball and swimming. After all, there are many more unrecognized athletes than the many basketball and baseball athletes you have mentioned in your paper.

The paper is to serve the whole Buffalo Grove community and its citizens, not just the basketball, baseball and volleyball fans.

Department of Defense (DOD) is striving to keep much of Fort Sheridan in order to avoid costly cleanup of buried wastes at the fort. Although the DOD assured the League of Women Voters in June 1990 that it would undertake a complete

criminal without breaking a sweat. The ideal firefighter may be one that could single-handedly hoist a ladder off a fire truck, place it against a burning building and then easily haul heavy gear up the ladder to help battle a fiery blaze.

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Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierri

## NIPC seeks growth input at meeting in Wheeling

By JIM TEAGUE JR.

STAFF WRITER

514-92  
*Countyside*

The developers of a plan to encourage organized growth throughout Chicago and the collar counties want to know if they are on the right track.

Furthermore, they want you to tell them.

Lawrence B. Christmas, executive director of the Northern Illinois Planning Commission said Tuesday that he expects few surprises when public meetings are held next week on the "Strategic Plan for Land Resource Management."

The closest meeting for Lake County residents will be held May 18 at the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Hearings will be also be held May 18 at the Aurora City Hall and May 20 at the Flossmoor Village Hall. All meetings run from 3 to 5 p.m. and resume again at 7 p.m.

"There are no surprises," Christmas said of the list of 68 recommendations the commission is making. "This list has been in development for over a year now."

He said recommendations include increased coordination among local, county and state planners to ensure that sensitive environmental areas are protected and maintained. Christmas also highlighted the suggestion that legislation be passed allowing traffic impact fees to be shared across municipal and county lines. The shared fees could be used to address regional traffic congestion problems.

"What it comes down to is all these problems need to be addressed on a regional basis, where they can be handled most effectively," he said.

The commission conducts long-range planning for the entire region, which includes Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage and Will Counties.

He added that Lake County is similar to other collar counties north and west of Chicago where growth is occurring, and believes the recommendations being presented will be well received.

"I think we have a very good relationship there," Christmas said, adding that Lake County Board Member Eleanor Rostron of Waukegan and village of Libertyville Mayor JoAnn Eckmann both serve as commission members.

"They know what we are doing and apparently are quite please with it."

Christmas said the strategic plan builds upon the Central Lake County Development Corridor Council, which coordinates planning among various municipalities.

"It's important to know that somebody out there cares about the subject we are dealing with, which is land use in the Chicago area. If that's not their concern, they shouldn't come," he said. "But we think there will be a respectable turnout because of the number of organization that have given us their suggestions about planning and development in their areas."

He said commission staff and board members would be present at each of the meetings to give an overview on the strategic plan and invite comments and suggestions.

Christmas also recommended that interested parties bring to the meetings or mail the commission written statements of any length concerning planning in the region.

# New Wheeling college a matter of life and death

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

There's probably going to be a new college in Wheeling soon, but unlike most, it won't just be preparing young people for life. It'll be preparing them for death.

Not theirs. Other people's. Worsham (mortuary) College of Des Plaines has applied for approval to move to more spacious digs on industrial property at 491-499 Northgate Parkway.

"Strange hours," cracked Wheeling Planner Mark Janeck as he pretended to pore over the Worsham application papers. "Eleven p.m. to 4 a.m."

But the college plans to open during normal hours, as it has since 1911, when Albert Worsham founded it hard-by the old Cook County Morgue on Chicago's west side, where students could practice on the real thing. That's still where the students practice, though they do it at the new morgue a few blocks away.

## No remains

"We assured Wheeling no

human remains would be coming out of that building," said co-owner Joan Tomczak. The Des Plaines and the future Wheeling location house only classroom activities, such as anatomy, chemistry, microbiology, mortuary and business law, etiquette, counseling and restorative art.

The restoration is done in plaster or Paris or clay, according to Tomczak.

"If you can do it with clay, you can do it with anything," she said. "You learn how to make a nose, eye, chin, mouth, how to put the whole thing together into a facsimile of a face and a head. After that, you can do it with embalmer's wax and cotton on the real thing."

She and her husband Bruno Bak have owned the college for 12 years. Tomczak, who has a background in nursing, has been working there for 25.

"When I applied here, I asked a lady, 'how long have you been here?' And she said 15 years. I remember thinking, how the hell could you be around here for 15 years? But I've been

here for 25 years, loving every minute of it.

## Intimate school

"I love watching the kids evolve. I'll run into them at conventions and they'll say, Remember me? I own my own funeral home."

"It's a small school, and I'm very close to the students," she said. "I know when their wife is pregnant, when their girlfriend is pregnant, when both of them are pregnant," laughed the good-natured undertaking instructor.

\$6,100 buys a year at the college, followed by another year of apprenticeship before students can call themselves funeral directors. Each state has different requirements for entry, according to Tomczak. The Illinois standard is a year of college.

The school is a family affair, with the 120 students led by Tomczak, embalming department head Bak and Tomczak's daughter Stephanie, 25, who plans to take over her mother's job as college president one

## Body work

They teach everything an undertaker needs to know except how to explain their job to a stranger at a cocktail party.

"They have to figure that



David Padova/Flourer Press

Jack Davenport, Neil Ahola, and Tim Hampton sculpt faces out of clay at Worsham College, a mortuary school which has applied to move to Wheeling

out for themselves," laughed Tomczak. "Some of the guys, they go out after work, get themselves disinfected, and hang out with student nurses."

"When the nurses ask them what they do, they say, 'I'm in body work.'"

# Downtown TIF slows Sportmart expansion

Sportmart would like to expand in a hurry, to meet competition by K-Mart. But the expansion must be worked into TIF plans to redevelop the downtown area.

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling trustees did not ask "how high?" when asked to jump into an agreement to allow Sportmart to expand its Dundee Road store.

When lawyers for the sporting-goods chain dumped a 38-page agreement in their laps prior to a special meeting last Thursday, they opted to read it before signing it.

Sandy Cantor, part owner of Sportmart, says he's in a hurry to get a move-on to expand the Wheeling store, so that it can answer the challenge brought by K-Mart's Sports Authority, which they say will open in Gurnee Mills in August. He said he wants to have a grand re-opening then, too, with a bigger store, 48 feet closer to Dundee Road.

Trustees profess no big problems with the expansion, already passed by its plan commis-

sion. There's sufficient parking, landscaping and other amenities that boards like theirs endorse.

What they want to take a long, hard look at is the agreement, which is tied into the Crossroads shopping center project at the corner of Milwaukee and Dundee. The project is the cornerstone of the Milwaukee Avenue tax increment finance district plan they hope will resurrect the old center of town, and the agreement hints at limited veto power over what goes into the shopping center.

## Slow going

When Sportmart representatives saw they were going to fail to move the board last Thursday, they pushed for a decision at the May 18 meeting. Trustees said maybe, but that may very well not happen, either, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"There are still 6-7-8 issues we need to discuss further with Sportmart," he said. "Mainly, they deal with how much control Sportmart has in the situation."

"The attorneys together will hammer something out, but quite honestly I'm not sure they

can do anything before June 8."

One of the problems the sporting-goods operators have is trying to tie into a shopping-center plan that has been stalled since infancy, after a suit was brought by owners of properties that didn't want to be a part of the Crossroads, or the TIF, or anything else except what they were, flower stores and auto repair garages and doughnut shops. They lost the suit, and are awaiting condemnation.

They designed the front of the Sportmart to jibe with the original, pre-lawsuit design of the center, and trustees pronounced it beautiful but were not sufficiently moved by the artistry to approve the agreement attached to it. They are also mightily confused by Sportmart's yen to get funding from the TIF, money that was intended only for land acquisition.

## Confusing signals

"I'm not sure I understand that, either," said Anderson Tuesday. "I'm not sure it's the best use of the TIF money. The idea was to use it to buy the land, and sell it back to the developer."

(Continued on page 15)

One of the justifications Sportmart has for needing control of some of the center is that it still owns a roughly triangular, 12,000 square-foot piece of turf just east of their store. Depending on what gets worked out, they could wind up selling it to the village, developing it within the center, or seeing it condemned and purchased by Wheeling that way.

One of the things they don't need next door is, for instance, a Herman's World of Sporting Goods. They also profess distaste for a grocery store, because these are typically shoppers' last stops.

"People want to get home before the ice cream melts," agreed Anderson. Wheeling had seen a grocery store as

an anchor for the center, but lately has been falling out of love with that option. Like the Sportmart people, trustees now yearn for big, nationally-advertised stores that will attract buyers from a long distance. Anderson said there are still a few of those stores interested in a future at Dundee and Milwaukee, but he won't tell which.

"Times have changed. We don't need another strip mall, neighborhood stores... we've already got those."

"We need something more regional, more a draw."

Something that will make people "look down Milwaukee Avenue and say, gosh, down the street is such-and-such. Maybe I'd like to go over there."



Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

Because of the heavy trucks involved, home types not allowed under Wheeling's revision in landscaping businesses would be among the its home occupation ordinance.

# Village makes changes to home occupation code

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRY SIDE 5-21-92

People who have home businesses in Wheeling best be kind to their neighbors.

Village staffers are preparing an ordinance regulating their endeavors, but it'll probably be enforced only after complaints, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

He said those who do a little writing work on a computer terminal in their den, or have a loom in the upstairs bedroom, need not fret about the prospect of being forced to stop, or even of being asked to buy a license. But woe to the landscape operator who parks a couple of trucks and a trailer outside, even if on his own property.

His is the kind of home-business activity that draws neighborly complaints, and the village is looking for another tool to use to assuage community concerns about blight, safety, noise, traffic and property values.

## Eight ton limit

The trucks could be allowed if they weigh less than 8 tons, the present limit for parking on a village street. But parking a front-end loader, trailer, or a pickup with a wooden box atop the bed outside would probably put the owner at risk of ticketing, if an ordinance is passed, according to Anderson. Trustees may decide to disallow landscap-

ing altogether, when they consider an ordinance, probably next month, according to Anderson.

That ticket, like others for Wheeling ordinance violations, would assess the violator \$35 to \$500 for each offense, every day it continues.

A whole family working at a home business would probably be all right with the village, according to Anderson. But hiring one employee probably will not, even if he doesn't work in the home, but is picked up along the way to a job site.

Presently, all home occupations are illegal in Wheeling. But the ordinance is not easily enforceable. A new, enforceable ordinance would list what kind of business would be permitted, according to Anderson. Those left out would be illegal.

## Left out

Possibilities for home occupations that could be left out in the cold are beauty parlors and other retail uses, which attract a steady stream of customers. Numerous deliveries or visits of wholesale customers might not be allowed, either.

Contractors often store building materials and equipment outside, sometimes creating hazards and eyesores. These would likely be banned, along with auto towing, because of the trucks, even though lighter

than eight tons.

The ordinance could disallow any business that stores flammable materials. It could also ban those that require storage in a garage, forcing the car that belongs within onto the street.

There is little doubt that any home business that puts a sign up would be considered in violation, according to Anderson.

Other restrictions might include a limitation of 20 percent of a home to be used in the business. "The business should be an accessory to the home," said Anderson.

Separate business entrances or changes to the facade to accommodate the trade might not be allowed, either.

Annoyances that might preclude a business would include noise, odor, dust, vibration, smoke, glare or electrical interference.

Sales would likely be banned if not on an appointment basis.

Other likely restricted occupations could include catering, unlicensed day care, car repair, kennels, animal hospitals, doctor's offices, machine shops and pest control.

But art studios, photo developing, woodworking, locksmithing, small-scale jewelry or clothes production and upholstery would probably get a pass, along with such relatively sedentary occupations as consultations and drafting.

type in the country. issues will be conducted Monday tailors.

only in restaurants and local

While DeCristoforo said it would be all right for parents to bring their children to World

golfers will be able to choose from eight different golf courses to play.

# Wheeling panel maintains opposition to auto repair shop

5-16-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners, still dissatisfied with a Wheeling man's plans for an auto repair and used car business on Dundee Road, will once again recommend to village trustees that they reject the proposal.

Lorenzo Semeria Jr. wants to operate a foreign-auto repair business in the now-vacant Mobil service station on the southwest corner of Dundee and Schoenbeck roads — consid-

ered by plan commissioners to be the western doorway to Wheeling.

Semeria said he repairs only high-priced foreign cars and will occasionally sell one on consignment for the owner.

Although Semeria changed his original site plan, which plan commissioners rejected in March, the group still could not see its way clear to recommend approval of the plan.

The changes included eliminating overnight parking along Dundee Road and adding more landscaping

to the site.

Commissioners voted 3-2 against Semeria's plan, but the Wheeling village board asked them to review it again.

The board, in a 3-2 vote in April, kept Semeria's plan alive after hearing from several Wheeling residents who supported the plan.

"I was opposed to this on the first go round, and it doesn't look like that much has changed," said Commissioner Terry Steilen. "There may be some things that we could do that

would make me feel better."

However, Semeria and Chuck Wagner, representing Mobil Oil, did not want to move all of the parking spaces to the back of the building in an attempt to garner Steilen's vote.

And they said they had met most of the concerns about the site addressed in a letter from Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"We are willing to accept the condition that only six cars for sale will be allowed," said Wagner. "We have

done a lot to the plan since it was first proposed."

Trustees had asked the plan commission to reconsider Semeria's plans because the vote to deny his request was so close.

Several neighboring residents indicated their opposition to the plan by signing a petition, but some of them later told village board members they had been misled about what type of business Semeria would be conducting.

## Mortuary college plans OK'd by Wheeling board

5-19-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees voted unanimously Monday to approve a Des. Plaines mortuary college's plans to relocate to the village.

Worsham College of Mortuary Science will move into a vacant warehouse at 491-499 Northgate Parkway, in an industrial area in the northeastern section of the village.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the 20,000-square-foot building has been vacant since 1987, and Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she would be happy to see the building occupied again.

"It will be nice to have the building filled again," she said.

The college will have an enrollment of approximately 100 students who will be taught by 15 administrators and staff members.

Worsham representatives said the college draws students from all over the United States and beyond. Half the students come from Illinois, and the rest come from surrounding states and Europe.

The school was founded in 1889 and, according to Worsham representatives, is the "premiere" school of its type in the country.

Classes will be conducted Monday

through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., but not all of the students are in the building on any given day.

Microbiology and anatomy are taught at the school, and attorneys also are on hand to teach business and mortuary law.

However, all classes in body preparation are taken at the Cook County Morgue.

Anderson said that while village staff had initial concerns that there was not enough parking provided at the site, those concerns have been addressed by the college administrators.

"This site plan does specify enough parking," Anderson said. "And the owners have indicated they encourage students to car pool; perhaps that will minimize cars coming into the area."

There will be 89 spaces in the parking lot, and the warehouse will be altered to provide 11 more.

College administrators said that Wheeling and the surrounding area can expect to see an economic benefit from the college because many of the students come from out of town and rent apartments near the school, spending their money in the community in restaurants and local retailers.

## LOCAL REPORT

### Indoor golfing facility proposed for Tahoe center

5-20-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Area golfers could be stepping up to the tee even as the snow is falling next winter if Wheeling trustees go along with the plan commission's recommendation and approve an indoor golfing facility.

Dean A. DeCristoforo, owner of World Class Golf, said he would like to open the 15,000-square-foot facility in the Tahoe Village shopping center in mid-July.

Included in DeCristoforo's plans are putting greens, a driving range, golf simulators, a retail shop and a bar and restaurant area.

DeCristoforo said no one under 21 years of age would be allowed to enter the golfing area unless accompanied by a parent or guardian because people would be allowed to carry alcoholic beverages to the different parts of the facility.

"We are planning to have an adult recreation facility, creating as much of an indoor country club setting for the general public as possible," DeCristoforo said.

While DeCristoforo said it would be all right for parents to bring their children to World

Class Golf, he said he does not want unsupervised youths or young adults to have access to the facility. An employee will check identification at the door.

"I don't care to deal with unsupervised youths, and I do not think adults want to deal with that in this atmosphere either," he said.

Plan commission chairman Paul Eisterhold said prohibiting people under 21 years of age from entering the facility without a parent or guardian should make it easier for DeCristoforo to get a liquor license.

DeCristoforo said he is planning to serve light sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs and packaged goods in the restaurant and bar, which will take up about 5,000 square feet.

The remaining 8,000 square feet will be devoted to recreation.

DeCristoforo said he expects to have winter leagues that will use the golf simulators and tournaments that he hopes will draw spectators as well as golfers.

He said four golfers can play an 18-hole round of golf in about four hours on the simulators. And the golfers will be able to choose from eight different golf courses to play.

Executive Editor: Peter Neill  
Deputy Executive Editor: Alan P. Henry  
Editor/Bureau Chief: Carol Goddard  
Managing Editor: Arnold Grahl

## COUNTRYSIDE

# Home, sweet home

5-21-92

In Wheeling, a freelance writer clicks away on his computer keyboard in the den, unaware that he is engaging in illegal activity. The home seamstress, tailoring a jacket, likewise is in ignorant bliss of her criminal status.

The village home occupancy ordinance is simple and straightforward — home business activities are not allowed, period. Not surprisingly, it ranks as one of the least enforced codes on the books.

But Wheeling trustees have decided to dust off the dinosaur of a law that has idly been taking up space in their code books all these years, and convert it into a useful tool for responding to neighborly complaints when home businesses get out of hand.

Trustees should be careful to strike a balance between protecting pristine neighborhoods and maintaining the rights of those engaging in unobtrusive home enterprises.

There is no question something should be done with the law. As it stands, the ordinance is useless — making no distinctions between businesses that cause noise, odor, vibration, smoke, glare or electrical interference problems and those that do not. Simply enforcing the existing prohibition would not be practical or fair, as more and more people are choosing to punch the clock at home.

Rough drafts of the revised code seem to be on the right track.

Landscape operators who park a couple of trucks and a trailer outside would run into trouble from the village, while art studios, photo developing labs, locksmiths or small-scale jewelry or clothes production operations would get the pass.

Other likely restricted occupations would include catering, unlicensed day care, car repair, kennels, animal hospitals, doctor's offices, machine shops and pest control.

The home occupancy law is long overdue for an overhaul. It is not an easy task delineating which business activities pose a nuisance and which don't, but once done, trustees will have created a more workable blueprint for home entrepreneurs and homeowners to live in harmony.

The home occupancy law is long overdue for an overhaul.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling animal eye clinic sets sight on June 15 opening

5-29-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission on Thursday approved the design for an animal eye clinic sign on Milwaukee Avenue, clearing the way for a mid-June opening of the clinic.

Sam J. Vainisi and Gretchen Schmidt, partners in Animal Eye Associates of Riverwood, are hoping for a June 15 opening for their new eye practice, at the corner of Milwaukee and Mors avenues.

Plan commissioners approved their request to rezone the property from residential to commercial last June, and since then have kept tabs on the construction of the clinic, which was built on the site of an abandoned house that was razed.

"I would like to compliment you on the building," plan Commissioner Ellen Butor told Vainisi and Schmidt. "I think it is beautiful. And I'm glad to see you were able to save so many of the trees."

Plan commissioners also voted to approve the village's plan to vacate 16 feet of alley between the eye clinic and its western neighbor. Eight feet of the alley-

way already is being used by the owners of a home to the west, and Vainisi said the eye clinic will use its 8 feet for additional landscaping. He said he also plans to put up a fence between the clinic and its neighbor.

Although the village will give the property up at no cost, it will be placed on the tax rolls, and both the clinic owners and the residents to the west will have to pay taxes on it.

A two-bedroom apartment has been built on the building's upper floor to house students who come to the clinic for training.

Schmidt and Vainisi treat animals for eye ailments such as cataracts, glaucoma and corneal ulcers.

The clinic is one of only two in Illinois that are open full time for the treatment of such problems in animals. The other is at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The clinic eventually could draw some curious looks from passing motorists, as architects are proposing that a bowling ball-sized eyeball be installed in the middle of the clinic's sign — which is designed to flare out diagonally 6 feet in both directions.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling once again denies auto repair business plans

6-2-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling businessman, hoping to open a foreign car repair business on the southwest corner of Dundee and Schoenbeck roads was turned back by village trustees Monday.

Lorenzo Semeria Jr., whose hopes were dashed, raised and dashed again by a previous series of plan commission and village board meetings, wanted to operate his business in a vacant Mobil gas station.

But plan commissioners and village staff were opposed to the plan because it did not utilize the entire site, and they did not want an auto repair service to be the first business motorists saw as they entered the village.

Trustees reviewed Semeria's site plan in April and in a 3-2 vote sent it back to plan commissioners, who recommended against its approval in March. But commissioners once again voted against approval of Semeria's plan in May and this time trustees unanimously agreed.

"Each of the plan commissioners gave very strong reasons for denial," said Trustee William

Rogers. "I see no reason for doing anything other than what plan commissioners recommended we do twice."

It was a tough call for trustees who heard from many Semeria customers asking that he be allowed to locate in the village and from several neighbors of the site who were opposed to the plan.

For trustees, the proposal was attractive because it included Mobil Oil's plans to clean up contaminated soil on the site. Mobil has submitted a plan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and, if approved, it will take three to five years before the soil will be cleaned and the entire site can be utilized.

Semeria and his lawyers made changes to the site plan including the addition of landscaping, and a parking area behind the building, but in the end it was not enough.

Village staff lobbied hard against the plan. "On behalf of the plan commission and community development staff, I should point out that after they reviewed this plan again at the direction of the board, they still are not in favor of granting the special use," said village Attorney James Rhodes.

## Airport board scrutinizes service fees at Palwaukee

5-21-92

By CAROLYN ARNOLD  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Controversy erupted Wednesday night as the Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners struggled to define the commission's responsibilities regarding airport service fees.

Currently, fees are charged by Priester Aviation, which leases parking areas from the airport and provides parking for aircraft that are not based at the airport.

Priester Aviation President Charles E. Priester appeared before the commission in February and said the fee for services his company provides a pilot could be waived if the pilot purchases anything else from Priester. That purchase could include gas, charts or even a pack of gum, commission members said.

Yet since that time, Priester raised not only the service fees, but the amount of purchase needed to waive them, said Barry Dainas, director of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association. According to a letter Priester sent to the commission, a pilot must purchase 10 gallons of gas to receive a waiver.

Dainas said the land Priester was using to park aircraft belonged to Palwaukee. "He (Priester) is charging a ramp service fee and using your space," Dainas told the commission. "He is not parking airplanes on his leased space." Commission members said they were bothered that Priester did not inform them of the change in fee schedules. "Does he have the right to charge any fee he chooses?" said Commissioner James V. Nickel.

Other board members questioned Priester's practice of charging fees at all. "It isn't a question of money," said member Nicholas J. Helmer. "(But) we are the only airport, other than Meigs Field, that does charge. This is a burr in our saddle."

But according to the lease agreement between the airport and Priester, the commission has no means to control the service fees.

The commission decided to ask Priester to readjust his fee structure to keep pilots coming back to the airport. "We're scaring people away," Nickel said.

# Wheeling police issue 29 safety belt citations

6-5-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police, hoping to drive home the point that buckling up is the law, stopped 421 vehicles at a recent traffic safety roadblock.

The roadblock was manned by 15 members of the police force who stopped motorists in front of the police station, 255 W. Dundee Road, as they headed west on a recent Saturday night between 8 and 11:30 p.m.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary D. O'Rourke said 93 percent of the drivers stopped were in compliance with the seat belt law, which requires the driver and front seat passengers to wear seat belts. And he said it was a much higher compli-

ance rate than during past roadblocks.

"We feel the minimal intrusion into people's time is outweighed by the need to emphasize seat belt usage as a means of providing protection for the driver and occupants of the vehicle," O'Rourke said.

Twenty-nine citations were issued to people who were not wearing seat belts.

Police officers also checked for valid driver's licenses and proof of automobile insurance.

Four people were cited for not having a valid driver's license and seven were cited for failure to show proof of insurance.

Police also arrested one person for driving under the influence of alcohol and issued citations to 16 more for various safety violations.

# Trustees keep eye on former Martin gas station

6-5-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees will be keeping a wary eye on the site of the former Martin Oil gas station to make sure the village does not end up with another abandoned building that turns into an eyesore.

Trustees recently granted a zoning variation and an approval of the resubdivision of the property — at 621 W. Dundee Road — that representatives from Martin Oil Marketing Ltd. hope will make the property easier to sell.

But they also expressed concern about who would be responsible for the upkeep of the property and the building and fence that sit on it until redevelopment plans come back to the village for approval.

"Fences deteriorate very quickly," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "The buyer does not have to come before the board until he is ready to develop the property, and it deteriorates more and more as time goes on."

Duane Meyers, vice president for real estate for Martin Oil, said his company will make sure the property is kept up while it is still owned by Martin Oil and he indi-

cated that several steps have already been taken to secure the property — making it less attractive to vandals.

"The first thing we did was board up the building," he said. "And we have painted the plywood and put up bumper strips out in the driveways so cars can't drive in. That should help keep the fences in shape. Until the property is transacted you have our assurances we will keep it in shape."

Meyers also said that Martin Oil has submitted a plan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for removal of the oil tanks on the site. And he said he hopes the plan will be approved so the tanks can be taken out near the middle of June.

"In terms of abandoning this as a functioning gas station, Martin Oil has done a good job so far," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

But he said the village is looking for ways to deal with five other abandoned gas stations — most along Milwaukee Avenue — that have become eyesores.

"One or two of them are in such disrepair it would be more costly to repair them than to tear them down," he said.

Some residents of neighboring apartment complexes expressed concern that some people living in the area would buy liquor at the store and drink it in the parking lots and common areas of the apartment complexes, because they would prefer drinking out-

side — not inside — their apartments, many of which are not air-conditioned.

Most of the village's apartment complex owners have entered into a contract with the village that allows the Wheeling police to patrol their parking lots.

If trustees approve the ordinance later this month, it would be added to the agreements. One trustee was concerned the ordinance would be difficult to enforce and make more work for the police department.

"Are we overloading the police department with an ordinance they cannot enforce?" asked Trustee William Rogers.

But Anderson said the police department favored the ordinance.

"I'm not sure they are going to go out and look for this situation, but when a group is drinking and does become boisterous, this will help in that regard," Anderson said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato suggested a copy of the ordinance — when it has been approved by trustees — be sent to businesses or apartment complexes for posting so employees and residents will be informed of the new rule.

# Wheeling police to get new recruits



Terry Swisher

onset of computers) but basically the same."

the day-to-day people contact is what he will miss most now that he has retired.

the village of Wheeling will be getting two new police recruits later this year to fill the void left by the recent retirement of two long-time members of the force.

Patrol officer Terry Swisher retired after 23 years with the police department and patrol officer Armando Pizzi retired after almost 21 years.

Swisher served most of his career as a patrol officer but did a three-year stint as the juvenile officer at Wheeling High School and he said

Armando Pizzi had been on medical leave for quite some time before his retirement in early June.

"The job is more technical (with the

# Crews clear 150,000 gallon gas line spill

6-7-92

By MARJORIE LIPSEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Cleanup crews hauled away more than 150,000 gallons of gasoline from a pipeline break that occurred in Wheeling Friday afternoon.

Workers spent about 30 hours cleaning up the gas that flooded into a construction hole and over a field behind the Camco Emerson Power Transmission Co. off Wolf Road.

The spill occurred about 4:30 p.m. Friday when construction workers putting in a natural gas line cut the pipe, said Wheeling Fire Lt. James Johnson.

Although about 4,400 gallons of gas are pumped through the pipe every minute, sensors shut down the flow as soon as the 4-inch cut was detected. The line is owned by the West Shore company, which pumps various fuels through the pipe for local companies.

Repairs on the pipe should be completed by about 4 p.m. today, Johnson said. And workers will continue to try to clean up the residue left from the spill, which covered about a quarter acre.

During the cleanup, Commonwealth Edison Co. had to shut off several high voltage electrical lines that run near the spill. Power was diverted through other lines, preventing any outages.

"You wanted to stop any static electricity or charges that could create a spark," Johnson said.

# Ordinance would prohibit drinking in parking lots

6-9-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Drinking alcoholic beverages in some private parking lots could soon be illegal in the village of Wheeling.

Trustees took their first look Monday at an ordinance that would prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages in parking areas within apartment complexes, multi-family developments and commercial parking areas.

"While we do prohibit drinking on a public street now, we have nothing that would prohibit drinking in a parking lot or a shopping center," said Wheeling village manager Craig G. Anderson.

Trustees first discussed banning drinking in private parking lots when granting a liquor license for a new liquor store in the Center Plaza shopping center at the corner of Dundee and Wolf roads.

Some residents of neighboring apartment complexes expressed concern that some people living in the area would buy liquor at the store and drink it in the parking lots and common areas of the apartment complexes, because they would prefer drinking out-

# SUBURBAN REPORT

# Commission looks at Palumbo request

6-9-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owners of the Palumbo Brothers asphalt plant in Wheeling could face an uphill battle if they decide to proceed with plans to build a railroad spur at their Wheeling Road plant.

Palumbo Brothers want the railroad spur so the raw materials needed for the production of asphalt can be brought into the plant by freight train rather than by truck — a move that would decrease the amount of trucks coming in and out of the plant and eliminate some of the wear and

tear on Wheeling roadways. And they say bringing the raw materials in by rail would also make their operation cleaner.

But plan commissioners, who held a workshop session with Palumbo representatives recently, are concerned the rail spur could lead to increased production at the plant with more trucks coming into the plant to take the finished material out.

Palumbo Brothers produced approximately 160,000 tons of asphalt last year at the Wheeling plant. If running at full capacity the plant could produce up to 400,000 tons. And commissioners are concerned

about the effects increased production would have on the village. "What is going to be really important is the environmental impact of the whole thing," said Commissioner Otis Hedlund.

Palumbo Brothers would need a new special-use permit to build the rail spur and there has been some talk among commissioners about requiring the company to do an environmental impact study showing the effect the plant has now — and could have with increased production in the future — on its surroundings.

Representatives of Palumbo Brothers have said they do not need

the rail spur to increase production saying if there was a higher demand for their product they could just increase the truck loads of raw material brought into the plant.

Although more than 200 people signed a petition objecting to the plant's location in 1977, village trustees granted the special use.

"The question we are going to have to answer is whether or not we would allow this use on that property if it were vacant today," said Village Planner Mark Janek. "If we allow the spur there is no question the land gains in value, and this use will be there forever."



Wheeling firefighter/paramedic Jay Gallant shows off some of the unique features of the Wheeling Fire Department's new fire engine.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

## Wheeling firefighters try out their new wheels

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters are responding to fire and traffic accident calls in style these days now that one of two new fire engines ordered last year has been delivered.

While the engine is painted green like its older counterparts, this one also has some features that are new to the Northwest suburbs and some features that will keep this truck in action for quite some time.

The engine was custom-made for

the department by Sutphen Corp. of Amlin, Ohio, for \$212,000. The second engine is identical to this first one and is expected to be delivered sometime in September.

The engine has supply doors that roll up into the body of the vehicle, unlike older engines on which the storage bay doors open outward.

"This is the first engine in the area to have roll-up doors," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac. "It provides complete access to the storage area and there is also a safety issue. The doors

don't project out into traffic when the engine is at the scene of an accident."

The truck also is designed to carry two kinds of firefighting foam. The first is designed for putting out flammable liquid and MacIsaac said that foam will increase the department's ability to handle any crashes at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The second foam increases the efficiency of water and MacIsaac said it will come in handy when the

engine is called to fight fires in places where there is a limited water supply — such as portions of the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District. Under a contract with that district, the Wheeling Fire Department responds to many of its calls.

Trustees were forced to purchase two new fire engines in one year after learning that one of the engines they were hoping to hold on to a little longer would need at least \$15,000 in repairs.

## Palwaukee panel's hands tied in feud over parking fees

By CAROLYN ARNOLD  
Daily Herald Correspondent

With no way to regulate parking fees charged by Priester Aviation, the Palwaukee airport commission continues to find itself in the middle of a feud between the larger plane operator and pilots of smaller planes.

Priester is the only fixed-base operator at the airport that supplies services to aircraft using the airport, renting space from the airport to park those planes. It also is the only operator that sells fuel and does mechanical work on planes.

The fees charged by Priester de-

pend on the size of the plane, said Don Augustine, an account executive with Priester. And, he said, parking fees are waived if fuel is purchased.

But Barry Dainas, a director of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association, has asked commissioners to provide parking space for pilots who do not want use Priester's services.

Dainas said Priester's fees are higher than comparable airports while some recreational airports charge no fees.

Augustine said airports competing with Palwaukee do charge user fees.

"They're comparing apples to oranges," he said of the PAPA representatives. "We are the third busi-

est airport in Illinois. We're a reliever airport for O'Hare, and our main competition is Midway. Businesses primarily use our airport; we are not a recreational type of airport."

Charles Priester, president of Priester Aviation, agreed.

"We charge fair and equitable prices for the value of services received," he said. "The statement that there are no user fees at other airports is just pure baloney. Those airports that do not have a system in place to charge customers will soon."

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the fees are not the airport com-

mission's responsibility.

"We're the landlords," he said. "(Priester) meets his contractual obligation to us, and we have no legitimate means to interfere in his pricing structure."

Airport commissioners concurred, also citing the lack of space to set up an additional ramp area for pilots who wanted to park without using Priester services.

"The commission is hamstringing trying to do something," said commissioner William A. Rogers. "Until we get a second fixed-base operator and get more space, there doesn't seem to me anything to be done."

## Police, firefighters receive awards

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Several Wheeling police officers and six members of the Wheeling Fire Department were recognized recently for outstanding service in the line of duty.

Wheeling resident S. Ronald Reed also received a citizens appreciation award for pulling two traffic accident victims from a burning vehicle at the intersection of Wolf and Larkin roads on Oct. 22, 1991.

The six firefighter/paramedics who were commended by the police department were honored for their

part in saving the life of Wheeling Community Service Officer Richard Herdus.

Herdus suffered a heart attack on the job on March 16, 1992, while driving a police vehicle on Dundee Road. Herdus lost control of the car, which left the road and struck a tree.

He returned to work three weeks ago and was on hand Monday to help present the awards to firefighters Lt. Mike Proebstle, Don Malin, Tim Johnston, Bill Stewart, Bob Leipzig and Tom Fountaine.

The two police officers who were first on the accident scene — Sgt. Jim Kuzynowski and Burt Kaminsky

— also were given awards of merits.

Haeger said the doctor who treated Herdus when he arrived at the hospital credited the two with reviving Herdus at the accident scene and saving his life.

"He was for all intent and purposes dead when those two officers arrived," Haeger said. "There was no pulse or respiration."

For Herdus, watching as his coworkers received the awards, the moment was intensely emotional.

21 other police officers also received awards.

"This is our way of recognizing members of the department for the

past years' performance," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

Haeger added that all the awards are particularly important because the officers who receive them have been nominated by their peers.

A commendation review board made up of a deputy chief, a sergeant and a representative from each police units makes the final decision on who will receive the awards, given annually.

"In essence the department recommends its own members as opposed to management recommending," Haeger said.

## Medical waste disposal OK but records poor, official says

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Generators of medical waste in Wheeling are following proper disposal and storage techniques outlined in an ordinance passed by the village board last August, according to an informal survey conducted by the village sanitarian.

But many of the organizations surveyed are not keeping the records and receipts also required in the ordinance.

"The practices and procedures appear to be going along fine," said Village Sanitarian Mike Boyle. "But as far as written protocol, many have not gotten that lined up."

Boyle said there are about 33 medical-waste generators in the village, and he said he visited eight of them — roughly 25 percent — to obtain survey results.

Of those eight, only one had records that were in perfect order, he said.

He said he will send a letter to the remaining businesses, once again outlining the requirements, and then will set up another inspection to go over the records.

Under the ordinance, genera-

tors of medical waste are required to store it in a secure location while awaiting disposal at an approved site.

They have to package the waste to prevent leakage and make sure the package is clearly labeled as hazardous material waste.

Hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, blood banks, research laboratories, veterinary hospitals, mortuaries and animal quarantine facilities are some of the organizations governed by the ordinance.

They are also responsible for keeping records and receipts for at least three years that show compliance with the ordinance.

Boyle said he has received the full cooperation of the staff at all the facilities he has visited so far and that some of the visits have resulted in the relocation of waste disposal containers and containers that hold sharp objects that may have been accessible to young children.

"With a different viewpoint and a different set of eyes, I have found a few people willing to relocate their sharps to a different point in the exam room," Boyle said.

## Agency approves contract for Wheeling transfer station

By KIM MIKUS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County Wednesday unanimously approved the initial site-work contract for the Wheeling Township transfer station.

The \$565,000 contract was awarded to Bensenville-based Lindahl Brothers. SWANCC officials are hoping to break ground on the site, located just north of the intersection of River and Central roads, in the middle of June.

Meanwhile, the agency, a consortium of 26 Northwest suburban communities, is completing an application to submit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to proceed with work at a proposed bafflefill near Bartlett.

Plans call for the area to send all of its residential garbage to the transfer station. The garbage will then be packed into bails and sent on to the proposed Bartlett site when it opens approximately 18 months later.

Representatives from Patrick Engineering Inc., the engineers of the entire project, explained to SWANCC members how the transfer station, a \$24.4 million project, will

work and what the 4.9-acre building will look like.

"It will be very attractive from the road," said Patrick Engineering President Daniel P. Dietzler. He added that the 28-foot-tall concrete building will contain a warm, commercial interior and feature a skylight-type atrium around the top of the building.

The property development for the transfer station has been approved as a Planned Unit Development and has received IEPA and Corps of Engineers permits, said SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt.

Abolt added that the facility is located in an area which complies with setback requirements and floodplain avoidance. There is one entrance road, from River Road, he added.

All areas disturbed by construction will be landscaped or vegetated with natural prairie grasses, while the facility will be surrounded by chain-link or architectural fences.

Abolt told the board that he will meet with staff at Maryville Academy, located directly across the road, to discuss traffic issues.

There are expected to be 138 moving-type trucks to haul the garbage involved with the project.

## Graffiti law up before attorney general

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Wheeling trustees passed an ordinance that gave property owners 30 days to remove graffiti from their buildings or face fines and court, they decided against a provision that would have allowed village workers to remove the graffiti and then charge property owners for that removal.

At the time, Village Attorney James Rhodes said he thought the provision would be illegal in the state of Illinois. But the issue keeps popping up.

Village Manager Craig G. Ander-

son said he will ask for an opinion from the office of the Illinois Attorney General as to whether village workers could go onto private property, remove graffiti and then bill the cost for that removal back to the property owner. If it is illegal, Anderson said, village staff will draft an ordinance for village board approval that will ask the state Legislature to consider making it legal.

Anderson also said he would check to see whether Wheeling can legally remove the graffiti under its powers as a home rule community.

"It seems to me if we can go in and do other things, we should be able to go in and do that," said Village Pres-

ident Sheila H. Schultz. "We are giving them a time frame to clean it up themselves. We are not going to rush in and do something."

In the meantime, however, Robert Gray, director of operations and maintenance, has compiled a list of companies that remove graffiti and that list will be available to all property owners cited under the ordinance.

"With these available there is not much reason for property owners not to remove graffiti promptly," Anderson said.

And he said most property owners who have received a citation since

the ordinance's inception have been cooperative and removed the graffiti within the time limit. But he said the village soon will be taking two property owners in the 100 block of South Wolf Road to court.

"The ordinance has been pretty effective," Anderson said. "We are going to be sending out thank-you letters to those property owners who removed the graffiti promptly."

Anderson also said once graffiti has been cleaned off a building, the police department attempts to keep a closer watch to make sure it is not vandalized again within a matter of days.

## Wheeling trustees ease up on call to close Hatfield's

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling shopping center owner and one of his tenants may get a reprieve from the village next month now that trustees have indicated they may be willing to back off their original order that Hatfield's Pub close Dec. 1.

Trustees extended the special-use permit for Hatfield's Pub in October 1990 for two years when Howard Kagay, owner of the strip shopping center at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., said he could not find another tenant for the store front now occupied by the bar and restaurant.

Kagay appeared before the village board Monday and he again said he still had no takers for that space and stood to lose \$30,000 next year if it sat vacant.

He pointed to many other vacant buildings in the area — including the now-defunct Billy & Co. restaurant directly across the street from his center — and said that tenants are reluctant to move into a shopping center that is surrounded by so many other vacant buildings.

"I am trying to come through with getting a new tenant," Ka-

gay said. "But I would like assurances that at the end of three months it doesn't go vacant if I don't find another tenant."

Village staff has recommended that the restaurant be closed because the shopping center is not in compliance with village requirements for parking spaces.

But Village Manager Craig Anderson said that with the exception of Friday nights the shopping center has few parking problems.

Kagay said he has tried to purchase lots near the shopping center for additional parking but the price has been too high as has the price for renting extra parking at the nearby Riverside Shopping Center at the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees had differing opinions on how much more time Kagay should get to find a new tenant before Hatfield's is forced to close its doors for good.

Trustee Lois Gaffke seemed willing to give Kagay until Hatfield's liquor license expires at the end of April.

But other trustees seemed willing to let the bar stay until the widening of Milwaukee Avenue, now scheduled — at the earliest — for fall 1993.

## Palwaukee airport working overtime for new building

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Work on a new administrative building to house the Palwaukee Municipal Airport staff is moving at a steady pace, but the Aug. 1 target date for vacating the current offices — now in Hangar One — may not be met.

Airport workers are doing much of the work on the new office building — the former Brown & Kerr Inc. roofing company plant at 1020 Plant Road — in addition to their regular maintenance duties at the airport.

Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant airport manager for operations and maintenance, has hired one additional part-time employee to help with the work.

And he said that while a contractor was hired to do drywall work associated with knocking walls down and building a new configuration of office space, the rest of the work, including staining, painting and the installation of new cabinets, has been done by the airport's maintenance staff.

Doorways have also been widened to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"We've been trying to balance

the work with our regular work, but it has been tough to keep up with the mowing on some of the airfield," Rouleau said. "We've been putting in overtime working on the building."

And he said that even with the overtime the project is not exceeding the \$39,000 budget for remodeling, partly because he has gotten military surplus supplies such as ceiling tiles and interior paint.

Airport officials are expecting to spend about \$69,000 to construct a road between the new office building and the airport. The road will run along the airport-owned property to the west of the Household Finance hangar and will provide direct access to the airport for snow removal and maintenance equipment. Work on the road is expected to begin within the next few weeks and take about 35 days.

Airport officials are still aiming to move into the new building Aug. 1, although Rouleau said the move will not be made until the road is complete.

Commissioners decided to make the move earlier this year in hopes of returning Hangar One to a rental property that could generate income for the airport.

## Wheeling bans alcohol in private parking lots

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of Wheeling apartment complexes who want to get together with neighbors to drink a few beers in their parking lot will find a village ordinance blocking their way.

Drinking in public places and on public streets already is prohibited, but trustees added private parking lots to the ordinance Monday night in response to concerns from some residents of the village's multifamily housing developments.

Trustees first discussed banning drinking in private parking lots earlier this year when they granted a liquor license for a new liquor store in the Center Plaza shopping center at the corner of Dundee and Wolf roads.

Some residents of neighboring apartment complexes expressed concern that people living in the area would buy liquor at the store and drink it in the parking lots and common areas because they would prefer drinking outside — not inside — their apartments, many of which are not air-conditioned.

Most of the village's apartment

complex owners have entered into a contract with Wheeling police giving them permission to patrol the parking lots for traffic regulation. A public drinking provision will be added to those agreements.

As originally written, the ordinance also would have made it illegal for residents to drink alcohol on a street that has been closed for a block party.

But trustees wanted to allow groups holding block parties the option of serving alcohol, so the ordinance does not apply to groups who have been issued a permit by the village.

Trustee William Rogers, who voted against giving a liquor license to the new liquor store in Center Plaza, was not convinced the new ordinance will solve the problem of the neighboring apartment complexes.

"This is something all villages should adopt," Rogers said.

"It is common sense that we don't want public drinking. But I don't think the potential problem in that area is going to be solved. It is a crowded area that does not have a liquor store now and does not need one," he said.

## Power outage takes bite out of Familyfest's profits

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While Familyfest organizers spent most of Monday cleaning up the festival grounds at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Wheeling, life inside the church also returned to normal as secretaries dropped the phrase "home of Familyfest" in the greeting they used to answer the phone.

The 11th annual festival came to an end Sunday, one day later than originally planned.

Organizers added the extra day in an attempt to reclaim revenues lost when they were forced to cancel Thursday's activities after storms ripped through the area, damaging tents and causing a power outage in the Bits and Bites area.

While Dave Vogel, chairman of the festival committee, said 200,000 people attended the five-day event this year, he said Sunday's attendance did not make up for what the festival lost Thursday night — when the Marshall Tucker Band was scheduled to perform.

"Sunday helped, but I think we would have made more money on Thursday," he said. "Partly be-

cause of the band and also because most people had the third (of July) off for the holiday."

But Vogel said overall, organizers were happy with the turnout at the festival, held on the church grounds at 181 W. Dundee Road.

He said the Las Vegas-style casino — open to those over age 21 on Friday and Saturday nights — was a big hit and most likely would return next year.

This was the first year festival grounds were fenced off with only three points of entry and the first time adults paid an admission charge.

Vogel said very few people complained about having to pay admission and having controlled entry points cut down greatly on the amount of liquor smuggled onto the festival grounds.

"I cleaned up every night, and I don't think I saw one empty hard-liquor bottle," he said.

Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said the police department does not yet know the total number of police calls associated with Familyfest this year.

"There were generally few problems, and all were dealt with expediently," he said.

## Wheeling on all-out drive for blood donors

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Board of Health is still taking donors for the summer blood drive being held today at village hall.

Representatives of LifeSource Inc. of Glenview will be on hand from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the council chambers to take blood from those willing to give it. Walk-ins are encouraged.

Board of Health members have gone all out to find people willing to donate blood this time around, contacting residents whom LifeSource Inc. has indicated have given blood

at some time in the recent past.

And they also decided to do some phone solicitation themselves, splitting up some pages from the Wheeling-area phone book in an effort to get residents who may not have considered giving blood in the past to give it a try.

The blood drives are held three times a year. Mike Boyle, village sanitarian, said 52 units of blood were collected at the last drive. About 30 people have signed up to donate blood today.

Boyle said it takes between 20 and 30 minutes to give blood and there will be equipment and space for six people to donate at one time.

## Police ready to snuff out any problems at Familyfest

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the St. Joseph the Worker Familyfest in full swing, festival organizers and the Wheeling police department are keeping a watchful eye over the festival grounds in hopes of making the event safe for people of all ages who wish to attend.

And with more than 200,000 people expected to pass through the festival during its five-day run, the task may seem monumental.

But representatives of the church and the police department started meeting at the beginning of the year to determine how many security people would be needed at the festival — which is held on the grounds of the St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church at 181 W. Dundee Road.

"We look at the layout of the festival, the crowd estimates and the entertainment scheduled," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke. "And then we try and determine how many officers we will need."

O'Rourke said between 15 and 20 uniformed officers will be on the festival grounds at all times this year.

And he said these officers will be accompanied by a number of plainclothes Wheeling police officers.

Members of the Cook County Gangs Unit, also in plainclothes, will be on hand to help Wheeling police officers recognize and deal with any problems that may arise with gangs at the festival.

O'Rourke said a return to some bigger name rock 'n' roll acts could create more problems at the festival this year than last year.

The festival was toned down last year with The Letterman and The Buckingham's heading the entertainment over the weekend.

This year, weekend entertainment will be provided by the Marshall Tucker Band, BTO and The Mamas and the Papas. BTO and The Marshall Tucker Band have played at Familyfest in the past.

"With the type of entertainment they had last year, we had less incidents during the entire festival than we did during some individual nights in 1989 and 1990," O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke said in 1989 there were 34 incidents with 14 of them resulting in arrest.

In 1990, there were 33 incidents and 19 of them resulted in arrest.

But in 1991 there were only eight incidents and no arrests.

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling will begin passing the costs of hazardous materials accidents along to the parties responsible for the accident under an ordinance recently passed by trustees.

Under the "spiller pay" ordinance, businesses will be required to pay any overtime personnel costs and the cost of supplies used to contain or clean up the spill. The minimum reimbursement fee will be \$100.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the ordinance creates a users fee, similar to that charged by some municipalities for ambulance service, although the village does not currently charge for an ambulance ride.

Trustees took their first look at the ordinance in a workshop session last month, just days after a pipeline break caused more than 15,000 gallons of gasoline to spill into a field in the village.

The June 5 pipeline break occurred when construction workers putting in a natural gas pipeline cut into a gasoline pipeline in a relatively sparse area north of Old Willow Road.

MacIsaac said that cleanup, which ran over several days, cost the village \$9,400, mostly in equipment and overtime personnel costs. If foam or any other materials had been needed to fight the spill, MacIsaac said the cost would have been much higher.

And after unanimously passing the ordinance, trustees lamented about how nice it would be if the law could be retroactive to cover some of the costs of the recent spill.

MacIsaac said the village has had a number of smaller spills over the years. And he said while the village of Wheeling does have a large industrial area, the need for the "spiller pay" ordinance is pretty much the same as in neighboring communities.

"We do have a large industrial area," he said. "But the need is the same in any community that has any commercial or industrial businesses. Even a supermarket could have a hazardous waste spill. The probability of having an accident may be slightly higher here but the need is the same."

Currently the village could collect reimbursement from state and federal "spiller funds."

Businesses responsible for hazardous materials incidents in Wheeling could soon become responsible for at least part of the costs incurred by the village for dealing with them, under a proposed ordinance being considered by trustees.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac has been looking to get the proposed ordinance — which would require companies involved in a hazardous material accident to pay overtime personnel costs and the costs of supplies — to the village board for the past several months.

But questions about its legality kept it from being discussed by trustees until recently.

"There is some question as to whether or not we have the authority to do this," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "And some question as to whether or not a municipality has the right to enact a civil penalty. We can look at it as a user's fee."

Similar ordinances already exist in Arlington Heights, Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Palatine and Buffalo Grove, MacIsaac said.

With the recent more than 150,000 gallon gas line spill in Wheeling, MacIsaac was able to

## Village to ask spillers to pay up

## Businesses may share costs of hazardous accident cleanups

quote to village trustees just how much a hazardous materials incident could cost the village — \$8,000 just in overtime personnel costs.

The June 5 pipeline break occurred when construction workers putting in a natural gas pipeline cut into the gasoline pipeline. 150,000 gallons of gasoline were hauled away from the site of the leak — a relatively sparse area north of Old Willow Road.

Between the time of the rupture and the morning of June 7, the fire department accumulated 332 overtime hours. The police department and the operations and maintenance department also incurred some overtime costs.

"This ordinance is not intended to try and recover the cost of my salary or my staff's salary or the salary of the on-shift firefighters," MacIsaac said. "It is just for those above and beyond costs typically associated with this type of incident. Historically we have to deal with the initial release of the material and then we still have to deal with removal or cleanup."

Currently, the village could collect reimbursement from state and federal "spiller funds." But MacIsaac said neither fund provides for 100 percent reimbursement and both have limits of \$10,000.

# Buffalo Grove, Wheeling may battle again over land parcel

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Buffalo Grove businessman's desire to increase the parking for his restaurant could land him in the middle of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling's updated version of Let's Make A Deal — the game the two municipalities play when it turns out they both want a parcel of property.

The last battle, over a 20-acre parcel of land on the northeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook roads, ended when Buffalo Grove bowed out of its claim on the land just days before

the two villages were scheduled to appear before a judge who would have decided which village would get the property both had annexed.

It looks like the battle now brewing could be over a much smaller piece of property.

Mark Malnati, owner of Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at 85 S. Buffalo Grove Road, wants to convert a house on the property just south of the restaurant to offices and put additional parking spaces on the site — which is less than one acre in size.

But the property is in Wheeling, and while Malnati would prefer to

disconnect it from Wheeling and annex it into Buffalo Grove, Wheeling trustees are reluctant to give it up.

Stuart Cohen, chief financial officer for Malnati's, said representatives of the village of Wheeling originally suggested that he approach Buffalo Grove because Wheeling has no plans to extend sewer and water service to that corner of the village in the near future.

And Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village might be willing to part with the property if the village of Buffalo Grove would, through an intergovernmental

agreement, take over traffic enforcement of the intersection of Buffalo Grove and Lake-Cook roads, which is in Wheeling.

William R. Balling, Buffalo Grove's village manager, said his village would be willing to take over the intersection but couldn't unless the intersection was also annexed into Buffalo Grove.

"We have been working on this for five months and it looks like it has become an annexation/boundary issue," Balling said. "It isn't, but it looks like somebody is making it one."

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Boehmer Road renamed to Northgate Parkway

Boehmer Road will become Northgate Parkway under a resolution recently passed by the Wheeling Village Board.

The two streets have formed one continuous roadway since construction work was done on their intersection with Dundee Road. Village officials recommended that Boehmer be renamed because there are addresses already fronting Northgate Parkway but there are no addresses on Boehmer.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson suggested the change take place now before the Wheeling Park District aquatic center and recreation building — slated for development at the end of Boehmer Road — need addresses. And he said the long-term possibility for a commuter station on Boehmer also makes the name change appealing.

Anderson suggested the Boehmer name be set aside and used again for another new street in the village because the street was named in honor of Henry Boehmer, the first village president.

### Finance director receives award

Trustees recognized Director of Finance Robert Fialkowski for his receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

This is the fifth year that Fialkowski has been given the award.

"I don't think the general public fully appreciates the significance of this award," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "But the board certainly does."

### Police can get hepatitis shot

Trustees voted to spend \$13,840 to inoculate police personnel who might be at risk of contracting the Hepatitis-B virus.

Anderson said it is now a federal standard that police officers be offered the chance to have the inoculation at no charge, but the actual choice to do so is up to the individual officer.

The cost of the vaccination will be \$100 per person for a series of three shots.

Anderson said the village has been providing the vaccination to paramedics for a number of years.

### Police to patrol condominium lot

Residents of the Euclid Terrace II condominiums could find parking and traffic regulations more strictly enforced in their parking lots now that trustees have approved an agreement that will bring police patrols to the condominiums.

Under the agreement the village can remove vehicles parked or abandoned in the parking lot during snow storms or other emergencies if those vehicles are obstructing traffic.

New or improved fire lanes may also be established at the complex.

## 4th of July Committee thanks village for help

Wheeling resident Linda Breset expresses thanks to the community on behalf of the entire Wheeling Fourth of July Committee. The committee worked hard all year to raise funds for last week's parade and fireworks. They would like to thank all of the Wheeling residents who sent in donations with their water bills as well as those who attended the fund-raising events and purchased water bottles at the First National Bank. Thanks also to the local businesses who donated goods and services to "the cause."

Any citizens interested in helping make next year's Independence Day even better are invited to give their input or become involved with the Committee for 1993. For more information, call Judy Abruscato at 459-4000 or 541-8788.

# Plan to focus on future development

By JEFF KEHE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling Plan Commissioners may help shape the village's future during the next few months while they put together objectives for a comprehensive plan.

The comprehensive plan, to be presented to the village board for approval once completed, will provide recommendations for community development as well as reasons why some zoning changes may need to be made.

Some of the major priorities the plan will address are what to do with

vacant and under-used areas of the village and the possibility of rezoning certain business areas for residential development.

Commission Chairman Paul Elsterhold noted that almost 50 percent of the village is zoned for industrial use right now and there is a 23 percent vacancy rate. The Wheeling zoning code hasn't been overhauled in more than 20 years. Commissioners hope the plan will promote change by providing the rationale for rezoning individual parcels.

High on the commissioners' list of priorities is a plan to bolster development in the immediate vicinity of

the restaurant strip along Milwaukee Avenue. They noted that renowned eateries as Don Roth's, Le Francis and Bob Chin's Crabhouse won't last forever without continued improvement and support along the roadway.

One question commissioners are asking themselves is how the village can foster parcel consolidation along the strip to allow for larger commercial development, such as office buildings or even some type of after district. They also cited a need for stricter enforcement of ordinances in order to clean up certain properties in the village and make

further development more appealing.

"I'd give anything to make Dundee Road presentable," said Commissioner Steve Walanka, noting its lack of landscaping and abundance of parking lots.

Another priority that members hope to address is the development of Palwaukee Municipal Airport and how the village might capitalize on it. Palwaukee is owned by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights and is considered one of the major private airports in the Chicago area.

# Intersection relocation near Palwaukee moves forward

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the past few years, the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission has been moving slowly but steadily toward acquiring the land needed for the relocation of the Hintz and Wolf road intersection.

So the recent approval of 10 purchase agreements in one fell swoop by the village of Wheeling and the

city of Prospect Heights — co-owners of the airport — seemed like a giant step toward meeting that goal.

And while it may seem that the airport is kicking its efforts into high gear, Airport Manager Fred Stewart said it is all a matter of timing.

"It is just a combination of the money being available and the approvals being approved," Stewart said. "Things just got done in a bunch."

The Federal Aviation Administration funds 90 percent of the cost of land acquisition while the state of Illinois picks up 5 percent of the tab and the airport pays the other 5 percent.

Stewart is expecting to receive \$6 million from the FAA this year. The airport paid \$1.5 million for the 10 recently acquired parcels and airport officials are hoping to acquire the last 26 parcels needed for the inter-

section relocation this year.

The intersection must be moved west to create a FAA required clear zone at the end of the airport's largest runway.

Only one elected official from the two communities voted against approving the purchase agreements.

Prospect Heights 2nd Ward Alderman Warren Sunde continues to maintain his opposition to any development at the airport because he

sees it as expansion — something he said the two communities promised would not happen when they asked for voter approval for the purchase of the airport.

"There is no question there is expansion going on and that both communities are looking the other way," Sunde said.

He pointed to plans to purchase the drive-in theater next to the airport and build new hangars as one way

the airport will expand.

"Other planes will be brought in," he said. "Then we are going to have two communities whooping and hollering."

But airport officials maintain the new hangars would be built only to replace hangars on other parts of the airport property that have to be torn down because they are a safety hazard.

# Police eye 'old' changes

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling is studying the possibility of bringing community policing to town, but don't expect to see cops walking a beat in your neighborhood, according to Police Chief Michael Haeger.

"The walk-and-talk ... worked well in the city, when people lived on their front porches. But those days are long gone," said Haeger.

He said that it was possible that foot patrol might be tried in commercial areas, however. Those might include the Milwaukee Avenue - Dundee Road area, the Dundee - Wolf Road area, and Wolf Road north of Dundee.

Haeger, Village Manager Craig Anderson, Assistant Manager Joni Beaudry and Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke attended a two-day seminar on the new, old-fashioned wave in police work in Rockville, Maryland this week.

## Low cost seminar

Anderson said last week that the International City Management Association, of Washington, D.C., running a joint project with the U.S. Justice Department, charged a bargain-basement

(Continued on page 14)

\$500 for the seminar, which included several meals. Village staffers booked flights during the airline price wars last month, and were able to take advantage of cheap airfares.

Haeger said Friday that Wheeling would probably not be opening remote police stations in target neighborhoods, such as Rolling Meadows' Police Neighborhood Resource Center, which is set among apartment buildings sheltering about 3,000 people.

"Most of our trouble spots are smaller, and currently within 6-8 blocks of our existing facility," said Haeger. "We'll still operate within our beats. We'd just be changing the philosophy of why we're in the patrol car."

He said community policing is a more pro-active form of combating crime, especially suited to domestic crises.

## Intervention

"Instead of officers going and taking a report, we'd have officers becoming directly involved.

"If people requested intervention, we could assign a social worker or contact other agencies, and follow up to make sure some kind of intervention occurs."

# Palwaukee can't land interest with fuel operators

By WILLIAM ARNOLD  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Palwaukee Municipal Airport will go with only one fixed-base operator at least for now, if not for another three years, as the airport commission decided to step up its efforts in the search for another operator.

A fixed-base operator is a company that exists on the airport property, providing fuel and services to aircraft owners that do not have their own facilities on site. Currently the airport has only one fixed-base operator - Priester Aviation.

So far, the main effort the commission has made in attracting a new operator to the airport has been to send out requests to various companies around the world. But of the 54 requests sent out, only one proposal was received by the July 1 deadline.

And according to commissioners, that proposal was not enough.

"I find that this is inadequate as to what we are trying to do," said Commissioner William Rogers. "So many things were left out. The only requirement isn't to sell gas cheaper - the acceptable FBO has to be a certain size and type in order to compete with Priester."

Instead of approving or rejecting the proposal, the commission's finance and administration committee will try to work with that company, as well as others, in order to bring a new fixed-base operator to Palwaukee.

Another duty given to the committee was to contact each company that had been sent a request as to why they did not respond. But Airport Manager Fred Stewart had his own ideas, after talking to Mid Coast

Aviation and Butler Aviation, as to why being the new operator at Palwaukee would not be attractive - mainly the site offered for the operator - Hangar One.

"(The site for the fixed base operator) would have to be in an adequate location on the airport, appropriately sized and suitable, for them to invest the bucks they want to in order to be comparable in a market that has been exclusive use for a number of years," he said. "One of the things they both said was that the appearance was not up to what they would put their name on."

Aside from Hangar One, another site is planned for a fixed-base operator on the property the airport is in the process of acquiring. But work on that new site awaits the building of a drainage ditch, which is not expected for another three years.

# WEEKLY DIGEST

## Train rolls closer to station

Buffalo Grove Village President Sid Mathias said Monday he and other officials of 11 towns along the Wisconsin Central met with their congressional representatives Monday morning, and felt the commuter train they crave rolled a couple of miles closer to the station. Mathias, who sees the new line as his village's top priority, said he "went away feeling very good," though no substantive promises were made.

Present at the Prospect Heights City Hall were Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, another mayor who sees a commuter train as important to her town's development. She joined U.S. Reps. John Porter, Phil Crane, and administrative aides to Reps. Henry Hyde and Dan Rostenkowski, as well as Metra representatives.

"They wanted to know from us if we're serious about the (rail)road. We wanted to know if they could fund it."

It was the latest in a series of meetings between municipal officials, and various others, in an attempt to establish that each town really wants a train bad enough to at least build a station for it to stop at.

# Village runs dry on booze al fresco

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The days of hoisting a cold one in the outdoors, at least in Wheeling, are over. Unless it's in your own backyard, or a place with a permit, you had best take the stuff inside.

The last bastion of outdoor boozing falls today as a new ordinance outlawing open alcohol in parking lots takes effect. It was already illegal to drink on the street or in the parks. The ordinance forbids having open alcohol "in or upon or about any motor vehicle."

Licensed outdoor cafes, block parties and such are, of course, exempt.

The move to outlaw drinking in parking lots began spontaneously at a village board meeting months ago when a request for a package liquor store license came before trustees. The license was eventually granted for a store on Wolf Road just north of Dundee Road, right in the middle of an area known for quaffing in the great outdoors.

But they didn't allow it without beginning the process toward preventing it from becoming a source for community complaints.

Police Chief Michael Haeger said complaints of alcohol-involved disorderly conduct have been common around "Arbor Court, Winetree ... and most apartments and complexes."

He said the law gives police another weapon in quelling disturbances before they become dangerous.

"It may reduce the number of times you have to go back," he said. "We can seize the alcohol, write citations, or bring people in."

Fines for public drinking or drunkenness are between \$35 and \$500 for each count, the same as other ordinance violations.

from page 5

"Instead of writing citations, we might eliminate some of the reasons the violations occur," he said.

He added that community policing "becomes personnel-intensive ... we might have to hire more people."

"It might be something we

## Instead of writing citations, we might eliminate some of the reasons the violations occur.

can do without increasing our budget," Anderson said hopefully.

## More efficient

Haeger felt community policing could actually increase efficiency, since it might concentrate on "repeat callers." Police officers could have community policing duties written into their job descriptions. They could coordinate departmental crime prevention and outside social service workers, and follow up cases without having to squeeze such activities between responding to crime and driving beats. The result

would ideally be preemption of crime before it occurs, saving the time spent in officer response.

He said his department has already tried some forms of new-breed policing. About two years ago, the tactical unit brought building owners in the Winetree Apartments together with several village agencies in a coordinated effort to rid the area of graffiti.

"It was a classic form of community policing," he said.

Haeger said the continuing community needs assessment process undertaken by the department could indicate where Wheeling residents feel police service needs improvement, and new tactics could be applied in those areas. He said a detailed survey will be taken over the summer.

He hopes results of the polling and departmental studies of enforcement and prevention options will be ready by late fall, so they can indicate what to include in his budget request to the village board.

# Post explores world of make-believe murder

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

**Whodunit?**  
That was the big question members of Wheeling's Explorer Post 123 were mulling over recently as they sifted through evidence and statements from their investigation of a mock murder scene.

The make-believe murder and the ensuing investigation were just two of the many activities the group has participated in since forming last winter. But it was, for many, their first look at some of the more exciting aspects of police work.

Getting a look at all the facets of

law enforcement is what Explorer Post 123 is about. While the post is supervised by a group of Wheeling police officers who donate their time to the task, it is the brainchild of the Northwest Suburban Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

It is made up of 12 Wheeling High School students who expressed interest in law enforcement on a questionnaire distributed at the high school by the Northwest Suburban Council.

Some of them know they want to become police officers, and some of them were just interested in finding out exactly what it is that police officers do.

"I've always wanted to be a detec-

tive," said 17-year-old Jenny Garcia. "It has always been my career choice."

But Jessica Richter, 15, was a little more ambivalent.

"I joined just to see what police officers do," she said.

Since its inception, the group has learned about the correct procedure for making routine traffic stops, heard presentations on the various branches of law enforcement at the local and national levels, and prepared for and carried out the mock-murder investigation.

"It seems that police work is pretty routine," said 17-year-old Joy Czubakowski. "But there is always a chance it will be really exciting."

The excitement, for the post and the police officers who work with it, came during the mock murder, when the fire department's practice dummy was found murdered in a model unit of the Foxboro Apartments.

Although officers Mike Kirby and Bruce Jacobson had taught the group about the various steps in a criminal investigation and the roles of the officers on the scene, the Explorers were not given any advance notice that they would be heading to a crime scene or that once there they would be doing the investigating.

"They did really good," Kirby said. "They made many of the same mistakes that rookie cops do, like trying to do everything. Everyone wants to be the one to find the 'smok-

ing gun'."

Kirby said he is impressed with the way this group has worked so far.

"They really want to work hard," he said. "They do a good job and they listen."

While the Wheeling police department has hosted Explorer groups in the past, this group gets its support from a core of police officers who really want to see the group succeed and are willing to put in the time to make the events interesting, informative and fun.

"This group started out with a few officers who were interested," said Officer Randy Olsberg. "We decided we wanted to start the group. It was not an idea that came from the top down."

Post 123 is one of 10 law enforcement posts in the Northwest Suburban council.

"The purpose of an Explorer post is to expose kids to what a career in a certain field would be like," said Natalie Carozzi, Exploring Executive for the council. "We also have posts in hotel management, health care and engineering."

Carozzi said the posts are designed to attract high school students, who need not have a history of boy scouting. Explorer Posts are the only co-educational branch of the Boy Scouts and students may be a member of an Explorer Post until they are 21 years old.



Wheeling Crime Prevention Officer Barb KoBishop is a witness to the mock murder. She is being questioned by Steven Myerson (left) and Joy Czubakowski.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White



Explorer Jessica Richter checks out the "body" at the Explorer Post's mock-crime scene. The scene was staged by Wheeling police officers to give the Explorers a chance to use skills learned during recent instruction.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

# Airport to study effects on wetlands

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners, continuing to look toward the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz Roads intersection, have asked their engineers to begin determining what affect the move will have on wetlands in the immediate vicinity.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said that Crawford, Murphy and Tilly Inc. of Rockford will begin working with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Department of Wa-

ter Resources and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to review the issue.

He said some property west of Wolf Road and north of Hintz Road and several parcels south of Hintz Road and west of Wolf Road are now considered wetlands. The impact of the road relocation on those areas must be studied before any construction can begin, Stewart said.

"As I understand it, we have to prepare and get approved mitigation plans for any areas we might be disturbing," Stewart said. "Crawford,

Murphy and Tilly are going to study the issue."

Stewart said he does not know at this time whether some wetlands will have to be moved or whether they will be undisturbed by the road relocation. But, he expects to have those answers early next year when the study is completed.

He said the commission will do its best to preserve or move any wetlands that might be affected.

"It is the policy of the Palwaukee Airport Commission and the communities (Prospect Heights and

Wheeling — co-owners of the airport) to be good neighbors," Stewart said. "We want to do our share to preserve the ecological balance of the area."

And he said he does not expect the wetland issue to delay relocation of the intersection which is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1992 with the construction of two bridges.

The intersection of the two roads must be moved west to create a Federal Aviation Administration required clear zone at the end of the airport's longest runway.

And Calvin Fee, TCI general manager, said the switch will mean Wheeling residents can expect fewer cable outages and in many cases reduced rates because those with converter boxes and cable-ready televisions and video-cassette recorders will no longer need the converter box.

"The village board will hold a public hearing on the changes to their franchise agreement with TCI Aug. 3 at village hall.

"It will be an opportunity for anyone who wants to talk about their problems with the cable company to do so," Anderson said.

The session was held so trustees could ask more questions about changes TCI wants to make in their 15-year franchise agreement with the village, which does not expire until 1996.

TCI wants to switch from the dual-cable system, capable of receiving 120 channels, to a single-cable system that would receive 60 channels.

Residents can expect their basic cable rate to drop by \$3.40 if the single-cable system is approved, but those who still need a converter box will be charged \$2 per month for the box.

And while Fee stated that TCI attempts to hold its rate increases to one a year, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson cautioned trustees to remember there was no guarantee there would not be a rate increase soon after the single-cable system takes effect and the rate drops.

TCI wants to switch from the dual-cable system, capable of receiving 120 channels, to a single-cable system that would receive 60 channels.

"Most people are likely to see a reduction," he said. "It doesn't mean they (rates) will stay down forever. We would like to see that reduction stay in effect for at least a year, but there is no guarantee.

Fee said several neighboring communities including Arlington Heights and Northbrook have already made the switch.

## Wheeling cable contract gets closer to approval

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents can expect their basic cable rate to drop by \$3.40 if the single-cable system is approved, but those who still need a converter box will be charged \$2 per month for the box.

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LOCAL REPORT

7/16/92

# Owners jump at demolition offer

COUNTRY SIDE  
7-30-92

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Shortly after Wheeling codified its plan to spend \$25,000 to share in the cost of demolishing vacant buildings around town, three owners are looking to take advantage of the opportunity.

One of them is Leonard Didier, who closed his Da-Lite Bleach Company, a few years ago. It had been a fixture at 160 S. Milwaukee, since the sixties, and his truck was a familiar sight delivering janitorials on the North Shore for 41 years.

His is one of the many small — 100 feet by 147 — plots of land that is hard to sell by itself while satisfying the village's wish to put high-quality businesses onto its main drag.

An effort to get several adjacent landowners to sell their land jointly for an Alzheimer's clinic fell apart, and, for the moment, Didier's stuck with his property. It might have a little better chance to sell if it didn't have an old flat-roof plant on it, and an even older dilapidated frame house next door.

## Impromptu party

More than that, Didier figures taking down the buildings "would get me in to a lower tax bracket until I can sell. And I could get rid of the liability. Anybody can break in and start a pot party."

Building owners can get

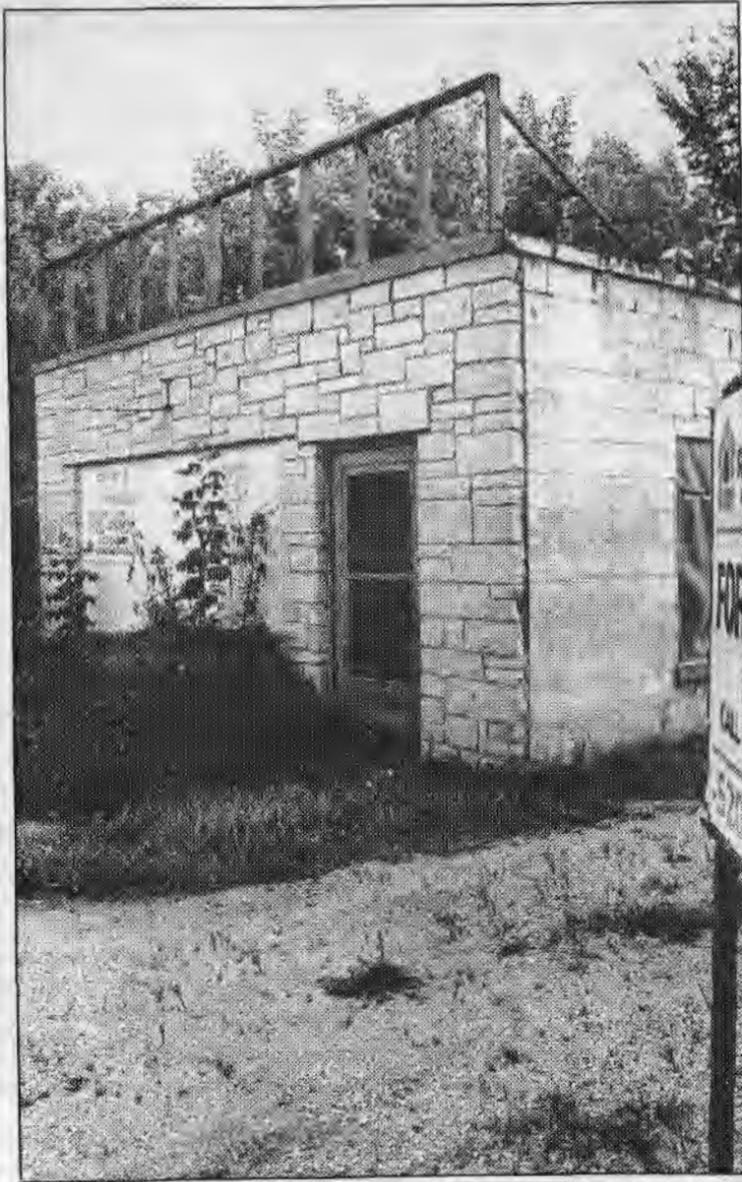
up to \$5,000 toward knocking their buildings down, with the village paying half the total. Didier is dickering with Tom Fennel, Wheeling's buildings director, to try to get him to promise up to \$5,000 for each building instead of one payment for both.

**Building owners can get up to \$5,000 toward knocking their buildings down, with the village paying half the total.**

Fennel hopes he can spend all the money in one fiscal year, though not necessarily 40 percent on Didier's property. There's also Joe Mastrantotaro, who bought an old gas station at Mors and Milwaukee a few years ago, but got stuck with it when the village refused to allow him to move his Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza there. And there's another prospect Fennel won't name.

"I would like to get six done this year," he said, "and have it extended next year, and get the rest of them knocked down." He

(Continued on page 18)



Pioneer Press photo

One of the buildings in downtown Wheeling that may soon see the wrecking ball.

Didier would like to see his buildings flattened, despite sentimental value. Though the Da-Lite building

**It might have a little better chance to sell if it didn't have an old flat-roof plant on it, and an even older dilapidated frame house next door.**

is not entirely unattractive, with its stone facing in front, it would never pass fire inspection, so can't be rented out, according to Didier.

## Wheeling residents criticize TCI cable service, rates

However, most residents advocated the switch from a dual-cable system to a single-cable, and trustees voted unanimously to amend their franchise agreement with TCI — giving the cable company the go-ahead to get started on the switch.

"We should make the switch," said resident Martin Schwartz. "We can't use the second set of channels if the cable goes out, anyway, and we will be able to use the remote control that goes with our televisions."

Trustees have contemplated the switch since last year but wanted some quality controls in the new agreement before they would approve the change.

TCI representatives said the switch will mean that Wheeling residents can expect fewer cable outages and, in many cases, reduced cable rates, because those with converter boxes who have cable-ready televisions and video-cassette recorders will no longer need the converter box.

Residents also can expect their basic cable rate to drop by at least \$3.40, but those without cable-ready equipment still will need a converter box at a cost of \$2 month.

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Though their numbers may have been relatively few, Wheeling residents who turned out Monday to broadcast their opinions of the cable service TCI of Illinois is providing the village say they're dissatisfied with the quality they've received — and the rates they're paying for it.

While many of the 20 or so people at the hearing had personal horror stories to tell about their cable service, most agreed that the price is simply too high.

"The price is ridiculous for what we get," said Ridgely subdivision resident Bonnie Himelblau. "And service quality is another issue. I thought we would have a wonderful picture, but we still get snow."

At least two residents urged the village to exert more controls on the cable company. "There should be arbitration or economic penalties — something that gives the guy at home a little leverage," said David Darby. But Village President Sheila H. Schultz said there is nothing the village can do to regulate cable prices.

# Residents take stand against crime

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Three Wheeling neighborhoods are holding block parties tonight to celebrate the Ninth Annual National Night Out in which people take to the streets in a show of solidarity against criminals.

Several other neighborhoods are also expected to hold informal celebrations of the crime and drug prevention event from 7 to 9 p.m., which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the village.

All residents are asked to lock

their doors, turn on the outside lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors.

"It is a statement of solidarity for the neighborhoods," said Crime Prevention Officer Barbara Kobishop. "It is a chance for people to meet their neighbors and to say that these are our neighborhoods and we are keeping it that way."

The neighborhoods that will have formal gatherings are the Malibu and Tahoe subdivisions and West Wayne Street in the Dunhurst subdivision.

Those neighborhoods will be visited by Kobishop, Deputy Police Chief

J. Michael Hermes and Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

The fire department will have a fire engine and an ambulance on-hand to give residents a closer look at some of the department's equipment.

Canine officer Bill Benson also will visit those three neighborhoods with Laiser, Wheeling's police dog, who will be joined by two canine characters — Sparky, the fire dog and McGruff, the crime prevention dog.

This is the third year Wheeling residents have participated in National Night Out. Kobishop said between 200 and 300 residents took to

the streets last year.

Tahoe Village has held a coloring contest for its children and will award prizes Tuesday evening. A smoke detector, donated by the fire department, will be raffled off.

"The program is still in its infant stages here in Wheeling," Kobishop said.

More than 25 million people are expected to participate in National Night Out under the theme "Give neighborhood crime and drugs a going away party." The campaign reaches 8,500 communities nationwide and 130 military bases worldwide.

# Airport commission gives warning to appraisers 7/18

By CAROLYN ARNOLD  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Two appraisers working for the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission are being given advance warning that their contracts with the commission may be in jeopardy.

The appraisers, Starkman and Associates of Evanston and F.H. Whipple and Associates of Northfield, were hired by the commission to ap-

praise 32 lots the airport is looking to acquire for the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads.

But both companies have been behind schedule in returning their reviews to the commission, according to Airport Manager Fred Stewart. The information regarding the 32 parcels was given to the companies between October and January, with a time limit of 30 days per parcel to complete the work. So far, the com-

mission has not received final appraisals for 11 of the properties.

As per federal regulations, two appraisal firms are necessary to appraise land the airport wants to purchase using federal funds, and a third appraiser must review the work of the first two. But because of the quality of the reports, the third appraiser, William A. McCann and Associates of Chicago, has had to put in extra work.

"The review appraiser (McCann) has found it necessary to do more hours of work than is normally required for the reviewing of the appraisals," said Stewart. "(Whipple and Starkman) have not produced in accordance with the terms of the contract."

In addition, the extra work may cost the commission more money, as McCann has requested that they be reimbursed for the additional hours

they have put in. According to Stewart, McCann has generated approximately \$5,000 worth of extra work to date. While the commission has not voted yet on whether to reimburse McCann, the extra money needed would come from a grant the airport has received for this work, said Stewart.

As a result of the problems they have encountered, the commission is ready to start firing proceedings if

the two firms do not attend a special meeting on July 22 to address the matter. Since the co-owners of the airport — Prospect Heights and Wheeling — hired the appraisers, the commission can only recommend that they be fired.

If Whipple and Starkman are fired, then the commission would defer to the Illinois Department of Transportation to hire two more firms.

## Wheeling reconsiders ban on home businesses 7-27-92

technology make it easier to do so.

"We all know people who are operating businesses out of their home," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "We don't want people to be in that position. This is meant to assist those who are operating home businesses that are not bothering their neighbors."

Several office-type uses, day care and educational classes of not more than four children, artists and photographic studios, and sewing shops are some of the uses permitted under the proposed ordinance.

The ordinance also sets up a group of standards that can be used to

judge whether a home business is infringing on the rights of adjoining property owners.

Under some of those standards, a business cannot employ people not living in the home, cannot have outdoor storage, and cannot generate an unusual demand for parking space.

Some residents are concerned about regulations governing the types of vehicles that can be parked in a driveway overnight and the types of business advertising that can be on the vehicle.

Village code limits the type of truck that can be parked overnight

to one with a Class A or B state license and with a weight limit of 8,000 pounds or less.

Regulations for signage are under review by the village sign code board of appeals and would be used to govern the home occupation ordinance.

"Through my 33 years of living in the village, there have been working-class people with trucks and certain businesses," said resident Tim Reuss. "They have been here for years. It is a crime to tell them now to take their business and leave town."

## Airport land appraisals barely beat deadline 7-25-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Land appraisals the Palwaukee Municipal Airport commission has waited months to receive were handed in Friday, after commissioners threatened to fire the appraiser if he could not meet the deadline.

Commissioners told Al Belmonte, of Evanston-based Starkman and Associates, that he had to deliver by Friday appraisals on eight of the parcels of land needed for the airport's capital improvement plan or else lose his contract with the commission and payment for any work

he had done on the appraisals.

Two appraisals are required for any land the airport wants to purchase. A third appraiser then reviews them and looks for mistakes. When they are correct, the appraiser recommends one to the commission which forwards it to the state for approval before an offer can be made to the landowner.

F.H. Whipple and Associates of Northfield narrowly missed being given the same ultimatum by turning in late appraisals Wednesday before the commission met to discuss the problem.

The two companies were hired last

fall to appraise 32 pieces of land the airport needs to complete its capital improvements plan — which includes the relocation of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads and the Wheeling drainage ditch.

At the time they were given the contracts, both companies said they could meet the 30-day completion period for each appraisal. But when called on the carpet, they told commissioners the work was more involved than they believed when they agreed to do the job.

"Frankly, the process took quite a bit longer than I anticipated," Belmonte said. "I feel the level of re-

view was very particular and very unique. I was unaware of the role of the review appraiser in this instance."

Ken Polach, of William A. McCann and Associates of Chicago, has served as the airport's review appraiser in every land purchase it has made, said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart.

While Polach said he is stricter on detail than some other appraisers, commissioners laid the blame for the delay at the feet of Starkman and Whipple and agreed to pay McCann an additional \$5,700 for the time it took to fix up the pair's work.

## Home occupation ordinance aimed at landscapers 7-30-92

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

There may be very few landscapers or construction haulers who work out of their Wheeling homes within a few months.

After a third meeting to discuss which will be permitted home businesses and which will not, village trustees seemed unanimous in their passion to allow accountants and computer operators to practice their passive occupations at home, but not obtrusive landscapers, haulers and such.

"They're trying to run us out," said George Gilbert, who runs Gilbert Landscaping out of his Strong Street neighborhood home.

"The working class people, with the trucks and everything, are those who brought Wheeling to where it is today — and now you say take your business and leave town," said Tim Reuss, who said he parks his employer's big trucks at his Mayer Avenue home overnight.

It was made clear to some who have been operating out of Strong Street for forty years that they would not be forced to go anywhere. Landscapers Alberto Salinas and Adam Martinez Sr. are "grandfathered in," according to Village Attorney James Rhodes, as is Bob Issleb, who runs a construction hauling business, when he's not working as Wheeling streets superintendent.

But the other landscapers will probably not be exempted from the ordinance, which will likely be brought for a vote Aug. 17 or Aug. 31, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said a "review" portion of the proposed ordinance was not put there to make exceptions for existing businesses, like landscaping, to

be allowed individually. This section of the law would be used to admit new, high-tech home businesses not yet envisioned.

Schultz said it was possible people like Reuss would be able to park trucks overnight when the ordinance is finally passed, as long as the trucks have A or B plates, which limit their empty weight to 16,000 pounds. Unfortunately, Reuss said he parks bigger trucks than that.

"Don't worry. I'll just park it in the village (hall) parking lot," he grinned.

Trustee William Rogers made a point of telling the assembled landscapers and haulers that the new ordinance was envisioned as protection against complaints by "disgruntled neighbors" who could put them out of business with a phone call, since all home businesses, from dollmaking to atomic bomb production, is illegal in Wheeling today.

But that would not change for the landscapers. Under the proposed law, they would still be illegal, and more high-profile, to boot. In the past, they were illegal, but left pretty much alone.

They could continue to take a chance and operate after an ordinance banning them is passed. "That is an option they would still have," said Schultz, adding that the village enforcement of the ordinance would not be aggressive, but complaint-generated.

Issleb, who has complained about landscapers in the past, asked trustees if perhaps they could inspect landscapers on a one-to-one basis, and approve them if "their trucks were covered, and not visible (from) the street."

But trustees seemed set on a uniform set of codes. "You don't do zoning that way," said Rogers.

But zoning has been changed in the Strong Street area numerous times.

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If Whipple and Starkman are fired, then the commission will defer to the Illinois Department of Transportation to hire two other firms.

# Wheeling reconsiders ban on home businesses

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees took another look at their proposed home business ordinance Monday, asking a few more questions and hearing from some village residents opposed to the plan.

While all home businesses are now illegal in the village, officials have conceded that the law is virtually impossible to enforce and they are hoping the new ordinance would make it possible for people to operate some businesses out of their home — especially as advances in

technology make it easier to do so.

"We all know people who are operating businesses out of their home," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "We don't want people to be in that position. This is meant to assist those who are operating home businesses that are not bothering their neighbors."

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Staff Writer

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But zoning has been changed in the Strong Street area numerous times.

# Wheeling's upgraded fire protection to help homeowners

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Homeowners and business owners in the Wheeling Rural Fire Protection District could see a fairly substantial drop in the cost of their fire insurance now that the Wheeling fire department has received a new rating from the Insurance Services Organization (ISO).

And while homeowners in the village of Wheeling could also see a drop in insurance rates, Wheeling

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said it will not be as great as the decrease that could be seen in the district.

"There are some people who will benefit more than others," MacIsaac said. "Homeowners insurance is a mixture of all types of insurance and only the fire portion is affected by the change."

Along with providing fire protection services for village residents, the Wheeling fire department is paid on a contractual basis by the rural fire protection district for service to

areas in Prospect Heights and unincorporated Cook County near Palwaukee Airport.

The ISO is made up of representatives of a multitude of insurance companies. The group visited the Wheeling Fire Department in April and spent a week evaluating various aspects of the department to determine the new rating.

MacIsaac said fire departments are rated on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst and 1 being the best.

This year the village department received a rating of 4 — up from the 5 rating it received during the last evaluation — and the fire protection district went from 89 to 4.

"ISO has determined the level of service we provide in the district is equal to that we provide to village residents," MacIsaac said.

Fire departments are usually evaluated by ISO once every 10 years. Wheeling was evaluated last in 1980. MacIsaac listed several factors he thinks attributed to the improved

rating. "We have been preparing for over a year," he said. "We reviewed past evaluations and did an internal audit of our records, reports and procedures."

And he said several changes took place over the last 10 years, including the purchase of new equipment, the implementation of the Enhanced 911 emergency system and the switch from wells to Lake Michigan water, which also contributed to the higher ratings.

# Residents can speak out about cable

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents who want to voice their opinion about the cable television service provided to them by TCI will get their chance today when the village board holds a public hearing.

Village officials are holding two hearings: one for residents to speak about cable service in conjunction with TCI's 10-year performance review, and one in conjunction with a proposed amendment to the village's cable franchise agreement with TCI that would allow the cable company

to switch from a dual-cable to single-cable system.

"We want to encourage anyone who has comments to come to the meeting," said Wheeling Assistant Village Manager Joni Beaudry. "People can also submit comments in writing if they cannot make the meeting."

The two public hearings — which will begin at 8 p.m. in the council chambers at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road — are required under the village's cable franchise agreement with TCI.

Wheeling trustees have been contemplating the switch to a single-

cable system since first approached by TCI representatives about the idea last year. The current 15-year cable franchise agreement does not expire until 1996.

TCI representatives say the switch will mean Wheeling residents can expect fewer cable outages and in many cases reduced cable rates, because those with converter boxes and cable-ready televisions and video cassette recorders will no longer need the converter box.

Kelvin Fee, general manager of TCI, has said 40 percent of all service calls in Wheeling are converter box-related.

If the change is approved by the village board, residents can expect their basic cable rate to drop by \$3.40, but those who still need a converter box will be charged \$2 per month for the box.

How long the lower rates would remain in effect is uncertain, because TCI usually raises the rates on an annual basis.

Fee said several neighboring communities, including Arlington Heights and Northbrook, have already made the switch with successful results.

Comments made at the public hearings will be kept on file.

# Wheeling surveys residents on needs of 'community'

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will have their chance to help create a wish list of sorts for the community when they answer a survey conducted by the village's community needs assessment team.

The team — made up of members of the police department, village administration and the park district — will begin conducting the survey today in the Cedar Run subdivision and hopes to hit most Wheeling neighborhoods by the end of September.

"From my perspective this is a chance to get direct input from people who live in Wheeling," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "Are we providing the service we should be providing? There are a series of broad and specific questions that will help us determine if needs are being met or if there are particular issues we should be looking at."

The team is starting in the village's multi-family housing developments but all neighborhoods eventually can expect a visit.

Crime Prevention Officer Barbara Kobishop said the team is beginning with the multi-family

housing developments because of the number of common areas where it can set up and attract people to fill out the survey. "We will initially be setting up tables in the common areas — lobbies, club houses and swimming pools," she said. "We are looking for 15 percent of the population in a particular area to fill out the survey."

Kobishop said the village's community development department has divided Wheeling into subdivisions and neighborhoods to be surveyed.

Anderson said the information gathered from the surveys will be useful as the village moves toward its goal of providing a more community-oriented public service approach.

"We need to know what the needs of our residents are before we can use a coordinated inter-departmental approach to meeting those needs," he said.

And it is likely the information will be used as the police department looks at a community-oriented policing program where patrol officers may walk a beat or stop and talk with residents as they drive through neighborhoods.

# Now's your chance to give Wheeling police an earful

BY IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents who want to beef or throw bouquets at the police or other village staffs now have their chance. Starting this week, police and other village personnel can be found asking residents questions — not about their own failings, but about those of the questioners.

The anonymous survey, a pet project of Police Chief Mike Haeger, asks residents how they feel about the police, fire department, public works, community development, the park district, the Pavilion Senior Center and how things are working out in their own neighborhoods.

Plain-clothes officers and social workers will appear in several locations over the next couple of weeks:

■ Saturday August 8th at the Lexington Commons, Poolside 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Tuesday, Aug. 11, Whippetree Mobile Home Park, Clubhouse, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

■ Wednesday Aug. 12, Euclid Terrace parking lots, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

■ Friday Aug. 14, Chelsea Cove clubhouse, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

■ Monday Aug 17, Cameo Apartments lobby, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All Wheeling personnel will be identified by a badge on their shirts and blouses, according to Kobishop.

The process will continue through the summer, and Wheeling crime prevention-community relations officer Barb Kobishop said Monday that she's looking for volunteers to help distribute surveys in their neighborhood, with the accompaniment of police officers. Those interested should call her at 459-2693.

She said the department is hoping to get the opinions of at least 15 percent of residents, and will try to get that percentage not only village-wide, but from each corner of every neighborhood. That way, no portion of a large area like Dunhurst would dominate opinion of the entire Dunhurst area.

# Cable viewers being promised rosy picture

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

8-6-92  
Wheeling cable TV consumers are being promised a clearer picture, fewer outages, half the wiring, and fewer converter boxes, at a price \$3.40 less than what they're paying now.

Wheeling will join most of the area, and most other TCI customers, in one-cable service. Within the month, subscribers will be able to eschew the "A" cable and run just on the "B."

Converter boxes for cable-ready sets will no longer be necessary, except if owners subscribe to Cinemax or The Movie Channel. The first box will be free, but more will cost \$2 each. Owners of old-fashioned sets will also have to rent \$2 converters.

No longer will residents have to pay a monthly fee to connect extra sets. They will also be able to plug in the 'B' cable themselves, though TCI workers will travel door to door in the evenings to do it for them.

But the new franchise and conversion agreements inked between the village and TCI are not all gold. The number of channels will halve along with the number of cables, from 120 to 60, though few of those extra channels are used now. The number of educational and government access channels will drop from 12 to eight.

However, Wheeling residents will now be able to use their very own remote controls they bought with their sets, as other one-cable subscribers do. "Picture-in-picture" sets can now operate as intended, and subscribers will get real stereo, too, if they have the receivers for it.

Basic-service rates drop from \$20.95 to \$17.55 on the next billing cycle, though it's still up in the air what future costs will be. Wheeling, like other municipalities, cannot legally control rates. But legislators in the House and Senate are currently wrestling with lobbyists and each other over competing bills to allow them to do so.

Wheeling can even now invite competition. But Village President Sheila Schultz said, "It's not a monopoly, but it is one as far as economic practicality goes. No one else would want to put in cable ... and TCI owns the cable that's in

there."

Village trustees decided to hold a public hearing to listen to subscribers' thoughts on a decade of TCI service Monday at the same time they were voting on the new agreements. Stuart Shapiro was one homeowner who had gripes against TCI, and he didn't even have the service.

That's one of the problems. He said he called TCI long before he moved into the new Picardy Place subdivision, and three months after he moved in, TCI is getting ready to lay cable.

"I resent them tearing up my lawn to put in things that should have been put in months ago ... if I ran my insurance agency like they run their company, I'd be out of business."

As soon as TCI General Manager Kelvin Fee, excusing his company, said it was difficult to get easements — permission to use land for the cables — Wheeling community Development Director Mike Klitzke interrupted him.

"I get very distressed when I hear there are no easements," said Klitzke. "With the exception of two lots, there were easements on the original plat of subdivision."

"We got the permit plans (from TCI) about three weeks ago."

Some residents, like David Danby, told stories of cable arrogance.

He drew laughter when he said, "I had cable installed just over a year ago. (The converter box) did not work."

"The guy said, 'you'll have to get that fixed.'"

Danby said he wound up driving the converter box to TCI's Mt. Prospect office for exchange.

He read from a Sept., 1991 Consumer Reports that listed TCI far the worst of five American cable companies studied.

Fee said the data used by the magazine was from 1990, "when we were in the middle of an electronic upgrade ... at that time it may have described the situation ... but it sure doesn't describe it today."

Fee and the subscribers sparred over the company's \$5 late charge, he claiming it is not assessed for a month after a bill is due, then claiming it's assessed much more quickly, and it's too high whenever it's charged.

# Village, TCI pact mutually beneficial

deal.

they subscribe to either Cinemax or The Movie Channel and the monthly rental for a converter box will drop from \$8 to \$2.

The cost for additional cable outlets will also be eliminated and the cable guide becomes an optional service at the cost of \$1 per month. With the switch, Mount Prospect becomes the only dual-cable community in the TCI customer area.

And while some Wheeling residents expressed dismay that it took so long to move to the single-cable system, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the negotiating timetable was necessary to get the best

picture quality, the chance to use their cable-ready equipment as it was intended to be used and — at least for awhile — lower rates.

Screen-in-a-screen and stereo features that could not be used under the dual-cable system will work under the single-cable system. Under the single-cable system, which residents can expect to go into effect later this month, TCI General Manager Kelvin Fee said basic cable rates will drop by \$3.40. Cable subscribers with cable-ready televisions and videocassette recorders will no longer need a converter box unless

it may have taken nearly six months to reach the point of dotting the i's and crossing the t's, but Wheeling officials and TCI of Illinois have reached an amended franchise agreement both sides hope will improve cable television service to village residents.

For TCI the agreement gives them permission to switch to a single-cable system from the dual-cable system and, for the village, it placed some workable quality standards on the cable company.

"From my perspective I am happy with the agreement," Anderson said. "The agreement is more specific in terms of standards and it will be easier to say they (TCI) did or didn't meet those standards."

Fee said the switch should be relatively uncomplicated with the new cable system being installed on the B cable that runs into customers' homes. They will then be able to disconnect from the A cable and connect to the B cable or TCI will send out a representative to help them make the switch.

# Lexington Commons grills village board on road work

8-11-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board look its shoeing on the road Monday giving more than 40 residents of Lexington Commons a chance to ask questions on issues they are concerned about.

Topping the list was the widening of Lake-Cook and McHenry roads, the two main thoroughfares that sandwich the town house development.

And while residents received good reports about the Lake-Cook Road widening, the news about McHenry Road was less encouraging.

Lexington Commons residents are not looking forward to the proposed widening of Lake-Cook Road because it would bring the thoroughfare closer to some of their back yards.

The residents were pleased to hear Village Manager Craig G. Anderson tell them he has heard no further talk about the widening of the road from four to six lanes.

But Anderson said construction of a Lake-Cook Road overpass at Milwaukee Avenue is expected to begin next year.

However, residents who eagerly

are awaiting the widening of McHenry Road, which is two lanes as it goes past the subdivision, will have to wait a little longer. While the installation of a traffic light at Lexington Drive and McHenry Road has alleviated some problems residents had getting to and from their homes during rush hours, they say the road still is too congested.

Anderson said he recently met with a representative from the Illinois Department of Transportation who said the road is scheduled for improvement some time in its multi-year plan but could not give a firm date.

"Although we have expressed concern with widening and improvements both north and south, motorists get to Wheeling and there is a bottleneck," he said. "I have to think with the problems that state is having with funding it will be later rather than sooner."

Anderson said the village board is willing to take its committee meetings to any neighborhood with the space to hold a meeting.

"It's a great opportunity to find out what's going in the community," said Jim Miller, of the homeowners association.

# Wheeling's costs low compared to some for ADA requirements

8-11-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees got some good news recently when they took their first look at the village's transitional plan for complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It looks like the village will not have to pay as much as some surrounding municipalities to bring its buildings and entrances to those buildings into compliance with the act.

While Buffalo Grove may have to spend \$1.25 million on renovations that will make their buildings handicapped accessible and enlarge them to accommodate additional village staff, Wheeling officials are anticipating expenditures of \$30,000 to make changes at village hall, the Pavilion Senior Center and the operations and maintenance building.

"We are fortunate that this is a single-story facility," said Joni Beaudry, assistant village manager. "This plan does not address our back areas, just public areas like the council chambers, exterior restrooms and foyers and hallways within departments."

Under the ADA, municipalities, park districts, municipal buildings, restaurants, hotels and vir-

tually every other structure used by the public, cannot discriminate based on disability.

The transitional plan is now available for public comment and Beaudry encourages anyone who would like to take a look at it to go to village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road before Friday.

"There are people there who may be handicapped and have had problems that are not addressed in the plan," Beaudry said. "It would be great if someone from the community wants to comment on the plan."

Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance, said most of the changes that will need to be made to village buildings are minimal and that the \$30,000 figure is a very rough estimate.

He said some door closures will need to be replaced so they do not provide as much resistance, some of the handicapped parking stalls may need to be enlarged, and some sidewalks may need to be repaired so they are even.

Village staff formulated the transitional plan with help from a representative from the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

Under the ADA a transitional plan has to be filed by January 1993 and the changes must be completed by January 1995.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

### How are we doing?

Bertha Sanchez, a community liaison for the Wheeling Police Department, helps Wheeling residents Saturday with commu-

nity needs assessment surveys. The surveys will give the police an idea how well they're handling their jobs, and how to improve.

COUNTRYSIDE 8-13-92

## Movement to make market flee

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The management of the Twin Drive-In at Hintz and Milwaukee has applied to Cook County for a special-use permit to operate a flea market there.

It's about time. There's been a flea market there on warm Sundays for as long as anyone can remember.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson thinks he might know why there's

a sudden rush for respectability on the part of Loew's Chicago Cinemas, which owns the Twin.

### A question of value

"They might be trying to enhance the value of the property. Having a legitimate flea market business would make the property much more valuable."

That is of considerable concern to the Village of Wheeling, and to Prospect

Heights as well. They jointly own the Palwaukee airport, just south of the Twin's 34 acres. And they are on record as intending to buy the land, mainly for "clear space" in case of landing or take-off trouble. And they have plans to use the property to accommodate a shunt of Wheeling's drainage ditch.

If they wind up trying to condemn the land, which seems likely, a judge might

(Continued on page 13)

think property with a legit flea market was worth more than one without, and require Wheeling to spend it.

Loew's officials didn't return calls, and they haven't talked to Wheeling, either, according to Anderson. They don't have to, because the Twin is in unincorporated Cook County.

### No fleas please

Monday, Wheeling trustees voted unanimously for a resolution opposing granting the special use by the county. They planned to send Anderson to the hearing last Friday, but Loew's postponed it, citing injury to one of its principals, according to an official of the county zoning board of appeals.

She said that Anderson shouldn't hold his breath waiting for the new hearing date. "We're booked through September, and we're so backed up it probably won't be until October or November," she said.

### Police

Wheeling Police say they've entered the flea market grounds 15 times during the last three years, to assist sheriff's deputies. Five of those visits resulted in discovery of illegal weapons possession or sales.

Deputy Police Chief Mike Hermes said those weapons have included guns, throwing stars and fighting sticks.

### Traffic jam

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said that the flea causes "horrendous" traffic problems. "They have people go out and stop traffic on Hintz Road to let the people out of there," she said.

Anderson said there are typically illegal parkers on Hintz Road on the lot's north end.

Last Sunday, there were a lot of cars parked on Hintz's shoulder again, but at about 1 p.m. a county squad car came by and ticketed them all. There was really no reason to illegally park, because the flea market charges admission by the person, with cars free, and there was plenty of parking within.

### Weapons

The only weapons visible were some legal Buck-type knives being sold by Glenview's Len Glick, who was selling them along with other sporting goods, such as fishing poles.

Glick wasn't worried that Wheeling wanted the flea market closed. "If it closes here, I'll just go someplace else, or retire," he said.

## ADA should be tool, not weapon

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The Americans with Disabilities Act is bringing big changes, especially on the municipal level, but if people keep talking, they'll get through it.

That's the advice of Charles Linster, Buffalo Grove's chairman of its commission on residents with disabilities. Though consistent discrimination has robbed him and other disabled people "of his citizenship," he hopes the act will be used "not as a weapon, but as a tool."

"It'll put a bad taste in people's mouths if you ramrod it through," he said. "The real world will never be totally accessible" for people like him, in a wheelchair since he broke his neck in a gymnastics accident at 16.

"I've seen things improve over the last 27 years, and I'm sure it will be better 27 years from now," said Linster, 43. "We should handle disputes the way Abe Lincoln said — with friendly persuasion."

### Big money

His town is spending \$1.7 million to get its 15 public structures, plus sidewalks, in compliance with the act and accessible to most handicapped by 1995. Wheeling will likely spend about a third of that, mainly because its public buildings were built later, and don't have basements or second floors.

But both towns will have to deal with ramps on the sidewalks, and that's where the friendly persuasion comes in. ADA standards, unlike older ones from the federal government, require municipalities to set approximately 1/8-inch "truncated domes" into the concrete ramps, to allow for people with marginal sight. Their canes would pick out the raised domes.

The little bumps seem benign. Combined with the required coloring of the ramps, they would make

things a lot easier for the "partially sighted," and wouldn't bother anyone else.

Until it snows. Scott Shirley, Wheeling's assistant director of operations and maintenance, has told his bosses that the little bumps make it nearly impossible to plow the ramps. The powered snowplows the village uses for sidewalks along its main drags would catch on the bumps, breaking the nubs, chipping the blade and not plowing a lot of the snow. And leaving the snow might make the ramps far more dangerous for many people than old-fashioned high curbs.

Over the last ten years, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove have required, like most towns, "brush-finish" ramps every time a new sidewalk was laid, or an old one fixed. If the new standards are followed to the letter of the law, the final three feet of each one will have to be ripped out and replaced with the nubby ones.

The Northwest Municipal Conference, prodded by member municipalities, is lobbying the state to dicker with the feds about the ramps, and other details in the act. They hope they'll be able to satisfy the texture requirement on the ramps by pressing a grate into wet concrete on the ends of them to produce a relatively flat version that could be plowed or shoveled more easily.

But nothing is perfect. Linster said two partially-sighted members of his commission have been vociferous in their support of the truncated domes, partly because the grated version could become nearly undetectable if it was impacted with dirt.

"If they had their druthers, they'd rather have the truncated domes," he said. "But we haven't resolved the issues on recommendation."

"The concrete people are going nuts," he added. "They literally don't know how to do it."

gered and threatened species in Lake County in the 20th Century. "That is by far, the highest of any Illinois county," said James Herkert of the Illinois Endangered Protection Species Board.

Cook County is in second place with 179. McHenry is in third place with 157, he said.

"Lake County also has the highest number of endangered and threatened species in the state known to exist in the county within the last 10 years," added Herkert. These 116 species include 91 plants, 16 birds, eight fish and one reptile.

Lake County far outshines the others because it has more diverse habitats, said Dan Brouillard, conservation supervisor for the Lake County Forest Preserve District where many of these species live and are protected.

Upland forests provide habitat for the endangered Cooper's hawk and the threatened veery, birds which have nested at MacArthur Woods in Vernon Hills. Forests near the banks of rivers provide habitat for the threatened dog violet seen

**threatened species, more than any other county in the state. This special report examines that phenomenon, looks at how naturalists are preserving as many of these species as possible and focuses on the legal protection for these species.**

Cuba Marsh in Buffalo Grove and the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project in Wadsworth. Endangered great egrets use these areas to forage for food.

Bogs, remnants of the glacial age in northern Illinois, provide habitat for endangered species, too. Endangered pitcher plants thrive at Volo Bog, west of Mundelein.

At the bog, too, live three endangered orchids including the rose pogonia or snake-mouth.

At Grant Woods in Lake Villa, endangered

"We don't know what the ramifications could be on an entire ecosystem once one species is lost," said Herkert. "Ecosystems are complex. Their survival hinges on a delicate balance," he said. "Once one species is lost, many others could follow."

"We have a responsibility to preserve this diversity of species in Lake County," said Dennis Laurie, natural resources manager for the Forest Preserve. "People are looking for ways to justify protecting endangered species," said Laurie. "They point to the fact that some of these species may provide a cure for cancer."

Indeed, the Madagascar periwinkle, used in treating childhood leukemia, no longer grows in South American rain forests.

"That's important," said Laurie. "But what about also preserving diversity for its beauty and for the stability it provides to our ecosystems?" he said.

# Threatened species depend on regulations

By **SHERYL DE VORE**  
STAFF WRITER

What happens to some of 116 state-endangered and threatened species living in Lake County hinges on decisions being made in Congress regarding the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Act is scheduled for reauthorization this year.

But a state endangered

species act and an Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board created in 1973, about the same time the federal Act was created, may continue to protect certain species.

A decision on renewing the Act probably won't occur until after the November election, said Susan Lauzon, executive director of the IESPB.

The federal and state acts

both provide for an endangered and threatened species list. Federally endangered refers to species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Species which could become extinct in Illinois, though not necessarily in the entire country, are also listed as endangered in the state.

Threatened species refers to those which are likely to become endangered.

The Illinois Act prohibits the possession, taking, transportation or sale of any listed animals or products of such animals without permission from the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Plants are different, however. They can be sold or disposed of with written

permission of a landowner. But endangered plants are often so difficult to identify that they could be disturbed without anyone knowing it, said Dan Brouillard, conservation supervisor for the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

Special interest groups are lobbying Congress to provide some accommodation in the federal Act. Such (Continued on next page)

## Trains may be safer



Track record

By Irv Leavitt  
STAFF WRITER  
Last week, the sight of a  
that train. And they get  
They're no longer looking at  
it from the other side.  
whacked."

PAGE 7

Youngsters climb  
over the front of a  
Wisconsin Central  
engine during a  
Wheeling police  
community service  
program designed  
to teach children  
respect for trains  
and the danger of  
running across  
tracks in front of  
them.

CHOO  
CHOO  
TRAIN

Country  
8-13-92

Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

# Wheeling trustees ask county to reject flea market permit

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-15-92

Wheeling trustees have passed a resolution asking the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals to deny the Twin Drive-in Theater's request for a special use permit to continue to operate a weekend flea market on the theater grounds.

While the flea market has been operating at the drive-in, at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., for several years,

Nicholas Phillips, secretary of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals, said it only recently came to light that the drive-in, owned by Lowes Chicago Cinemas Inc., did not have a permit to do so.

He said complaints from people who live along Hintz Road, where flea market customers have been known to park illegally, prompted the Cook County building department to investigate the matter.

"The complaints filtered down

**"Everybody assumed the flea market had a special use permit also."**

—Nicholas Phillips, secretary of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals

through channels prompting the building department to check into the legality of the flea market,"

Phillips said. "Everybody assumed the flea market had a special use permit also."

The drive-in use also requires a special use fee that was granted when the drive-in opened nearly 30 years ago, Phillips said.

And Wheeling trustees, who have been unhappy with the flea market for several years, are taking this opportunity to register their opposition.

"Our real objection is that it doesn't have the proper special use and we have had problems," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G.

Anderson. "This is our opportunity to say we object to a special use."

Anderson said parking problems are not the only ones created by the flea market.

Although the Cook County Sheriff's Department is responsible for law enforcement at the drive-in because it is in unincorporated Cook County, the Wheeling Police Department is often called to the flea market if there are no sheriff's police in the area.

# Inspectors can hand out citations

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-14-92

Wheeling's building inspectors have been given the power to issue citations for various violations of the village's building and zoning codes, but officials aren't expecting a rash of ticket writing to accompany that power.

Six people from the community development department — who perform building, plumbing and electrical inspections — have been granted the power, which was formally held only by members of the police department. Previously, inspectors

who found a violation would have had to call a patrolman or a community service officer to issue the citation. And any follow up court appearances, if necessary, would have to have been made by both the inspector and the officer.

"This makes the process more efficient," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "Only the inspector will have to go to court and if it is an immediate problem the citation could be issued immediately."

And he said the change is not expected to affect the way the inspection procedure is handled now.

"This is pretty common in other

communities," Anderson said. "We are training the inspectors but they are pretty much aware of how the process works."

Building inspectors may find violations of village codes in a variety of ways, including spotting them as inspectors traverse the village and investigating complaints generated by residents and village staff.

Klitzke said community service officers issued between eight and 10 citations for community development inspectors last year.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac asked for, and received, the power to issue citations for fire inspectors last

year. He said his inspectors have had to issue only one citation since being given the power.

"When we were given the power we didn't think we would need it very often," said MacIsaac. "And that has turned out to be the case."

But he said he can see how community development may have more cases that would get to the citation stage.

"I can see how they may have a higher usage due to the nature of their interface with construction issues and property issues," MacIsaac said.

# Group begins quest for ethnic unity

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-17-92

Members of the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force, organized two months ago to promote cultural and ethnic understanding in the area, will make their first big push toward that aim this week when they hold a unity picnic.

The picnic will be held Saturday from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road in Wheeling. While several local restaurants will be on hand to offer free bites of ethnic foods, task force members are asking those attending the picnic to

bring a dish that represents their ethnic heritage to share with others.

Kamal Zaretsky, founder of the task force, said she is hoping at least 150 Wheeling area residents will attend the picnic and that it will be the beginning of a greater understanding among the many cultures that now populate the area.

"I am finding that people aren't entirely understanding of what a unity picnic is," Zaretsky said. "The emphasis is to try to bring people of diverse backgrounds together in an atmosphere that is fun and friendly so they can appreciate various cultures."

And she said she hung about 50 flyers in the windows of local businesses and task force members have used word-of-mouth to bring people to the park.

Zaretsky started thinking about forming the group several months ago after a conversation with her daughters about the way students are relating to each other in school.

"We are all different, but we are all the same," Zaretsky said. "And the key to solving some of these problems is relationship-building."

About 14 people are involved in the group, including representatives of the Wheeling Park District and the

Wheeling Police Department.

Zaretsky said she is organizing some games for the picnic and also hopes to line up musical entertainment. Face painting will be available for children. A grill will be available for anyone wanting to cook out.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz will kick off the event with a short speech.

On hand serving food will be The Pita Inn, El Famous Burrito, Kawabe Sushi and Wa-Pa-Ghettis Pizza. Sam's Club is providing cups and napkins.

The ceilings are done, the plumber is working and we have a contract for someone to do the locks," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart. "The phone lines are already wired, but we haven't switched over."

The construction of a road between the airport and the former roofing company now seems to be the only thing between the airport staff and their new home.

The road, which will cost \$113,824, is now under construction. Under the contractor's agreement with the airport commission, it must be completed by Aug. 31 — just before the target move-in date of Sept. 1. It will run

along the airport-owned property to the west of the Household Finance hangar and will provide direct access to the airport for snow removal and maintenance equipment.

With the construction and remodeling projects almost completed, Stewart said it is time to turn his attention to the plans for moving the eight-member staff into the new facility.

"We will probably move ourselves (rather than hire someone)," Stewart said.

Commissioners decided to make the move earlier this year in hopes of returning Hangar One to a rental property that could generate income for the airport.

But who will occupy the hangar once it is vacated is up in the air. Commissioners received only one response to 54 requests for proposals for a fixed-based operator, or FBO, on that site. And some of them are skeptical that the one who did respond can operate a viable FBO that competes with Priester Aviation, which is already on the airport.

Stewart has said the hangar could be rented out for aircraft storage if the FBO idea does not work out.

Palwaukee office staff gets ready to move to new home

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-17-92

New carpeting, drywall and a fresh coat of paint have transformed a former roofing company on Plant Road into the new home of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission.

The building, former home of the Brown and Kerr Inc. roofing company at 1020 Plant Road, has also been electrically rewired and is almost ready to house the day-to-day operations of the airport staff.

"The ceilings are done, the plumber is working and we have a contract for someone to do the locks," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart. "The phone lines are already wired, but we haven't switched over."

The construction of a road between the airport and the former roofing company now seems to be the only thing between the airport staff and their new home.

The road, which will cost \$113,824, is now under construction. Under the contractor's agreement with the airport commission, it must be completed by Aug. 31 — just before the target move-in date of Sept. 1. It will run

# Wheeling annexes two parcels of property at major crossroads

Tuesday, August 18, 1992

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Village of Wheeling grew a little bit Monday, after trustees voted to annex two pieces of property.

Trustees voted to annex the northwest corner of Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue and the northeast corner of Buffalo Grove and Aptakisic roads.

A public storage facility sits on the corner of Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue, and Finance Manager Bob Fialkowski, who is acting village manager this week, said the village had an agreement with the property owner.

"When this property was developed, there was an agreement that it would be annexed into the village upon completion," Fialkowski said.

Annexation of the property at the northeast corner of Buffalo

Grove and Aptakisic roads may prove to be a little more complicated.

Ronald Herff, executor of the estate owning the 1.7-acre site, told trustees he filed a petition of voluntary annexation with the Village of Buffalo Grove earlier Monday.

And Village Attorney James Rhodes acknowledge that he had heard from Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling.

"William Balling faxed us a letter saying he had discussed the petition with Mr. Herff, and they anticipate some type of annexation action within 90 days," Rhodes said.

Rhodes said the land is to be used for multi-family housing on Buffalo Grove's comprehensive plan, and Wheeling has designated the land for commercial use on its plan. Herff had indicated he was looking for a commercial developer for the property.

"My main concern is the availability of hookup for sewer and water utilities," Herff said. "It is quite a distance to the Village of Wheeling, and that is the reason I did this (approach Buffalo Grove). Without sewer and water, it is not feasible to develop commercially."

But Rhodes said that there is water and sewer service surrounding the area that is now the Wal-Mart, and that utilities are proposed to go along Herff's property and extend down Buffalo Grove Road. Rhodes encouraged village officials to annex the property Monday.

"In essence, either municipality can involuntarily annex this property," Rhodes said. "If Wheeling doesn't do it this evening, we lose priority."

Herff was noncommittal about whether he would pursue annexation to Buffalo Grove.

# Town home parking problem discussed

Tuesday, August 18, 1992

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's Colonial Townhomes housing development could be the first neighborhood to reap the benefits of the village staff's new "community-oriented public service" approach to running the village.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the new approach is really only a small change from the way village staff has been doing business. "This is a concerted effort to do things with a little pro-active interdepartmental cooperation," he said.

To that end, several village department heads recently met with



Daily Herald Map

the Colonial Townhomes homeowners' association to discuss ways to solve parking problems that have plagued the 72-unit townhouse development for several months.

Current village code stipulates that town house complexes must have 2.5 parking spaces per unit and another 20 percent of that number for guest parking, but Colonial has only one parking space per unit and three or four visitor spaces per building. Overnight parking along Colonial Drive is illegal.

Anderson said the overnight parking ban on Colonial Drive might be temporarily lifted. However, village staff and the homeowners' association are looking for a more permanent solution that would add more parking spaces to the development.

Kanti Thakker, president of the homeowners' association, said he was happy with the results of the meeting — which was attended by 25 residents.

The lack of outdoor lighting along Colonial Drive also is being addressed by village staff and the homeowners' association.

Anderson said any cost for additional lighting or parking would be paid by the homeowners, possibly through a special service tax district. Before that district could be established homeowners have to agree to it through a referendum vote.

# Wheeling trustees approve home business regulations

8-25-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After months of tinkering, rewording and discussing, Wheeling village trustees passed an ordinance Monday that will make it legal for residents to operate some types of businesses out of their homes.

While all home businesses had previously been illegal in the villages, officials have conceded that the law had been virtually impossible to enforce. And they are hoping that while the new law will legalize many businesses it also will make it easier to get rid of those that still are illegal.

Those allowed to do business out of their home under the new ordinance include computer programmers, lawyers, accountants, artists, photographers and locksmiths.

Therapists, social workers, human service professionals and teachers also are allowed to operate a home business but may not have more than four clients at one time. Day care and educational classes are permitted as long as they have no more than four pupils.

Landscaping and auto repair —

the two businesses that village officials said they receive the most complaints about — are illegal under the ordinance.

Only Trustee Joseph Ratajczak voted against the ordinance.

"We have people who have run businesses without complaint," he said. "And some of them are now going to be penalized."

But other trustees said the new ordinance is fair.

"I believe this is fairly lenient," said Trustee Lois Gaffke. "Everything was illegal before. We are not asking people to get a license, there is no registration fee. If they (home businesses) are good neighbors, they will never come to our attention."

The ordinance also sets up standards that can be used to judge whether a home business is infringing on the rights of adjoining property owners.

Under some of those standards, a business cannot employ people not living in the home, have outdoor storage, generate more garbage than a normal home would or generate an unusual demand for parking space.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village will continue to respond to complaints.

# Resident input sought for Disabilities Act

8-25-92 Herald

Attention, disabled residents of Wheeling: the village needs your help. In order to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the village will be making reasonable accommodations on their buildings to aid our residents with disabilities. If you would like to give your input into this project or if you require specific accommodations for a village service, the village welcomes your call.

For input or information, contact Joni Beaudry, assistant village manager, at 459-2600.



Lisa Schab  
Wheeling

## Wheelmen awards

Congratulations to Joan Segedie and Ralph Pedraja, members of the Wheeling Wheelmen Bicycle Club who are topping the list of the Women's and Men's Highest Mileage List for 1992. Joan has logged 2,003 miles already this year, and Ralph has ridden 3,251 miles.

Following Joan on the Women's list are: Lotti Dolce with 1,671 miles; Charlene Blake, 1,237 miles; Carol Passowic, 1,233 miles; Fran Green, 879 miles; Judy Hattendorf, 802 miles; Sandy Holzrichter, 658 miles; Janie Neuman, 638 miles; Virginia Savio, 549 miles; and Mary Elizabeth Ferraro, 543 miles.

Edging up on Ralph on the Men's list are: Wayne Segedie with 3,202 miles; Woyteck Morajko, 1,993 miles; Ed Leidecker, 1,917 miles; Dave Ebert, 1,517 miles; Steve Rodgers, 1,479 miles; Dennis

Berg, 1,290 miles; Clay Bannister, 1,228 miles; Al Berman, 1,213 miles; and Rick Arnopolin with 1,104 miles.

The Wheelmen take regular weekend and weeknight rides throughout the summer months. For more information, call the Club Hotline at (312) 989-7373.

## Fee waivers

The High School District 214 Board of Education reminds Wheeling residents that if your child will be attending Wheeling High School or another District 214 high school for the fall semester, they may be eligible for a waiver of school fees.

The following requirements of the parent or guardian are necessary: If the student is currently eligible for free lunches or breakfasts under the Community School lunch program; if the student's household is one whose gross income is at or below the income standards which are provided annually for free meals from the federal school lunch program; or if the family experiences a very significant loss of income due to severe illness or injury in the family.

# Property tax figures on the rise

## Wheeling area to see hikes of 5-8 percent

8-22-92

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Homeowners in Wheeling and the Cook County portion of Buffalo Grove can expect an increase of at least a couple of hundred dollars in their property tax bills for the second half of 1991.

For a typical Wheeling home, the total tax rate — which includes the levy requests filed by all taxing bodies — rose 5.64 percent to \$9.041 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. For a typical Buffalo Grove home, the total tax rate rose 8.2 percent to \$9.207 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

That means the tax bill for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000 in Wheeling would be \$2,562, compared to \$2,432 last year. For a home valued at

### Unit-by-unit breakdown of local tax rates — Page 5

\$100,000 in Buffalo Grove, the bill would be \$2,609, compared with \$2,418 last year.

The tax bills, some of which were mailed Friday, could hit Northwest suburban doorsteps as soon as today. All property owners should receive them by Aug. 31, and they will be due Sept. 25.

The bills are calculated by Cook County, which starts with the amount of money local government bodies have asked for and divides by the value of property to come up with the tax rate. That rate then is applied to the equalized assessed value of individual properties to come up with the tax bill.

Keeping bills up and pushing rates down this year is a record high multiplier, or equalization

factor, of 2.0523. The multiplier is a number applied to the assessed value of property in Cook County by the Illinois Department of Revenue to assure that property in all counties is assessed equally. While a high equalizer does not increase the amount of money collected, it raises the equalized assessed valuation and lowers rates.

Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said the high

equalizer was probably a factor in keeping the village's rate increase to 1.87 percent, to \$1.145 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation, despite a 5 percent increase in the amount of money requested by the village.

Buffalo Grove officials said they are puzzled by the huge leap their tax rate took, increasing 21 percent from 95.9 cents to \$1.161. Finance Director William

Brimm could not be reached for comment Friday, and Village Manager William R. Balling said the village had expected a much smaller increase, along the lines of the 3.2 percent increase announced for the Lake County portion of the village in April.

Balling said one possibility is the state increased the tax rate

See TAXES on Page 5

## TAXES: Bills up in Wheeling, Cook portion of Buffalo Grove

Continued from Page 1

for Cook County residents to make up for past years when Lake County residents paid more, but there might be other explanations.

Village President Sidney H. Mathias said the village had expected a rate increase because new development in the village is slowing down.

"It's basically because development has slowed but our expenses haven't," said Mathias, who pointed to the fact that tax rates in Buffalo Grove had gone down during seven straight years of heavy development, despite rising tax levies.

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 has more bad news for taxpayers, who will see the high school district's tax rate increase 11.35 percent, up to \$2.158 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. The good news is they won't see a similar increase next year, said Jonathan Swanson, the assistant superintendent for business.

District 214 raised its levy enough to bring the tax rates in its main funds, education and building, up to their maximum in order to generate enough money to help carry it through this year and next year, Swanson said.

The district will be able to ask for no more money in those funds next

year because the state Legislature called for a one-year freeze in the equalized assessed value of property in Cook County for next year. Since the value of property will not increase, and the two biggest funds are already being taxed at the maximum rate, the district will not be able to ask for any more.

"What we really did was budget on a two-year basis," Swanson said. "The money we raise this year will also help support next year."

However, tax rates in some of the smaller funds will likely increase next year, leading to an overall increase of 3 to 5 percent, he said. Even so, the district has already made cuts in staffing and activities and plans to continue those cuts in the future, Swanson said.

The tax rate for Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 jumped 10.3 percent, to 2.972. District 21's finance director said most of the increase came from the school board's attempt to balance the budget in the education fund and avoid having to transfer money from other funds into the education fund.

This year, with the education fund tax rate at a board-imposed limit of \$2.25 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation, the education fund is balanced for the first time in several years, he said.

### Northwest suburban tax rates

Taxpayers paying the area's highest and lowest rates



Homeowners in Hanover Park are taxed at the highest rate in the Northwest suburbs.

Daily Herald Photo

Highest rates	Overall tax rate	Lowest rates	Overall tax rate
1. Hanover Park (Schaum. Twp.; D54)	10.553	1. S. Barrington (D220; Countryside Fire)	6.549
2. Hanover Park (Hanover Twp.; D46)	10.552	2. Barrington (D220)	7.090
3. Hoffman Estates (Schaum. Twp.; D54)	10.523	3. Barrington Hills (Barr Twp.; D220)	7.211
4. Palatine (Pal. Twp.; D15; Salt Creek)	10.349	4. Elk Grove VII. (D59; EG Twp.; EG Parks)	7.240
5. Streamwood (Han. Twp.; D46)	10.317	5. Des Plaines (EG Twp.; D59)	7.639
6. Hoffman Estates (Pal. Twp.; D15)	10.275	6. Arlington Heights (EG Twp.; D59)	7.693
7. Bartlett (Han. Twp.; D46)	10.119	7. Mount Prospect (EG Twp.; D59)	8.033
8. Rolling Meadows (Schaum. Twp.; D54)	10.094	8. Des Plaines (Maine Twp.; D62)	8.183
9. Rolling Meadows (Pal. Twp.; D15)	9.919	9. Hoffman Estates (Barr Twp.; D220)	8.375
10. Arlington Heights (Pal. Twp.; D15)	9.606	10. Inverness (Pal. Twp.; D15; no park)	8.388

### The largest increases and decreases in Northwest Cook County

LARGEST INCREASE		LARGEST DECREASE	
Major taxing body	Increase	Major taxing body	Decrease
1. Barrington-Countryside Fire	100.70	1. Barrington Park District	-26.98
2. Prospect Heights Rural Fire	37.16	2. Cook County Forest Preserve	-20.00
3. Oakton Community College	37.00	3. Hoffman Estates Fire Dist. 1	-13.80
4. Village of Buffalo Grove	21.06	4. Elk Grove Village (Sch. Twp.)	-11.16
5. Prospect Heights Public Library	20.50	5. Hanover Park Park Dist.	-11.11
6. Village of South Barrington	20.16	6. Metropolitan Water Reclamation	-8.19
7. Elgin Community College	19.49	7. Bartlett Public Library	-6.35
8. Arlington Heights Park Dist. (EG Twp.)	14.85	8. Unit Dist. 300	-6.10
9. Elk Grove Village (EG Twp.)	14.85	9. Barrington Public Library	-5.84
10. South Barrington Park Dist.	14.17	10. Village of Hanover Park	-5.53

Source: Cook County clerk's office

Daily Herald Graphic

# Picnic a ripple in efforts to build race unity

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The group sponsoring the picnic to get Wheeling's various racial groups talking didn't think it would be easy, and it wasn't. Saturday's picnic drew 100 to 150 people, but the vast majority of the people who came were white.

There were few Hispanics in the crowd to enjoy the ethnic food and friendship at Heritage Park. There was just Bertha Sanchez' family, and one other.

She had thought 35 families from St. Joseph the Worker Church would come, because she had asked them to. Sunday, she asked them where they were.

"It was mostly because a lot of those people work so many hours, and Saturday they had to work.

## Barriers

"I saw a lot of them at church today. They have to feel comfortable — will they be accepted by these people? Wherever they go people don't treat them with respect. And there's the language barrier."

Sanchez is active at Wheeling High School far beyond her job title of instructional assistant for the ESL and bilingual

department. She helps Hispanic, Anglo and other students adapt at school, and is now also working as a Hispanic liaison with the Wheeling Police Dept.

"With every event, it'll get better," said Sanchez. "It's going to take time."

Kamal Zaretsky, president of the sponsoring Wheeling Township Unity Task Force, said Monday that though disappointed by the Hispanic turnout, "You know, I should probably be very happy so many white people in the community are supporting the group.

"If we don't have the support of the white community, we're not going to have any success."

## No crisis

Ervin McFarland, a Black task force member and four-year Wheeling resident, had an opinion on the lack of Hispanic turnout. He felt that because Wheeling has no real crisis in race relations or gangs, people aren't worried enough to think about unity.

A former Glenview resident, he said that town was "older, with a sense of community, that doesn't take a lot of outsiders in."

"I was in Wheeling a few weeks and people treated me like I'd been here for



Hank DeGeorge photo

Some of the 100 to 150 participants at Saturday's picnic in Wheeling take the time to enjoy a game of volleyball. The Wheeling

Township Unity Task Force which organized the picnic said it was a beginning in their effort to build racial harmony.

years," he said.

Zaretsky said that racial strife is "not a problem now, but bubbling under the surface." She said the "lines of communication (between Hispanics and other Wheeling residents) are not flow-

ing, and need to be strengthened and improved."

## Good timing

She added that some people had told her it "was a

good time to do it, before the (park district) recreation center opened, so that everybody feels a part of it. A lot of people told me that," she said, referring both to the new recreation (Continued on page 8)

## Picnic

and aquatic centers.

Wheeling Park District President Tom Webber, who attended the picnic, said that no one, from Wheeling or anywhere else, would be told "you're not good enough to swim in our pool." That's why non-resident fees, though higher than for Wheeling residents, will not be prohibitive.

He said both the aquatic center and the task force would "change the reputation of Wheeling, and how it is perceived. It's a great

community, with wonderful things to offer.

"Good things come with time and patience."

## A ripple

Village President Sheila Schultz agreed. "What we have here is a ripple," she said, addressing the picnicers. "Discontent can start with a ripple, and so can harmony."

Zaretsky said she plans at least four unity events per year. The group is working on a language-barrier-

busting buddy system at the high school, anti-bias workshops, and using music as a vehicle for inter-cultural exploration.

"We're in this for the long haul," she said. "You don't just with one picnic turn the tide. We have to let them know that we want to hear what they want to say, and it's not a patronizing pat on the head."

Those interested in joining the task force can call Carole Hively at the Wheeling Park District, 537-2930.

# Planners eye changes in Wheeling

eateries as Bob Chin's Crab House, Don Hoth's and Le Francs.

"We have to think about what we think we could support and what the village is going to promote," said Chairman Paul Elsterhold. Some commissioners worry the village board will not support the changes commissioners could call for.

They hope to hold a workshop with trustees and explain their point of view. During the workshop, they would show slides of the existing property and examples of what could be developed along the avenue. They are also considering listing Milwaukee Avenue businesses to support the plan.

"We need to say, 'Here's what we can do to dress up Milwaukee Avenue,' and see if it flies," said Elsterhold.

commercial or residential use.

The comprehensive plan to be presented to the village board for approval when completed, will provide recommendations for community development as well as reasons why some zoning changes may need to be made.

Some of the major priorities the plan will address are what to do with vacant and underused areas of the village and the possibility of rezoning certain business areas for residential development.

And because the job seems like such a daunting task, commissioners have decided to tackle it in pieces.

They have decided they would like to continue the restaurant row motif on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue, hopefully recruiting other restaurants to join such renowned

Wheeling plan commissioners will look at Milwaukee Avenue as the first area of the village to change under their proposal to create a new comprehensive plan for the village.

Commissioners chose that stretch of the village because it is already scheduled for some changes when the state widens it to five lanes — two traveling each direction and a lane in the middle for left turns.

The widening will leave several small pieces of property on the west side of the road, and village planner Mike Janack said that raises questions about whether those parcels should be rezoned and what their best use would be.

Commissioners are considering

# Palwaukee manager looks to '93 for road relocation

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are still looking to 1993 as the year when construction finally gets under way on the relocation of the Hintz and Wolf Roads intersection.

That's the latest news from Fred Stewart, airport manager, to the commissioners, the Prospect Heights City Council and the Wheeling Village Board.

And Stewart said the new offices for the commission, at 1020 Plant Road, are almost ready to be occupied by the airport staff. Stewart had originally targeted Sept. 1 as the date for moving into the building, which was formerly occupied by the Brown and Kerr Inc. roofing company, but the move had to be postponed until a road between the new building and the airport could be completed. The \$113,824 road will provide direct access to the airport for snow removal and maintenance equipment.

Commissioners decided to make the move earlier this year in hopes of returning Hanger One to a rental property that could generate income for the airport.

Who will rent the hangar is expected to be decided later this week.

Stewart said 13 more parcels of land needed for the airport improvement plan have been acquired since the last time the three groups got together in late March. And that acquisition continues to move the two municipalities, which co-own the airport, closer to the start of the first large-scale phase of the plan, which is the intersection relocation. Stewart said construction of two bridges, one on Wolf Road and one on Hintz Road, over the Wheeling drainage ditch, will start next year.

The Hintz Road bridge is expected to cost \$1.2 million and the Wolf Road bridge \$795,000.

Hintz Road could also be moved in 1993 at the cost of \$2.4 million, but the relocation of Wolf Road is not projected for construction until 1994 for \$3.9 million.

The intersection of the two roads must be moved west to create a Federal Aviation Administration required clear zone at the end of the airport's longest runway. The federal government is expected to pick up 90 percent of the tab for the road relocations.

# Sun sets on Wheeling's home mechanics

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The days of the shade-tree mechanic, and most other residents who choose to run a noticeable business out of their Wheeling homes, may be numbered.

The Wheeling village council voted Monday to put teeth in its home-occupations ordinance, previously nearly unenforceable because it outlawed absolutely everything.

Landscaping remains illegal, if run out of a home. So does auto repair, and contracting. And now judges will be able to award fines, \$50 to \$500 a crack, for violations.

## Tickets that stick

Adam Martinez, Sr., says he got lots of tickets from Wheeling Police Community Service Officers last year. He got all the tickets for many of the landscapers around Sixth and Strong Streets, because they're mostly his family members. He

owns much of the land beneath their homes, though they own separate landscaping businesses. He said all the tickets were thrown out of court. That may not happen in the future.

His daughter-in-law Sheryl Martinez said that the officers often laid in wait for their trucks to come home and pull into their yards. She and her husband Henry have owned H. Martinez Landscaping for 15 years, "but there was no problem until the last two years."

Adam Martinez won't have to worry about his home business being illegal, because his business predates the area's annexation to the village. Most other home business operators don't share his immunity. His daughter-in-law hopes the courtesy will extend to her.

"We're just going to take the 'H' off the trucks and make it 'A. Martinez Landscaping,'" she said.

## Still hopeful

Neighbor George Gilbert was resigned to park-

ing his landscaping truck elsewhere, though he will still be technically in violation if he continues to run his business out of his Sixth Street home. He hoped that he could keep his landscaping office there, even if it wasn't legal.

"If that's all you're doing there, we're never going to know about it," Village Manager Craig Anderson told him. "I hate to say that about it, but that's the way it is."

"It's like discrimination," said Adam Martinez, Sr. "Where are all the rest of them with businesses at home?" Martinez believes most tickets are written on the businesses of Strong Street area residents, who are largely Hispanic. The village has consistently informed Strong Street residents of their ordinance plans, and not other home business people.

Gilbert answered him. "This is apparently where the complaints are centered," he said, shrugging. Complaints have been made about trucks, noise, and rotting grass.

"They (the complainers) don't have the guts to (Continued on page 8)

tell us about it themselves so we can fix it," said Sheryl Martinez.

Strong Street residents say they have complaints, too — they say drivers use their neighborhood as a cut-through between Northgate Parkway and Wolf Road, and hot-rod with impunity. And they say if they want to leave Wheeling to go someplace else where home businesses are welcome, they have a hard time selling their homes because of numerous apartments that have gone up in the neighborhood.

Among the Wheeling trustees, only Joseph Ratajczak voted against the measure.

"I really don't want to break anybody's back on this," he said. He wanted to allow businesses to operate "until they became a problem," because he felt few rep-

resented big difficulties.

"I kind of shudder to think what would happen in all our other (ordinance) classifications if they were 'before it becomes a problem,'" said Village Attorney James Rhodes.

## Leniency

"I think we're being fairly lenient," said Trustee Lois Gaffke. "We're not looking to get everybody to register ... if they're a good neighbor, they're not a problem."

People with unobtrusive businesses, like computer programmers, need not worry. Day care operators must confine themselves to four children, other than their own. Therapists, consultants and such can't work with more than four customers at a time, either.

Only residents can be employed. No more than 20 percent of the home can be used for the business, and the garage can't be filled up with business equipment, so the car that belongs inside is forced onto the street.

Storage is limited to 100 cubic feet, which can be described by a cube about 4.65 feet on each side.

"That's a little small, isn't it?" said Village President Sheila Schultz, whose doubts were apparently assuaged by assurances that the figure was typical of other towns' ordinance, and represented a typical large closet.

Schultz said that the ordinance shouldn't hurt home businesses unless their trades "truly become a problem ... we're not going to send a massive police force out to handle this."

# Police to check up on seat belt use

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists passing through Wheeling could get a friendly seat belt reminder over the next several weeks, now that the Wheeling Police Department has implemented a new program aimed at getting more people to comply with the law.

Under the program, police officers will be setting up safety check points at certain intersections in the village, stopping cars to make sure the occupants are obeying the seat belt law. The program is timed to run in conjunction with the U.S. Depart-

ment of Transportation's 70 percent by '92 program — aimed at 70 percent compliance nationwide with the seat belt law by the end of the year.

Illinois law states that all front seat passengers must wear seat belts, children under 4 years old must be restrained in some type of car seat and children between the ages of 4 and 6 must wear a seat belt.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said the safety checks are just another part of the village's ongoing safety belt enforcement program.

And this time the department has enlisted the help of two local mer-

chants to provide some positive reinforcement for motorists and passengers who are wearing their seat belts when they encounter a police officer at a checkpoint.

"We wanted to develop some type of program as an ongoing periodic reminder to motorists about seat belt laws," said O'Rourke. "And rather than strictly negative reinforcement by issuing traffic citations, we wanted to develop a program of positive reinforcement."

To that end, motorists who are wearing seat belts when stopped will receive a coupon entitling them to a small free item at the Wheeling Wal-

Mart department store or the Wheeling McDonald's.

And motorists not complying with the law will receive a coupon informing them that the next time they are stopped without wearing a seat belt it will cost them \$50.

The safety checks will be done between 4 and 6 p.m.

O'Rourke said a recent survey at the intersection of Dundee Road and Huntington Lane found only 47 percent of the passing motorists in compliance with the law. But he said that survey is not indicative of the overall number of village residents who do wear their seat belts.

# Settlement secures property for shopping center plan

9-9-92  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling attorneys will appear in condemnation court one less time in their quest to acquire property in their tax increment financing district now that the village has reached a purchase agreement with one of the land owners.

The agreement, approved by trustees Monday, is another in a series of maneuvers in the seven-year battle that has ensued since Wheeling began its quest to develop a shopping center on land designated a tax increment financing (TIF) district in 1985. Trustees are hoping to develop a shopping center on that property at the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The village will pay \$179,000 for the property at 124 N. Milwaukee Rd. — now owned by a Northbrook couple. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the purchase price of \$180,000 is 9 percent higher than the appraised value of the property.

"By proceeding, we can eliminate further condemnation proceedings and attorneys' fees," Anderson said. With condemnation proceedings

we don't know how much we would be paying or how much time it would take."

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the property owners owe the village \$1,000 in building code violation fines, dropping the purchase price to \$179,000.

The agreement leaves the village in condemnation proceedings with five property owners. Those proceedings were halted from 1988 to 1991 as the village fought a lawsuit brought by four of the property owners: Tien Tsin Restaurant, Dunkin' Donuts, Wheeling Auto Repair and Drieske's Flower Shop.

In 1986 the village sold \$4.5 million in tax exempt bonds to finance land acquisition, but the project was put on hold in 1988 when a Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled that Wheeling had not met the state's criteria for establishing a TIF district. That ruling was overturned by the Illinois Appellate Court and the last legal hurdle for the development was cleared in November 1991 when the Illinois Supreme Court refused to bear a further appeal from Erwin Dreiske, owner of the flower shop.

# Wheeling weighs benefits of new ComEd agreement

9-15-92  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Village of Wheeling stands to get more free electricity service under a new franchise agreement trustees are considering with Commonwealth Edison.

Trustees took a look at that franchise agreement Monday, meeting with a Commonwealth Edison representative to run through the particulars.

Village manager Craig G. Anderson and Commonwealth Edison District Superintendent Dan A. Kowalewski said the village received \$85,000 in free electricity in 1991 under the current franchise agreement which expires in 2009.

Anderson said a new agreement is being negotiated because several other northwestern suburbs are negotiating their agreements now and Commonwealth Edison is interested in having uniform agreements throughout several municipalities.

The new franchise agreement was written by a Northwest Municipal Conference Committee made up of members from several communities.

Under the agreement, which

trustees could vote on later this month, the village stands to get even more free electricity service as the utility company will also provide free electricity to operate the village's traffic signals.

Under the current agreement, all village buildings that are supported by tax money receive electricity at no charge. For Wheeling, that includes village complex buildings and the Pavilion Senior Center. The free electricity is given in exchange for Commonwealth Edison's free use of village-owned right-of-way. Under the new agreement air raid sirens would also be supplied electricity at no charge.

And while trustees expressed some concern about power outages in the village, they agreed with Kowalewski when he said that power outages are a bigger problem for other area municipalities.

Wheeling stands to make other gains under the agreement, which would expire in 2049. Under the agreement, Commonwealth Edison each year will bury 500 feet of cable now installed above ground. But the village could store that amount and use several years' worth at one time.

# Aircraft service's move stalled by insurance costs

9/17/92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Though Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners approved adding a second fixed-based operator (FBO) on the airport, that proposal remains in the air until questions about how much liability insurance the FBO operator should be required to carry are answered, commissioners said Wednesday.

Priester Aviation, currently the FBO on the airport, carries \$50 million in liability insurance as required by its lease agreement with the Village of Wheeling and the City of Prospect Heights — co-owners of the airport.

A fixed-based operator sells fuel and performs aircraft maintenance. The liability insurance covers any damage that might occur to aircraft while in the custody of the FBO.

Fred Stewart, airport manager, said that is the amount Dennis Jans, owner of Service Aviation, should be required to carry on the FBO he wants to run out of Hangar One.

Jans is not sure he will be able to get that much insurance as a first-time operator or that he can afford it, and some commissioners felt that amount was too high.

"\$50 million is such a magnitude

away from others, that we should do a sanity check and get a benchmark of what other people are doing," said Commissioner Jim Nickels.

Stewart said there are some area airports — including DuPage County Airport — that require \$50 million in insurance, but Jans said he also checked area airports and some require between \$1 million and \$5 million. And he said Westchester County Airport in New York, comparable to Palwaukee, requires \$10 million.

Should Jans be able to get \$50 million in insurance, his proposal will go to the municipalities for approval.

If he cannot, he could ask commissioners to lower the requirement. In that case, it would take longer for approval of his FBO to get through the process.

Commissioners said they could lose several thousand dollars on Hangar One if Jans' proposal is stalled.

They decided last spring to vacate the hangar and move into offices at the former Brown & Kerr Roofing Co. building at 1020 Plant Rd. so they could generate revenue on the hangar.

And while they could rent the hangar for aircraft storage, they want a second FBO to break the monopoly held by Priester Aviation.

# Wheeling police chief's legal battle a costly fight

9/18/92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The curtain goes up in another act of a continuing — and costly — drama in Wheeling today as Police Chief Michael F. Haeger's attorney argues to overturn a 1991 jury verdict which found Haeger guilty of racial discrimination.

William Kurnick, Haeger's attorney, will ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit to overturn the decision of a U.S. District Court based on the judge's instructions to the jury which he said he feels were incorrect. It will be several months before the court rules on the appeal.

The verdict against Haeger stems from a lawsuit filed nine years ago by black patrol officer Robert Pressley charging that the police chief withheld raises, condoned racial harassment and accused him of illicit sexual activity.

Shortly after the verdict, village trustees voted to pay Haeger's legal fees and the court judgment against him — a move that will ultimately cost the village nearly \$300,000 if the court denies the appeal.

Documents obtained under the Illi-



Michael F. Haeger

nois Freedom of Information Act indicate that Wheeling officials have already spent \$59,377 on legal fees in the case. Although the village was originally named a co-defendant, it was dismissed from the suit on the first day of the trial. But, it racked up \$13,165 in legal fees preparing its defense.

In addition, the village has spent \$46,212 on Haeger's legal fees and it is likely that amount will increase until the case is finally settled.

# Village, owner squabble on 1st piece of TIF land

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Countyside

Wheeling has an agreement to purchase the first parcel of land that had been tied up in lawsuits against its Tax Increment Finance district.

The village and the property owner can now avoid condemnation of the property and the concomitant delay and legal expenses. But the deal isn't nailed down, and the owner and the village blame each other.

"They should give us our money and let us close," begged Steven Levin of Northbrook, who owns a vacant house and coachhouse on about an acre of land at 124 N. Milwaukee Av., in the middle of the TIF district set up by the village to build a shopping center at Dundee Road.

"This is ironic," said Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes. "We sent him the contract in June, and he doesn't send it back until the end of August, with changes he knew we wouldn't allow. And now all of a sudden there's a rush." The Village Board approved the deal Sept. 8.

## Differing views

"They said they were going to close Sept. 10th, Sept. 11th, Sept. 15th, when are they going to do it?" asked Levin Tuesday.

7-17-92  
"That property is in foreclosure," said Rhodes. "He has to get us a title report, and there's the question of who has to get paid off, assuming there are creditors to be paid off ... and he also has to provide us with a copy of the survey. And he has to seal up that septic tank. It's a health code violation."

Rhodes said the septic tank on the former rental property was in such poor condition it had to be pumped out weekly. Sealing the tank is a condition of the sale. "We're prepared to close if all the conditions are met. We want to close so we can knock it down."

"Everything's been done," said Levin of the paperwork. "I wanted to close five, seven years ago. If they give me the \$179,000, I'll go. I don't know what the problem is."

## Fines

The contract allows for a payment of \$180,000 to Levin, less \$1,000 in building code violation fines. At least some of those violations were corrected, according to village staffers.

When asked if the septic tank had been sealed, Levin said, "It was supposed to have been done. It was scheduled to be done."

But is it sealed?  
"It's going to be done. They know it's scheduled to be done."

"They were nice people,"

Levin said of the four families that lived in the house and coach house. "The village went in and said don't pay the rent."

"They're now empty, and all cleaned up — give us our money and let us close. They've put me in the middle ... I can't pay my mortgage on property I don't have any income from."

## Health hazard

"Give me a break," said Rhodes. "If his property wasn't a health hazard to his tenants, they might still be there."

"I don't know why they left ... Levin says they weren't paying rent. They say the place was a pit."

Levin said Tuesday that he's "self-employed. I save people from losing their houses to the tax buyer," he said, referring to tax-delinquent properties, destined for sale by creditor government units.

"I make a deal with them: They go with me, I pay the taxes, and we split the property instead of them taking the whole thing away from you and you lose everything."

"Some people say you stab them in the back, some people are happy and some people are not happy. It depends on the people you are dealing with."

"I've been helping people all my life."

# Palwaukee may get competition

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Countyside

9-10-93  
A new fuel and maintenance provider that would compete with entrenched Priester Aviation may be coming to Palwaukee Airport. Airport commissioners tentatively accepted the proposal of entrepreneur Dennis Jans despite airport staff warnings that he was under-financed.

Jans, owner of Service Aviation Corporation, told commissioners originally that he had about \$150,000 in cash, and later told them he could get \$50,000 more from a bank, plus "soft money" he can borrow from family and friends. Airport Manager Fred Stewart says the hard money doesn't make a big enough pile.

"I have stated from the word 'go' that he was under-capitalized," said Stewart. "For \$150,000 you can't even get a decent house in in Wheeling."

"He's not the only one who loses if he goes bankrupt," said Stewart, airport manager for seven years. "It might be very difficult to get somebody else in there if he goes under."

But members of Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association that packed Hangar #1 for a commission meeting Sept. 2 appeared more interested in the competition Jans might give Priester in sales of airplane fuel and maintenance.

Commissioners have been hearing complaints about high fuel prices at Priester for years.

Priester sales manager Don Augustine also raised questions on the economic viability of Jans, saying he remembered when Eastern Airlines was accused of unsafe practices as it was in the throes of economic difficulty.

## Other questions

Jans can't start moving in quite yet. Prior to the commissioners sending their recommendation to the village boards of the airfield's owners, Wheeling and Pros-

pect Heights, they're asking airport staffers to study whether Jans should pay real estate taxes on the property he would be leasing and whether he really needs \$50 million in liability insurance to sell fuel and fix airplanes.

Priester has that much coverage, but very few other "fixed-base operators" around the area have more than a tenth of that, according to Chuck Wenk, a Highland Park insurance agent specializing in aircraft coverage.

"It's inhumane to make him try to get more than \$10 million. It'd be impossible for him to get," said Wenk. "You've put a number of barricades in front of this young fellow, making it almost impossible for him to come here."

But some airport staffers and commissioners questioned whether \$5 million policies, in force at many airports, according to Wenk, were adequate to cover fueling operations that conceivably could result in the explosion of \$24 million airplanes that are regularly fueled.

Airport staffers, led by Stewart, are charged with checking whether either Jans or the Priester organization needs so much insurance, and if the FAA requires both carry the same amount, since the two businesses will be far from identical.

## Hanger No. 1

Jans would be moving into the old Hangar No. 1, the building that has housed airport management since the villages bought the busy airport from its founder, George Priester, eight years ago. It is available now because airport administration is moving to an old warehouse on a piece of Plant Road land purchased for airport expansion.

The airport staffers hope to tell commissioners what they think about the property taxes and insurance at their next meeting Sept. 16.

# Wheeling cracks down on signs

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

As of Friday, Wheeling merchants can no longer use cars or trucks to point the way to their businesses.

They can park them, as long as their size does not violate village codes. But they can't place them in an obvious way to attract business.

"If a delivery truck is parked in front of a building, let's say on Milwaukee Avenue, on a regular basis, it's just another sign," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

That "other sign" will earn a \$50 to \$500 fine if noted by village staffers. And that's the way complaints about such things have traditionally come in, according to Anderson. Residents rarely complain — it's usually staff or village trustees that grouse about big ugly signs painted on seemingly permanently parked trucks, and banners stretched across others.

"It's an aesthetic type of thing," said Anderson. "You have a beautiful shopping center, and a big truck parked in front of one of the stores."

# Village signs power deal

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees are likely to follow the lead of several other area community leaders and pass an ordinance Monday that would give the village a new 67-year deal with Commonwealth Edison.

The franchise agreement would require Com Ed to pay the village share of electric

power for traffic signals and air raid sirens, in exchange for the use of right-of-ways for power equipment. That would save Wheeling tens of thousand of dollars. Com Ed already pays for village electricity, and would continue to do so.

In addition, company officials must appear once a year before the village board to explain outages and other service questions. And Com

Ed must notify the village about every outage.

The franchise ordinance, crafted by the Northwest Municipal Conference, is available to all 120 suburbs in Cook County and the collar counties, and has been adopted by Bartlett, Inverness, Northbrook and others of the 35 MWMC members, according to Executive Director Rita Athis.

# Wheeling police chief's legal battle a costly fight

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The curtain goes up in another act of a continuing — and costly — drama in Wheeling today as Police Chief Michael F. Haeger's attorney argues to overturn a 1991 jury verdict which found Haeger guilty of racial discrimination.

William Kurnick, Haeger's attorney, will ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit to overturn the decision of a U.S. District Court based on the judge's instructions to the jury which he said he feels were incorrect. It will be several months before the court rules on the appeal.

The verdict against Haeger stems from a lawsuit filed nine years ago by black patrol officer Robert Pressley charging that the police chief withheld raises, condoned racial harassment and accused him of illicit sexual activity.

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In addition, the village has spent \$46,212 on Haeger's legal fees and it is likely that amount will increase until the case is finally settled.

9-18-92 Daily Herald

# Wheeling hires consultant to help develop TIF area

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village Board members voted Monday to hire a consultant to help them develop a tax increment financing district in the village.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the consultant, McKenna & Associates of Chicago, is needed to help sort through the developer's agreement related to the TIF district.

The battle to establish a TIF district in Wheeling has been a long one for trustees who decided in 1977 to create the district on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

TIF districts are commonly established to improve blighted or rundown areas. Property taxes are frozen at predevelopment rates and extra tax dollars generated by the development are used to repay loans for public improvements.

Several property owners in Wheeling's TIF district filed suit in 1988 saying that Wheeling had not met the criteria for a TIF district encompassing their property and a Cook County Circuit Court judge agreed.

But last year, an appellate court struck down that judge's ruling and after the Illinois Supreme Court refused to hear further appeal from property owners, the village's road seemed clear.

Recently, trustees approved a purchase agreement for another piece of property in the district, moving one step closer to development. Several parcels, however, are still in condemnation proceedings.

Village staff wanted to hire the consultant to look over the original plans for the TIF district, which call for a shopping center to be built on the site.

"We want to make sure we are still on the right track," said Anderson.

Anderson said that McKenna was a widely used consultant serving on both sides of the TIF development table.

"This is a very expensive consultant related to TIF," said Anderson. "They have sat on both sides and can really provide us with a good reaffirmation."

Anderson said that the deal for the consultants is open-ended. He said they will provide services for the village as they are requested.

# Chief's lawyer confident about appeal ruling

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The lawyer representing Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said Tuesday he thinks he got the chief and the village off the hook Friday when he argued the appeal of the 1991 discrimination judgement against him in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago.

The village is not a party to the case, but it has pledged to pay Haeger's legal fees and the \$40,000 judgement against him.

Arlington Heights attorney William Kurnick said he felt he persuaded the three-judge panel that Cook County Circuit Judge Paul Plunkett erred when he told the jury that Haeger should have known about harassment against Robert Pressley, a patrol

officer since 1978.

He said Haeger didn't know about derogatory cartoons stuffed in Pressley's departmental mailbox, and so shouldn't have been required to have found out about something he didn't know was happening.

Kurnick said the cartoons included one depicting the "Chicongo Police Department," and another from Hustler magazine. Pressley also received the "Black Application for Employment."

Pressley's lawyer, Robert Burns, was not available for comment. Kurnick said depending on which judge writes the opinion, it could take anywhere from one to nine months for the verdict to be returned.

# Insurance holds up 2nd airport gas vendor

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Palwaukee Airport still doesn't have a new outlet to sell gasoline and fix airplanes.

It will be awhile before airport commissioners send their approval of a new competitor for Priester aviation to the village boards that ultimately control own the airport.

The main obstacle between Wheeling's Dennis Jans and his new business at Palwaukee's Hangar One is an insurance policy, one that may be overpriced. Airport commissioners sent him back out to look for a \$50,000 liability policy to protect him, and thereby the airport, if a \$25 million jet blew up on the tarmac while filled with people whose heirs would sue Jans and the airport owners, the villages of Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Jans said last week he couldn't see why he had to pay that much when New

York's Westchester County Airport only required \$10 million for similar coverage.

Westchester airport manager Joel Russell said Friday the \$10 million was required to cover the airport property, belonging to the county. Five million was all they required for fueling.

He said that since the contract the airport negotiates with all the "fixed-base" operators includes a "hold harmless" clause, he doesn't fear lawsuits, no matter how much the lawyers ask.

Airport manager Fred Stewart said Monday he didn't know if Palwaukee's contracts, now only signed with former airport owner Priester, has such a clause, "but I assume so." Airport affairs were a little haphazard early this week as the offices moved from Hangar One to a warehouse on recently-acquired land on Plant Road.

The commissioners can reconsider the insurance demand if Jans can't



Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

Palwaukee Airport has to wait a little longer for a second fixed base operator.

acquire that much, as many fear.

Commissioner James A. Nockel finds it hard to understand why Palwaukee demands that much insurance when no other small airport anybody has heard of does. "We've got to grab ahold of some kind of san-

ity check on this," he said.

At last week's meeting, commissioner Nicholas Helmer expressed frustration with the delays in getting Jans aboard. "We asked for this information two weeks ago, and we're still groping for it."

At least commissioners

settled the question on whether they would require Jans to pay real estate tax on the Hangar One property. Jans settled it for them.

"As to Priester, if he is paying the real estate taxes, then I guess I do," he told them.

# Airport staff moves into new office

BY BILL O'BRIEN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Staff members for the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission say they are just about settled in at their new location after moving their offices Monday from Hangar One.

Airport authorities originally had planned to move their offices into the former home of the Brown and Kerr Inc. roofing company, 1020 Plant Road, at the beginning of the month. However, their timetable was pushed back slightly because of construction of a small road near the

building to provide direct access for snow removal and maintenance crews.

The road, which runs along airport-owned property to the west of the Household Finance hangar, was built at a cost of \$113,824.

"We've got the usual problems with unpacking and unloading, but the telephone systems are in and the computer systems are operating, so we're in pretty good shape," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart.

The new home for the eight-member staff is not as convenient as the

former one because many of the airport operations are now farther away from their offices, but Stewart said that everyone is adjusting, and the new home, which required renovation, suits them fine, Stewart said.

The renovation involved electrical rewiring, ceiling and plumbing work and other modifications to ready the building for day-to-day operations of the commission.

Commissioners earlier this year decided that moving the commission offices would be in the best interest of the airport because Hangar One would then be available for rental

either by a fixed-based operator, or FBO, to compete with Priester Aviation, or as rental property for aircraft storage if the FBO idea does not materialize, Stewart said.

"The plan is that we return the aircraft hangars to aviation use instead of administrative use," he said.

The commission has received many inquiries in response to its 54 requests for proposals for an FBO, and although it has made progress toward eventually bringing another FBO to the airport, it has not signed a contact with anyone yet, Stewart said.

# Pilots want markers for runway wires

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association members concerned about a safety hazard created by electrical wires across the approach to one of the runways will have to live with the problem a while longer, now that Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials and Commonwealth Edison representatives have reached a stalemate.

Pilots association members are looking for some sort of markings to make the wires more visible to pilots as they approach the runway, which Airport Manager Fred Stewart said

is used mostly by single-engine aircraft.

"Even during the day the wires are very difficult to see," said pilots association member Barry Dainas. "If you are landing in an ideal world you clear the wires with no problem. But in the real world we are sometimes a little bit lower than we should be."

Dainas asked commissioners several months ago to look into the problem, hoping to get red lights on the electrical poles or orange spheres strung on to the wires themselves.

But Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant manager of operations and mainte-

nance, said he contacted Commonwealth Edison and their representative said they would not put anything on the lines or on the poles.

Commonwealth Edison District Superintendent Dan A. Kowalewski said the utility company is only willing to put markers on transmission poles and lines that are 100 feet tall.

"These wires are only 30 feet tall and are prone to outages because they go across property lines," Kowalewski said. "If we put lights on them and they go out due to the lines being out, who would be responsible?"

Dainas said the pilots association has asked pilots to fill out FAA haz-

ardous forms so the agency will be aware of the problem. And he said when the FAA receives enough of the forms, they will investigate and possibly apply pressure on Commonwealth Edison to mark the wires.

Stewart said there have been no incidents at the airport involving the wires, which are on the west side of Wolf Road.

Airport commissioners want to eventually bury all electrical wires that surround the airport, but it could be several years before that is done because the airport would have to pick up the tab for the project.

# Palwaukee, fire districts to practice for disaster

BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents living near the Palwaukee Municipal Airport may see emergency vehicles racing around the airport today, but they will not be headed to a disaster — just practicing for one.

Airport officials, in conjunction with area fire departments, the Wheeling and Prospect Heights police departments, Priester Aviation, the Palwaukee Federal Aviation Administration air traffic control tower and Holy Family Hospital, are conducting the practice exercise in hopes of perfecting their emergency response.

Neighbors of the airport, at 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave., and passing motorists can expect to see smoke in the sky along with fire trucks, ambulances and police cars.

Airport officials are cautioning residents not to be alarmed by the activity and are also requesting that they stay away from the airport during the exercise.

This will be the first full-scale disaster drill at the airport since it was purchased by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights in the mid-1960s. Two ta-

bletop exercises have been conducted within the past year.

The Wheeling Fire Department is the primary response team to all incidents at the airport, but seven other fire departments will lend their assistance to the drill.

Their other Mount Prospect, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District, the Vernon Area Rural Fire Protection District, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Glenview and Des Plaines.

"It is a recognized fact that there may be an accident on the airport which we cannot handle alone," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

MacIsaac said several "victims" will be transported to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, and the hospital will also evaluate their disaster response preparedness.

He said the fire department is called to the airport about six times a year responding to calls ranging from aircraft accidents to sick passengers, and the calls are usually minor.

"Obviously with the amount of traffic and the size of the aircraft, there is a remote possibility that a larger incident will occur," he said.

10-1-92  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
A recent decision by the Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners to re-test one of their officers who was passed over for sergeant in 1990 brings to a close two years of court proceedings and board hearings.

MacDonald, a 19-year veteran of the force, filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court against the board of fire and police commissioners, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and two other Wheeling police officers — Anthony Chiquengrani and Richard Poppenga — in May 1990 when the two officers were promoted to sergeant and he was not.

In the lawsuit MacDonald claimed he was first on the department's eligibility list for sergeant when former Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel resigned in April of 1990. But commissioners instead promoted Chiquengrani, who was second on the eligibility list to replace Staufenbiel, and then promoted Poppenga, who was seventh on the eligibility list, to replace Sgt. Jack Kinsey when he retired.

In the lawsuit, MacDonald charged there was no cause for commissioners to abandon a "long-standing custom and practice" of promoting officers in the order in which their name appeared on the eligibility list. But village officials maintained that because there was no written policy stating promotions will follow the eligibility list, they were not obligated to promote MacDonald before the other two officers. Judge Robert Ericsson sent MacDonald's lawsuit back to the commissioners for examination of the promotion procedures. Neither MacDonald or his attorney were present when the commissioners reached their decision to re-test MacDonald, but Rhodes said they agreed to drop the lawsuit in return for the chance to re-test.

# Officer to take new promotion test



Le Francais' waiters seem determined to make dining here as unthreatening as possible.



★★★★

## Le Francais

269 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling  
*Excellence was never this much fun*

Rating system

★★★★ Outstanding      ★ Good  
 ★★★ Excellent              ★ Satisfactory  
 ★★ Very Good                  ★ Unsatisfactory

Reviews are based on no fewer than two visits. The reviewer makes every effort to remain anonymous. Meals are paid for by the Tribune.

## World-class Le Francais puts fun into fine dining

**L**e Francais is quite possibly Chicago's finest restaurant. Without a doubt, it is Chicago's most approachable four-star restaurant.

Where else can you ask a waiter to identify something on your plate and get the response, "I'm not sure, monsieur; it's something from a can."? Or hear another waiter respond to a request with, "I'm sorry, monsieur, we have no wine list tonight."

But that gentle humor is what distinguishes Le Francais among Chicago's top dining experiences. While other staffs sometimes manage to make diners feel like nonbelievers who have crashed a religious ceremony, Le Francais' waiters seem determined to make eating here as unthreatening as possible.

The jokes do more than simply break the tension, real or imagined, at the beginning of the meal. The subtext to all the humor is an implicit acknowledgement that you, the customer, are sophisticated enough to be in on the gag. No other restaurant at this culinary level does a better job of making its patrons feel like part of the process.

Of course, all the one-liners in the world would be only so much window dressing if the kitchen didn't back it up. It is the routine excellence of chef Roland Liccione that gives the dining-room staff its creative license.

Roland Liccione (who with his wife,

### Dining out

By Phil Vettel

Mary Beth Liccione, has owned Le Francais for 3½ years) is pretty creative himself, though he leaves the jokes to the boys in the front room. His menu shows a healthy respect for tradition and an even healthier bent toward light, flavor-intense preparations.

Meals begin, as they always have at Le Francais, with an elaborate display of the day's featured dishes—perhaps a dozen in all. The joyfully dramatic narration, by captain William Wagner (Willie, to the regulars), is a treat in itself. In theory, viewing the dishes helps with the selection, but it doesn't; everything looks so luscious that decisions become, if anything, more difficult.

Highlights of our visits included an artichoke terrine, a crafty bit of engineering in which large pieces of artichoke hearts are molded with a custard of artichoke puree scented with truffle oil. The plate is beautiful, criss-crossed with lines of artichoke mousse and contrasting tomato and yellow-pepper sauces. Other hits: An eggy, richly flavored escargot flan and twin raviolis of sliced duck over a lightly garlicked jus.

Duck consomme is a frequent performer on Le Francais' menu; the cur-

rent incarnation offers a rich, remarkably intense consomme in which float a quenelle of duck mousse and a ravioli square filled with ground duck meat. Another intensely flavored soup is a crayfish bisque, sweet and light but with a powerful crayfish essence.

Lobster salad is about twice the price of the other salads on the menu, but the generous chunks of meat, sweet and warm, served over black pasta with a fresh mango dressing, are worth the indulgence.

Luscious sweetbreads, served with a smooth juniper berry sauce, were a big hit on one visit; on another, top honors went to a game plate—pheasant with peppercorn sauce, mousse-stuffed rabbit loin with morel sauce and smoked venison grand veneur—a vibrantly flavored yet perfectly balanced composition. The same balance can be seen in Liccione's seafood creations, in which flawlessly prepared fish are paired with understated, very complementary sauces. Beautiful examples include a meaty turbot above a light fennel cream, or a grilled-fish trio—salmon with sorrel sauce, Dover sole with basil sauce and escolar with red pepper sauce.

Desserts are the province of Mary Beth Liccione, and it's a stronger person than me who can resist any of her crea-

## Francais

Continued from preceding page

tions. Indeed, my chief regret in having finished my eating visits here is for the desserts I did not get to try.

A signature dessert is Liccione's "symphonic" of chocolates—a quartet, if you're scoring at home. The super-intense chocolate souffle is wonderful, as is the chocolate gelat, layered chocolate mousse and a rich sliver of chocolate pie. This dessert is misnamed in one respect, however; for a symphony, there is a decided dearth of subtle passages; Liccione's composition heads straight for the crescendo and stays there. "Resounding chocolate finale" is more like it.

There is, of course, much more. Raspberry souffle is, as the very best souffles are, food for the gods, with a cloudlike texture and a tart, fresh raspberry filling. A superior creme brulee, topped with small berries, is accompanied by a *soup des fruits*—a sugary mix of mango, strawberries and raspberries—encased in almond tuille.

Sommelier is Sylvain Andres, who has been with Le Francais for just a few months. His playfulness matches that of his fellow

workers; he handed us the massive wine list with the warning that there would be a quiz later, and indeed returned after a while with a solemn look on his face. "It is time," he intoned, "for your exam."

Already, Andres is a dependable guide through Le Francais' enormous selection; the wine pairings he made for our meals were anything but commonplace, but excellent matches.

There are two good, economical ways to enjoy Le Francais. Mondays through Thursdays, the restaurant features a seven-course degustation dinner for \$59; with regular entrees averaging \$30, this is a terrific value. Lunch is another good value; Le Francais is the only four-star restaurant in town that still serves lunch to the general public.

★★★★ Le Francais, 269 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, 708-541-7470. French. Hours: Lunch 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tues.-Fri., dinner 6-10 p.m. Mon.-Sat. (Fri.-Sat., seatings at 6-6:30 and 9-9:30 p.m. only), closed Sun. Price range: Appetizers \$13.75-\$19.50, soups/salads \$7-\$8.50, entrees \$27.50-\$32, desserts \$8.50, seven-course degustation dinner (available Mon.-Thurs.) \$59; dinner for two of appetizer, soup/salad, entree, dessert, tax and tip: \$150. Credit cards: American Express, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, Discover, MasterCard, Visa. Reservations: Required.



Norman Cohan photo

### End of an era

Barbara Hanson, director of the Wheeling Pavilion Center since its formation, thanks friends and co-workers during her retirement party recently. Hanson says she plans to remain active in retirement, and may lead a few classes at the center.

ment party recently. Hanson says she plans to remain active in retirement, and may lead a few classes at the center.

COUNTRYSIDE 10-1-92



Vicki Grayland/Pioneer Press

An airplane approaches a runway at Palwaukee Airport. Pilots worry that power lines close to runway six may cause an accident some day.

# Pilots wired about runway safety

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

to get something done about it.

## Getting things done

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said Tuesday that he and maintenance chief Dennis Rouleau have been trying to get Commonwealth Edison to do something about the wires "for months." Commonwealth Edison engineer Jack Merthrens said Friday that the problem had only reached his North Division Engineering office the week before.

The Wheeling Village Board approved a new, long-term contract this month with the electric company that allowed the same provisions for burying cable as the old one, no more than 500 free feet per year. It would take several years for the cable to be buried by the utility company at that rate. Pilots contend the expensive process would be the safest solution to the

hazard, however.

"We'd be happy if they would just get us balls on the wire," said Barry Axelrod, another pilot association past president. "They don't even have to light up."

The smaller runway isn't used much at night, when the tower is closed. At that time, the bigger runway is preferred, because its lighting can be controlled by a flick of the pilots' mike button, according to Dainas. Runway 6 is used at any time of day or night if winds are unfavorable, however.

## No markings

But "just getting balls on the wire" is not as easy as it sounds, according to Mike Rowe, another Commonwealth Edison engineer. He said Tuesday that it's very unusual to have distribution lines like those at Palatine and Wolf, about a hundred feet lower than transmission

lines, marked at all. He doesn't know if it would be harmful to the strands of wires, which are not much farther away from each other than the 20" diameter of the typical marker balls.

The distribution wires are thinner than the transmission wires, and Rowe doesn't know if marking balls would cause the wires to "gallop," or adopt a serpentine movement, under certain wind conditions. That type of line movement could cause wires to part, according to Rowe.

He said he doesn't know whether the different electrical load-carrying properties of the distribution lines would cause problems with carrying power from one cable to another, when one windswept wire would touch a marker on another wire.

"Moisture, combined with some kind of contamination, or with pollution, could cause electricity to travel"

(Continued on page 16)

from one line to another, he said.

## Unseen

Though the wires have been there for decades, they weren't a problem until a couple of years ago when trees were removed in the same area as a safety measure. The trees had screened view of the wires, and were a lot easier for pilots to see than the wires alone are.

"And clipping a tree is one thing; clipping a power line is something else," said Axelrod. Dainas said PAPA

members, tired of waiting, are now petitioning the Federal Aviation Administration for help.

Commissioner Nick Helmer, a Palwaukee pilot himself, said it's more of a problem for inexperienced pilots, but any flyer could get in trouble if he forgot the wires were there.

"If you're focused on the threshold (the beginning of the landing area) of the runway, you get to a point where the lines disappear, if you're not careful," he said. "One day I may come in here fat and happy and forget about 'em."

# Cable conversion goes smoothly

By IRV LEVITT  
STAFF WRITER  
COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling cable TV viewers are enjoying the most complaint-free conversion from dual-cable to single cable-service that TCI has done, according to Carole Stannard, the head of the consortium that handles cable matters for the village and 6 other towns.

"They've done this quite a few times," said Stannard. "They've gotten a lot of the bugs out."

And there's a lot of Congressional scrutiny now. Everybody's watching their p's and q's lately.

"Everybody's calling their senators," said Stannard. "Cable companies have had poor performance, and have walked all over their customers. You call up and wait on the phone for 15 minutes, and then she's rude when she answers."

Kelvin Fee, general manager of TCI, said of the scrutiny, "Carole likes to believe that, but it's not the case. The idea is that we're trying to satisfy the customer; the attitude has changed in the last two years. We're not trying to get the whole thing done in one month, rushing through to get things done."

He said in the past, TCI had sometimes failed to "track everyone's pay service lines ... and given people the wrong services ... shut off a cable before we should have."

Stannard and Assistant Village Manager Joni Beauty agree that it seems to be working smoothly in Wheeling, as three-quarters of customers have already been changed over, mostly without incident. They can now use their own remote controls on their televisions. They no longer need converter boxes if their TV's or VCR's are cable-ready, and don't need converters — for extra sets.

The basic service price is dropping from \$422.60 to \$201.50, because single cable is cheaper to maintain than the old dual system. But Fee said not to expect the price to drop further with the passage of the federal cable bill Monday, though that was one of the intentions of Congress when it overrode President's Bush's veto, which it never before succeeded in doing.

"We think it will bring increased cost to subscribers," because the bill intends to force cable companies to pay broadcast outlets for their product.

Stannard said the bill should allow cable companies to drop the price of basic service below \$10, because they would not be required to carry so many channels. That way, if a customer wanted HBO and only HBO, he would only have to pay for a cheap basic plus the HBO pay-per-view cost.

The change from double-cable to dual drops the number of available channels from 120 to 60, and the number of public access channels from 12 to 6. But TCI doesn't use all 60 channels anyway, and Wheeling has no public access system.

There have been a few complaints made to Beauty during the change-over, at least one of which involved conversion representatives who called first, got no answer, and came anyway, as late as 8 p.m. on Saturday.

"I haven't heard about that, but it wouldn't surprise me," said Fee. "We try to do a big chunk (of changeovers) in the evenings and on Saturday, because that's when people are home. But we don't switch anything past nine without an appointment."

He said a Saturday "appointment" usually means a customer has to wait for the service rep all day.

"There has been at least one complaint of a conversion rep not presenting an I.D. Fee said none should be admitted to a home without one.

He said there are probably only five percent more that have to be converted, and the job will be done within two weeks or so. About 20 percent have probably self-converted, having dropped off their boxes at TCI headquarters at 1201 Seehaville Drive in Mt. Prospect, and disconnected their "A" cable.

He said anybody who wants to is encouraged to self-convert, but shouldn't cut off the old cable while a signal still courses through it. He said signal leakage can interfere with "other people's antennas and airplanes" (radio communication) flying overhead.

Highland Park firm to do roof repairs

Trustees voted to spend \$37,000 on roof repairs on four village buildings.

Mayor promotes stamp collecting

Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed October national stamp collecting month.

In her proclamation, she recognized the 50 members of the Walt Whitman Elementary School stamp club and their mentor Frank Horbert. And she urged Wheeling citizens to consider starting stamp collections of their own.

## Municipal building contract awarded

Wheeling trustees will spend \$37,200 to have village buildings cleaned under an agreement recently passed by trustees.

Unicomp Services, of Park Ridge, will become the fourth company to give village hall its daily cleaning since May of 1989, when the village decided to go with a private cleaning firm. Workers from the firm will spend 103 manhours a week at village hall.

Unicomp Services was not the lowest bidder on the work, but Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance said the other companies did not supply enough man hours per week to adequately complete the job.

Village officials allocated \$42,308 in this year's fiscal budget for the cleaning of the buildings in the municipal complex and the Pavilion Senior Center.

## Highland Park firm to do roof repairs

Trustees voted to spend \$37,000 on roof repairs on four village buildings.

J & J Roofing Systems Inc. will do the repairs on the roofs of village hall, the operations and maintenance building, a fire station, and the Pavilion Senior Center. The Highland Park-based company has already done some roof repair work for the village.

The village will pay J & J Roofing Systems \$29,990 to repair the roof. About \$25,000 was budgeted for the repairs. The rest of the money will come from the village's capital projects fund. Some money has also been spent on a study to see what areas of the roofs are in need of repairs.

According to Bob Gray, director of operations and maintenance, the budgeted repairs were based on a visual inspection of the roof last spring, but more leaks have been detected since then.

## Mayor promotes stamp collecting

Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed October national stamp collecting month.

In her proclamation, she recognized the 50 members of the Walt Whitman Elementary School stamp club and their mentor Frank Horbert. And she urged Wheeling citizens to consider starting stamp collections of their own.

## New vendor needed

Wheeling man's bid to offer competitive sales of gas and service at Palwaukee airport is having trouble getting off the ground.

A couple weeks ago, the bid by Wheeling's Dennis Jans brought cheers as it taxied onto the runway. Pilots hungry for an end to Priester Aviation's monopoly over service and gas sales watched from the observation deck as the proposal started down the runway. But the runway just kept getting longer.

The plan still hasn't taken off. And it's time to ask the commission that oversees the airport why. In the name of caution, the commission is dragging its feet and looking for all the world like it is trying to discover a way out of the deal.

Palwaukee needs a second vendor if it is to remain competitive with surrounding airports. Pilots say they have watched more and more of their flyboy buddies take off for landing strips in Waukegan, Aurora and Delavan where fuel is cheaper and services more expansive. According to surveys from the Pilots Association, prices for aviation fuel vary as widely as 50 cents a gallon among area airports, with Palwaukee's on top, a good 10 to 20 cents above the next highest.

The latest excuse for stalling on Jan's bid to drop in fuel pumps and a maintenance shop in Hangar One is insurance. The commission decided he needs a \$50 million liability policy to protect himself and the airport, in case a \$25 million jet blew up or something.

But why should Palwaukee demand Jans obtain so much insurance when no other small airport anyone has heard of does? Most, including the busy Westchester County Airport in New York, require only \$10 million in coverage.

Since George Priester founded the airport more than a half century ago, the company has enjoyed a monopoly, which continued under a sweetheart deal with Wheeling and Prospect Heights when they bought the airport eight years ago.

But competition is circling in the skies above Palwaukee, and it is time for commissioners to give it clearance to land.

Competition is circling in the skies above Palwaukee, and it is time for commissioners to give it clearance to land.

(Continued on page 24)

# Wheeling ponders next step after appeals setback in race suit

10-9-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are contemplating their next move in a long-running legal battle, now that a federal appellate court has upheld a lower-court decision finding the village's police chief guilty of racial discrimination.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger was found guilty of racial discrimination by a U.S. District Court jury in February 1991. The verdict stems from a lawsuit filed nine years ago by patrol officer Robert Pressley, who is black, claiming the police



Chief Michael Haeger



Robert Pressley

chief withheld raises, condoned racial harassment by other police officers and accused him of illicit sexual activity.

Haeger's attorney, William Kur-

nick, asked the U.S. Court of Appeals to overturn the decision based on the judge's instructions to the jury at the end of the two-week trial. Kurnick said he felt those instructions were incorrect. He also asked the appeals court to overturn the monetary settlement — \$40,000 to Pressley in compensatory damages and \$177,000 in legal fees to Pressley's attorneys.

But, earlier this week, the three-judge panel upheld the lower court's discrimination ruling and \$40,000 in damages and ordered that U.S. District Court Judge Paul Plunkett recalculate the legal fees he awarded in the case — a ruling that will ulti-

mately increase the \$177,000 in attorneys' fees.

In the ruling, written by Judge Frank Easterbrook, the court agreed that one set of instructions given by the judge was incorrect, but said those instructions did not detract from Haeger's right to a fair trial.

"Jurors consider the evidence and trial as a whole," Easterbrook stated in the written opinion. "Appellate judges must guard against the error of assuming that jurors dissect instructions as if the sentences were

See CASE on Page 3

## CASE: Wheeling officials may petition case further

Continued from Page 1

frogs."

And the court stated "ample evidence supports the jury's verdict."

Wheeling village officials expressed surprise at the quickness with which the appellate court decision was reached and said they were disappointed in the decision.

"I am disappointed," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "The reason we appealed was because we felt the decision was not correct."

Schultz said the decision on whether to petition the appellate court for a re-hearing has not been made but she said she "would not be surprised if it (the case) would not go forward."

The village board is not scheduled to meet again until Oct. 19. Village manager Craig G. Anderson said Schultz and the trustees could take up the matter at that time.

"If there is other action to be contemplated, it would have to be done soon," Anderson said. "At this point, I am looking at it like it's done."

Haeger said he would not make any comment on the case until a final decision about the village's next move has been made.

"I cannot comment while there is still the potential for further action," he said.

Shortly after the original guilty verdict, trustees voted to pay Haeger's legal fees and the court judgment against him — a move that is now likely to cost the village at least \$300,000 because the appeals court ruled Plunkett improperly lowered the hourly rates to be reimbursed to two of Pressley's attorneys to \$150 from the \$182 they sought.

The village already has spent \$59,377 on Haeger's attorney's fees and — as co-defendants in the case — to prepare its own defense. The village was dropped from the lawsuit on the first day of the trial.

Anderson said some of the money that will be needed to pay the judgment, if no further action is taken, will come from claims already paid by Wheeling's insurer — the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency, IRMA is no longer paying any claims in the case after expending \$176,020 in the legal battle.

Village attorney James Rhodes said the agency told village officials in 1991 to settle the case or start paying the cost themselves. But Schultz said she does not regret the decision not to settle.

## Increasingly, rail lines are crossroads to future

10-13-92  
By JOHN CARPENTER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Perhaps the clearest sign of the transportation times — what with tougher new pollution laws and ever-increasing highway congestion — is the growing drawing board of proposed new railroad lines.

No less than seven of them, in one form or another, are being considered in and around Chicago. And that's not even counting nearly a dozen proposed extensions to existing commuting lines.

From downtown trolleys to traditional suburban commuter trains to high-tech, European-style bullet trains, transportation planners seem to be taking a new look at one of the oldest forms of mechanized people moving.

"It's a nationwide thing," said Jerry Isenberg of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Bureau of

Railroads. "People are realizing you have to have a balanced transportation system. You have to look at high-speed rail. And you have to coordinate rail with airlines."

But while few experts question the potential benefits of improved mass transit, no one has any illusions about funding. Whether on the state, local or federal level, money is in short supply. This is no small hurdle given proposals ranging in price from \$80 million to \$1 billion or more.

Consider, for example, the plight of the proposed Wisconsin Central line. Metra officials say it will be an instant success, with more than 3,000 riders daily. Towns like Buffalo Grove, Mundelein and Wheeling have been clamoring for it since 1985 and are even willing to foot the bill for such expenditures as building parking lots and stations. But no one,

See RAILWAYS on Page 4

## RAILWAYS: New lines seen as wave of the future

Continued from Page 1

so far, has been able to figure out where to get more than \$90 million officials say it will cost to start it up.

There is hope, however. Recently passed federal transportation legislation has set aside more than \$150 billion for surface transportation over the next nine years, with the money to be distributed by local officials. And that, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said, should be good news for railroad supporters.

"We've got some very logical people over there (at CATS) who finally agree that you can't solve all transportation problems with pavement alone," he said. "People are starting to realize that every time you build one more lane of highway you get two more lanes worth of traffic."

Knapton and Northwest Municipal Conference transportation planner Mark Fowler noted that rail lines as transportation projects are particularly appealing because they already exist. The Wisconsin Central line, for example, already runs freight and would only need to be upgraded for smoother and safer passenger service. Even the high-tech, 180-mile-per-hour bullet trains would run along existing lines, though upgrades would have to be far more extensive, including the elimination of

all grade crossings.

"There is an incredible rail network in this area that we can tap into," Fowler said.

Knapton agreed, comparing the \$300 million it would cost to start a high-speed rail line from Chicago to Milwaukee to the \$300 million IDOT will spend resurfacing only four miles of the Stevenson Expressway in a few years.

"Railroads can give you more bang for your buck," he said.

### Resurrecting rail lines

Costs\* of rail line proposals for Chicago area



■ Wisconsin Central Line (Chicago to Antioch)	\$90 million
■ Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (Aurora to Barrington)	\$80 million
■ High speed railroads (Chicago to St. Louis)	\$500 million
(Chicago to Detroit)	\$1 billion
(Chicago to Milwaukee)	\$300 million
■ Downtown Chicago circulator (trolley system)	\$750 million
■ Chicago to Florida	\$225 million

\* All costs are estimates except the Chicago circulator, which already has been approved.

Sources: Illinois Department of Transportation, City of Chicago, Metra, U.S. Sen. Paul Simon

Daily Herald Graphic

# Trustees reject permit request for Mexican restaurant

10-10-92  
BY JEFF KEHE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Two Wheeling men hoping to open a Mexican restaurant in the village had that hope dashed by the village board recently when it denied their request for a special-use permit to operate the restaurant.

The two wanted to open the restaurant in the Gaslight Plaza Shopping Center at 741-743 West Dundee Road.

And they, along with Gary Solomon, owner of the plaza, and Alan Rosenzweig, the architect for the plaza and the restaurant, had a difficult time persuading plan commissioners to recommend approval of the plan to trustees.

At issue was the number of parking spaces proposed for the plaza under a renovation plan that would have brought more landscaping to the shopping center. The plan allotted

only eight permanent parking spaces to the restaurant, but village ordinances call for a minimum of 24 parking spaces for the restaurant, which was to have at least three employees and seating for 48 customers.

"We have a problem here, and that is that you're putting too much into too small of an area," Trustee William Rogers told Rosenzweig. "You are asking us to give a vari-

ance that we have never granted. You are the one that has to compromise."

"The standards are not appropriate as they're written," countered Rosenzweig, arguing that the village ordinance requires far more parking for the site than is actually needed.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the only hope for getting approval of the restaurant plan was to either reduce the number of seats in

the restaurant or to somehow find additional parking.

Solomon said he is planning to file suit against neighboring Ace Hardware in hope of forcing a cross access to their parking lot.

But Anderson noted that the village could not grant a special-use approval for the site that depends on the outcome of a lawsuit.

The board voted unanimously to deny the request.

"That's the Catch-22," Rosenzweig said. "If we're turned down, we won't be able to renovate the parking lot, but it would leave us with enough parking then. Unfortunately, it will be vacant parking."

Commissioners, who are always looking for ways to spruce up the village's appearance, were excited about the prospect — now dead — of additional landscaping at the shopping center.

# Village notes Matty's music request

10-12-92  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents looking to hear some live music on the weekends may have an additional place to hang out soon if the village board goes along with the plan commission's approval of a proposal to bring that music to a Tahoe Shopping Center restaurant.

The new owners of the restaurant at 1750 Hintz Road — formerly Puerla Vallarta, now Matty's Place — are looking to make several changes in the layout of the restaurant including the addition of six seats and

a new exit.

And while they asked plan commissioners to approve the remodeling plans last month, when they mentioned their plans to hire a disc jockey or a band to perform on weekends, commissioners decided they wanted more time to study the issue.

Commissioners were concerned that the addition of live music would shift the focus of the establishment away from serving food.

"My biggest concern is that music and entertainment will change the perception from that of a restaurant," said Commissioner Terry

Steilen. "I think that is really what's changing."

But Kathleen Mark, co-owner of Matty's Place, said the food service will continue to be the most important part of the restaurant's business.

"We have every desire to continue to operate as a restaurant/bar," Mark said. "Not as a tavern."

Commissioners were also concerned about the noise live music might create because the shopping center is in a mainly residential area.

"I have a real concern with live bands only because this shopping center seem to be more residential,"

said Commissioner Ellen Butor. "I like to sleep with my windows open in the summer and I'm sure your neighbors do too."

But Mark said live music would not be any louder than that already put out by the restaurant's jukebox.

"You can't hear it now when the doors are shut," she said. "And we would not leave our doors open specifically for that reason."

In the end, commissioners decided any problems with the music or a shift away from food service would be handled by the village's liquor commission because it grants and revokes liquor licenses.

# Wheeling chief loses Pressley case appeal

10-15-92  
BY IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER  
COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling Police Chief Mike Haeger lost his appeal of the 1991 discrimination lawsuit against him last week. But the long legal road that began with Officer Robert Pressley's 1982 lawsuit may not be over.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said Monday it's possible that the village will support Haeger in further appeals. Haeger could take the decision of the three-man panel of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to the full 7-judge panel, or apply for a rehearing by the U.S. Supreme Court.

More than the \$40,000 district court judgment is at stake. The loser in this type of case pays the legal fees, and the plaintiffs have run up \$177,000 in district court alone. One of Pressley's attorneys, Robert Burns, said Tuesday the appeals-court bill for the defense team "is in the neighborhood" of an additional \$50,000.

And Haeger's lawyers have run up more hours than Pressley's. Wheeling long ago pledged to pay its chief's legal expenses.

"We agreed to settle for less than \$55,000 in 1989, including legal fees, but they absolutely refused to settle. They fought the case very hard all these years," said Burns, of Northwestern University's legal clinic. He has been aiding the Chicago firm of Freedman and Bornstein with the case since 1985.

"The reason we appealed is because it was an incorrect verdict," said Schultz. "The chief's credibility with me is unquestioned." Haeger did not return phone calls.

The February, 1991, verdict was based principally on an alleged racist comment about Pressley by Haeger to a village trustee, and the disciplining of Pressley by Haeger for an incident in the fall of 1982.

Pressley was accused of indulging in sexual activity with a woman in a van parked in a restaurant lot while on duty. The Wheeling fire and police commission threw the two-day suspension out, according to Burns. He said the two were "just chatting" in the van.

Haeger's attorney, William Kurnik, did not return phone calls this week.

# Duplex plan gets cool reception

10-14-92  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Tinley Park-based developer's plans to build duplexes in Wheeling continues to be stalled by the plan commission's concern that too many units could be built on the three-acre parcel.

Berkshire Development wants the property, at the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road, rezoned from industrial to multifamily. Commissioners, however, are reluctant to take that step because they are afraid that something other than the duplex plan now being put

forth by Berkshire could eventually be built on the land.

They have asked village planner Mark Janeck and village attorney Jim Rhodes to meet with the developers to find a way to tie the rezoning to the construction of the two-story duplexes Berkshire is proposing.

But that may not be possible. "It doesn't happen in very many instances," Janeck said.

Berkshire also faces opposition from neighbor in the Picardy Place single-family housing subdivision north of proposed duplex development.

More than 22 homeowners in Pi-

cardy Place signed a petition against the duplex development, and several of them asked plan commissioners to keep their opposition in mind when they considered the proposal.

"If I had known there was the potential for town houses and duplexes, I probably would not have bought here," Stuart Shapiro, a Picardy Place resident told commissioners. "I urge you to listen to the voices that have said we don't want this. I hope you will listen to us."

But Gary Cawn, agent for the property owners said that if the duplex development fails, an industrial building could be built on the proper-

ty — a prospect plan commissioners and Picardy Place homeowners find even more distasteful.

"We can come in with an industrial plan as it is currently zoned," said Cawn. "The owner has another location but if he is stuck with this land, he will put a factory there." Janeck said the land could be rezoned to prevent an industrial use from being built.

"It is on the comprehensive plan as single-family," he said. "That means the village has an interest in seeing it developed as single-family and has reasons to go forward and change the zoning."

# Pub landlord asks for OK to find replacement tenant

10-20-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees likely will extend the life of a Milwaukee Avenue pub now that the landlord has asked for a chance to find a more suitable tenant for the space.

Howard Kagay, owner of the shopping center at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., told trustees Monday that he has spent months looking for a new tenant for the space now occupied by Hatfield's Pub, 141 S. Milwaukee Ave. And he said that although he has enlisted the help of a real estate agent, there aren't any people looking to move right now.

"We have gone through a number of different showings of the property to no avail," Kagay said. "With times such as they are, we can only go after existing businesses. Nobody is opening up new businesses."

This is the second time Kagay has asked for an extension of the permit for Hatfield's. The three-store shopping center continues to fail to comply with village parking requirements. According to village officials, the shopping center is required to have 83

parking spaces in order for a restaurant/bar the size of Hatfield's to operate on the site. With another use, such as a retail store, the shopping center would be required to have 54 spaces. It was constructed in the late '70s with 33 spaces.

However, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a parking study on the property shows no existing parking problem. He said the village has not had any enforcement problems, such as liquor code violations, with Hatfield's Pub or its owners.

"Right now parking is not a problem," Anderson said. "And I am suggesting that as a practical matter we extend the special use through April 30, 1995 or until IDOT begins acquiring land."

The Illinois Department of Transportation is scheduled to realign Milwaukee Avenue through Wheeling with construction beginning in 1995. That will leave even fewer parking spaces in the shopping center.

"There are a lot of empty buildings out there," Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. said. "I see this as an opportunity to keep a business going that is not having an adverse affect at this period in time."

# A yearlong search for 911 caller

10-22-92  
Wheeling police, family appeal for help in dancer's murder

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For almost a year, Wheeling police have been looking for the mysterious male caller who phoned 911 and led them to the unconscious body of an exotic dancer. And during that time, not a day has gone by when the family of 27-year-old Jamie Santos has not mourned her loss.

On Wednesday, one week short of the year anniversary of Santos' death, police and family members joined forces, urging the caller to come forward and asking anyone else who may have information about the murder to contact the

Wheeling Police Department.

Dorothy Santos choked back tears as she talked about how difficult the past year has been for her family since her daughter was suffocated in her Arlington Club apartment on Oct. 28, 1991.

"Jamie gave so much to us in her short time here with us. We owe it to her to find her murderer," Dorothy Santos said with husband Vasil and daughter Laurie at her side.



Jamie Santos

"The sudden violent death of someone close to you is almost unbearable," she continued. "We would like to mourn for Jamie without the complications of trying to figure out who murdered her."

Much of the investigation has centered around a call made to 911 at 11:31 a.m. on the day of the murder. The male caller, whose voice sounded panicky, asked that an ambulance be sent to 1765 Stonehedge Court in Wheeling "immediately."

During the first several months of the investigation, that caller was considered a suspect. Now, Wheeling

See MURDER on Page 4



Dorothy Santos, center, makes a plea Wednesday for new information in the murder of her daughter Jamie as her husband, Vasil, and daughter, Laurie, look on. Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Baucher

# MURDER: POLICE COMMUNAL year-old crime can be solved

Continued from Page 1

police say that is no longer the case. "Since the death of Jamie Santos, officers of this and assisting police agencies have expended hundreds of hours investigating Jamie's death," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes. "This investigation leads us to believe the person who called 911 was not the person responsible for Jamie's death. However, the caller may have vital information leading us to the identity of the person responsible."

The call was made from a pay phone just outside a Buffalo Grove liquor store, less than a mile from Santos' home.

Although the tape of the call has been played for Santos' family and friends and also played on television and radio stations, the caller remains unidentified.

Hermes would not get into the specifics of the investigation, but he said the FBI was been working on the case and used voice analysis on the tape of the caller. He said results of the analysis combined with other information gleaned from the investigation led to the determination that the caller was not the killer.

"I can't go into who he is or how he might fit into this," Hermes said of the caller. "Except to say he is extremely familiar with the area. We thought in the beginning he might have been afraid he would be

charged with the murder. Obviously, he has some personal reason for not coming forward."

Police are hoping the plea from Dorothy Santos might be the nudge the caller needs.

"Right now all we want him to do is call us," Hermes said. As an exotic dancer, Santos sometimes made as much as \$1,000 for two nights of work. But her family said she often used that money to help her family and friends. A part-time Harper College student, Santos was considering a career in law or interior design before her death.

Hermes said that even though the murder occurred almost a year ago, police continue to remain confident it will be solved.

"At this point, it is really no different than it was two days after the murder because of the number of people we've talked to and still have to talk to," Hermes said.

He said more than 150 people have been formally interviewed in connection with the murder and that at least 15 people who have taken lie detector tests have passed.

"This is not the type of murder where you have a suspect or two right away," Hermes said. "We have to go through eliminating people as suspects until we find one who cannot be eliminated."

He said there are more than five people who have not been disqualified as suspects.

# Wheeling supports renewed effort to resolve discrimination lawsuit

10-21-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Saying they want to see the lawsuit through to a final conclusion, Wheeling officials have agreed to back their police chief as he seeks a rehearing of the recent appeals court decision upholding a ruling that found him guilty of racial discrimination.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit decision, issued earlier this month, upheld a U.S. District Court decision stemming from a lawsuit filed nine years ago by black patrol officer Robert Pressley claiming the police chief withheld raises, condoned racial harassment by other police officers and accused him of illicit sexual activity. Although the village was dropped from the lawsuit early in the Febru-

ary 1991 trial, trustees have agreed to pay Haeger's legal fees and the judgments awarded by the lower court — upwards of \$300,000 to date — so they had final say as to whether to petition the appeals court to rehear the case.

William Kurnick, Haeger's attorney, filed the petition for rehearing on Tuesday. He is asking the three-judge panel to rehear the appeal and if they will not, he is asking that 12-person court hear the appeal.

Kurnick continues to base his appeal on what he sees as an error in instructions to the lower court by U.S. District Court Judge Paul Plunkett. The appeals court agreed that the instructions were erroneous but said in their written decision that those instructions did not detract from Haeger's right to a fair trial. "It was the (appellate) court's

conclusion that the jury was improperly told Haeger should have known everything," Kurnick said. "With that instruction the jury could have presumed he knew of the hostile environment (Pressley was working in) and because he didn't do anything he was a racist."

Bruce Bornstein, Pressley's attorney, expressed dismay at the fact that the village continues to find ways to keep from paying Pressley the \$40,000 the lower court awarded him, saying that in his opinion the village does not want to pay Pressley because he is black. "This is too serious of a matter to let hang," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "He (Bornstein) continues to misunderstand but worse than that publicly misrepresent the intentions of the village."

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling trustees try on firefighters boots for size

10-27-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It is said that almost every child at one time or another wants to become a firefighter when he or she grows up.

Wheeling trustees who had that dream when they were children saw it indulged Monday night, and those who didn't were good sports, as the village board participated in an exercise meant to show them what their fire department does.

Trustees donned uniforms, air packs and masks before heading out to a vacant parcel of land just north of Dundee Road where they hauled hose, hooked up to a fire hydrant and maneuvered the water hose from 85 feet in the air. It was an interesting experience for the group, many of whom struggled into the gear and then had trouble moving around once they were in it.

There were 13 members of the fire department on hand to guide the trustees, village manager and assistant village manager through the workings of the department.

The exercise was the brainchild of Wheeling Fire Chief Keith Ma-

clsaac, who wanted trustees to get a first hand view of the working of the department he has headed for the last two years.

"This is meant to educate the board about what goes into the fire department and provide them with an education about where their tax dollars are going," MacIsaac said.

All the fire department personnel on hand for the evening were working their regular shift, but they also had special areas of expertise that MacIsaac wanted trustees to learn about.

For most of the trustees, the evening was more than educational — it was fun. "It was a magnificent, excellent experience," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "I never realized how hard they work."

After her hose-handling experience, trustee Lois Gaffke said the job was more straight-forward than she thought it would be.

"The equipment is very straight forward," she said. "And the bucket is sturdier than I thought it would be."

Gaffke and Village President Sheila H. Schultz were among the few brave enough to ride the bucket to its top height of 85 feet.

# Duplex plans have Wolf Road neighbors upset

By IRV LEAVITT  
STATE WRITER

*Countrywide*

Plan commissioners and residents who think 18 duplexes are too many to build on three acres at Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road will be disappointed, according to the architect for the proposed development.

Gary Cawn said fewer units would cost Berkshire Development too much money. The development's neighbors say too many would cut their own property values.

Mike Perrella has lived on 5th Street, just south of Mayer, for four years, and hates the thought seeing the backs of a couple of duplexes when he looks out his bedroom window.

He and his neighbors would prefer to see homes on the 3-acre lot just south of Picardy, the new single-family home development. They look wistfully to the land north of Picardy, approved Monday night for expansion of Picardy by the Wheeling Village Board.

Perrella dreads the prospect of an entrance to Candlewood lined up with 5th own 5th Street, making it a route to the new development. "There are 14 kids on our block," he says.

"I told him to keep the little shavers out of the street," said Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold.

"I can't believe it. Doesn't he have kids?" asked Perrella.

"I don't know," sighed Eisterhold. "All these big back yards, and it seems people around here think their kids have a God-given right to play in the street."

But the entrance seems set in stone, if not asphalt. Move it east, and it conflicts with the entrance to a day-care center. Move it west, and there's another street. Put the entrance off Wolf Road, and it would be too

close to Mayer Avenue.

Village Planner Mark Janeck suggested developers try to split up the land into lots for 11 homes. Eisterhold said the board and Cawn agree the land would have to be sliced into bizarre, inadequate pieces for single family homes to be built there.

He said he felt the board wanted 14 to 16 duplexes, which would probably halve the number of units backing up to Mayer.

But it never actually demanded fewer units two weeks ago, as it did last month, when Cawn and Bill Walsh of Berkshire Development tried a plan for 24 narrower townhomes.

Commissioners did ask that the builders assure them the land, if undeveloped, not revert to industrial zoning, where nearly anything could be built, including a latex-glove factory, a project Kuo has an interest in.

Cawn said he will apply for a planned development permit instead of rezoning to residential, which would keep apartments and latex gloves off Mayer Avenue.

"Industrial would be terrible," said Perrella. "We have a gang problem here. Nobody is there, at a warehouse, on the weekends, and that's where they're going to collect."

Perrella's fear of factories probably is unnecessary. But the backsides of some duplexes almost certainly will face Mayer. Otherwise, they would face the new L-shaped street to be built to serve the property, and that would look very strange, according to Cawn.

One of Perrella's biggest fears is that the duplexes would sell slowly, like the nearby Timberleaf townhomes at 10th and Strong. Capped pipes protrude from two concrete pads never built upon there.

And some of the Timber-  
(Continued on page 111)

leaf units that were built stand vacant and unsold.

Cawn said that won't happen at Candlewood Creek. He said his duplexes are pegged to sell for about \$155,000, \$30,000 more than Timberleaf's starter homes. "That's

a terrible market," he said. "They're trying to sell to people, in this economy, that aren't sure they're going to have jobs tomorrow."

"Our duplexes will have value similar to Picardy's. They'll have master bed-

# Caller was probably not Santos' killer

By IRV LEAVITT  
STATE WRITER

*Countrywide*

"That does not sound like someone who just committed a murder," said the Northwestern University voice expert Monday. He had just listened to the tape of the 911 call that brought paramedics to the Wheeling home of Jamie Santos, strangled a year ago Wednesday.

Wheeling police seemed to agree last week. They announced that evidence at the scene, to believe whoever called for help for the dying exotic dancer didn't murder her, though the ambulance crew arrived at her Arlington Club apartment when she was still clinging to life. The call had been made from in front of Worldwide Liquors, a short distance away in Buffalo Grove.

"He's certainly not afraid for himself at this point," said Dr. Tom Carrell, professor of speech and language pathology, an expert on voice analysis and identification.

He had just heard the caller say, "Yeah. Get someone to 1765 Stone Hedge Court in Wheeling. There's a young woman there who's not breathing. She's turning blue."

## Fearful pitch

Carrell said the human larynx tightens with fear, usually more than doubling the height of the voice's pitch.

"This fellow had 140-to-150 hertz, which is the

high end for a male, but not unusual. If he was afraid, you'd see 200, 300, 400 hertz. People go up to 600 if they're screaming afraid.

"Speaking non-scientifically, he sounded tense. He sounded like he had a message to convey, and was making sure it got conveyed."

It is possible the caller had murdered Santos, had a sociopathic personality, and didn't care enough to have any fear. But that's unlikely, because he would be less apt to take any risk to get help for Santos. And a surviving victim would identify her killer.

## Mother's plea

Wheeling police and FBI aren't saying what the FBI analysis uncovered. But the police told the victim's mother, Dorothy Santos, their feelings. Last Wednesday, she made a tearful plea for the answer to the question preoccupying her family's life this past year.

"My husband, my daughter and I are here today to appeal to anyone who has information about the death of my daughter Jamie," she said, flanked by Laurie and Vasil Santos. "Jamie has been portrayed on the basis of her occupation as a stripper. I want to speak to you as the mother who knew Jamie for 27 years as a loving daughter and sister, a human being who touched everyone close to her in a special way."

"Jamie gave so much to us in her short time here with us," she said, choking back sobs. "We owe it to her to find her murderer. The sudden

violent death of someone close to you is almost unbearable. We would like to mourn for Jamie without the complications of trying to find out who murdered her.

"Someone called 911 to try to help her. We don't believe the caller is the murderer...if you are the caller, or if you have any information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, please call the Wheeling police at (708) 459-2632."

## Media case

Wednesday was the latest attempt to solve the case through the media. Shortly after Santos died, police played the 911 tape for radio and TV reporters, who broadcast it. Detectives hoped someone would recognize the voice and call them. Many did, but they all were apparently wrong, according to police.

Police called television cameras to the village hall December 30 to relapse a Worldwide Liquors patron captured on a security camera, who walked into the liquor store at about the time the caller was phoning near the front door. The shopper was found the same day, but even under hypnosis, he didn't remember anything that pointed to the answer.

A year after the crime, and hundreds of hours of investigation, neighborhood canvasses and roadblocks, interviews of over 100 people, checking out anonymous tips and study of physical evidence, about a half-dozen people have not been eliminated as suspects, according to police.

# Wheeling fills in northeast side with single family housing

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the recent approval of another housing development along Wolf Road, Wheeling continues to subtly change the northeast section of the village — at one time zoned mostly industrial — to an area with a decidedly residential flavor.

The latest addition is Picardy Place II — a single-family detached housing development of 31 units — that will be built just north of Picar-

dy Place I. The two developments are on Wolf Road, north of Mayer Avenue and west of Milwaukee Avenue.

"This type of development is in keeping with our comprehensive plan," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "We are encouraging residential development, especially single-family detached homes."

The success of Picardy Place I — with 39 single family homes — for developer Joseph Freed and Associates of Wheeling has prompted con-

struction of phase two on a 13-acre site.

One area resident, who is opposed to the development, told the village board he did not think regulations for preserving the wetlands on the Picardy Place II site were being followed.

"I caution you trustees to move carefully on the wetlands," said Wheeling resident Steven Telow. "You allowed Picardy Place I to gobble up land and now you are allowing wetlands to be destroyed."

But Ira Frank, development director for Freed, and Michael Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development, said all the proper authorities had been contacted regarding the two acres of wetlands at the front of the property, which will be moved, and the three acres at the back of the property which will be untouched by the development.

"They have followed all the proper procedures to this point," Klitzke said.

Frank said the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, the government agency responsible for safeguarding wetlands, has been in on the development "every step of the way."

"The Corps of Engineers has been involved and everything we've done has been in accordance with the village," Frank said.

Telow is also opposed to the development because it would bring more children into the village, forcing Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 to "build more schools and raise taxes."

# Halloween in Wheeling to be twice as much fun

10-30-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents can get two Halloween parties for the price of one this year by heading down to the Wheeling Park District's spook trail tonight and then going out for trick-or-treating during village sanctioned hours Saturday. Village officials have set aside 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday as the official times for children to walk through their neighborhoods in costume getting the traditional treats. The police department will have extra officers in both marked and unmarked cars patrolling the village to ensure the safety of children out on the streets and also to keep the acts of vandalism that often accompany the holiday to a minimum.

The park district's spook trail will be open from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. today at Childerley Park. People attending the spook trail are asked to park in the Knarr parking lot, at the corner of Dundee and Elmhurst roads, and ride a free shuttle bus to the park. The haunted trail will include a witches cauldron, a graveyard site and a torture chamber. Refreshments will also be served to

those waiting to participate in the seven-minute adventure.

Admission to the spook trail will be free again this year for Wheeling Park District residents with photo identification. Non-residents will be charged \$5.

Village officials have asked parents who will be allowing their children to trick-or-treat Saturday to remember a few basic safety rules.

- Never allow your child to trick-or-treat alone.
- Instruct your child not to enter a stranger's house or car.
- Costumes should be of light-colored material and kept simple. Long, fancy costumes could cause your child to trip.
- Instead of masks, consider face paint and make-up to avoid obstructing a child's vision.
- Teach children safety tips for crossing streets.
- Know what route your child is taking.
- Encourage children to wait until they get home to deliver into their goodies.
- Police encourage parents to notify the department if any harmful items are found among the goodies and to call 911 if they spot any suspicious activity.

# Appeals court won't rehear Wheeling police chief case

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A U.S. Court of Appeals decided not to rehear Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger's appeal of a lower court's decision in 1990 that found him guilty of racial discrimination. Last month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit upheld a U.S. District Court jury decision stemming from a lawsuit filed nine years ago by black patrol officer Robert Pressley claiming the police chief withheld raises, condoned racial harassment by other police officers and accused him of illicit sexual activity.

William Kurrick, Haeger's attorney, filed a petition for rehearing two weeks ago and asked that the entire 12-person court hear the appeal. But that request was denied Monday, when the three-judge panel that heard the original appeal denied the request and none of the other nine judges called for a vote on the issue.

Village officials, who had not heard as of late Tuesday of the decision, said they could not comment until they received official word from Kurrick.

"We haven't received any official notification," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "And we won't comment until we have."

However, Pressley's attorney, Bruce Bornstein, was elated the case



Michael F. Haeger



Robert Pressley

seemed to finally be settled.

"Basically, they are finished," Bornstein said. "Now they have to acknowledge that what happened to Robert Pressley was wrong. I don't see how they can continue to support Chief Haeger when outsiders who have reviewed it said he is a racist."

Bornstein said the only avenue of recourse left for Haeger and the village of Wheeling is to find a constitutional basis for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, and even Kurrick has said it would be difficult to find such a basis.

Pressley was awarded \$40,000 in compensatory damages and his attorneys were awarded \$177,000 in fees by the lower court judge. But the appellate court ruled the attorney fee reimbursement was too low and said they must be reimbursed at \$182 per hour rather than the \$150 set by the district court judge.

# Pavillion welcomes new director

COUNTRYSIDE  
11-12-92

Congratulations and welcome to Ms. Nancy Jansen, hired to replace retiring Senior Citizen Coordinator, Barbara Hansen.

Nancy joined the Village of Wheeling staff on Sept. 21 and was selected among 130 applicants. She has a bachelor of science degree in gerontology with a minor in social work, graduating from Bowling Green State University.

Nancy is not new to this field; she has had six years of extensive experience in social service programs. In fact, she comes to this community from the Ela Area Senior Citizens Center in Lake Zurich, Ill. We welcome Nancy to the community and look forward to her work with the Wheeling Senior Pavilion.

# Wheeling trustees set tax levy which reflects 6.4 percent hike

11-3-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board set its 1992 tax levy at \$6.93 million Monday, up 19 percent from last year's \$5.89 million levy.

The village is required by law to levy in certain amounts in several funds, but once the levy is established it can be abated — bringing the actual levy after abatement to \$6.2 million — up 6.4 percent from last year's levy.

And Village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said he will look for ways to pare down the levy so the increase from last year's is closer to 5 percent.

"We are looking for alternatives to bring that down even further," Fialkowski said. He added that the 6.4 percent increase was "not a lot, but

dollar-wise it is a lot of money."

Trustees are expected to levy \$2.7 million in the village's general fund — up 14.3 percent from last year's \$2.44 million. Money in the general fund is used to pay day-to-day operating expenses for the police, fire, finance and community development departments, the administrative services of the village board and vehicle maintenance.

Fialkowski said expenses in the general fund are expected to be near \$10.65 million next year, up only 4.9 percent from last year.

The bigger news for Wheeling residents could lie in 1993, however.

Fialkowski asked trustees to consider passing a home-rule sales tax when they look at the budget next spring.

The state's deadline for passing a home-rule sales tax ordinance this

year has already expired, and any sales tax approved in 1993 would not be available until early 1994.

And as they look at instituting that tax, Fialkowski suggested they might do away with the vehicle sticker tax — now generating around \$380,000 per year for the village.

"The vehicle sticker tax is the most complaint-ridden," he said. "It is hard to keep track of who moves into the village and new residents don't know they are supposed to have a vehicle sticker until they get a ticket."

And he said a sales tax would take some of the tax burden off village residents because many of the people who shop and dine in the village live elsewhere.

A public hearing will be held on the levy on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

# Villages, parks plan land swap

11-6-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Officials from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and the Wheeling Park District want three separate pieces of land and are about to engage in an intricate swap that each group hopes will bring them what they want.

The Wheeling Park District wants a parcel that is less than an acre — near the Chevy Chase Golf Course — and within Buffalo Grove village limits.

The park district has faced an uphill battle in securing the property from Buffalo Grove.

Buffalo Grove wants another similarly sized piece of land in Wheeling, adjacent to Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at 85 S. Buffalo Grove Road in Buffalo Grove, so the restaurant can put in

some additional parking.

The village of Wheeling, meanwhile, wants some land at the front of the park district's property so it can erect a monument to the village's centennial in 1993.

And after some delicate negotiations by all three sides, it looks like they may all get what they want.

Buffalo Grove officials say they are willing to give up the land near the golf course if they can annex the parcel near Malnati's.

Wheeling officials say they are willing to give up that parcel if they can use some of the park district's property on Dundee Road for the monument.

The park district is building a new aquatic center and recreation building.

Park commissioners said they

want the land next to the golf course and, as of Thursday night, seem willing to enter into preliminary negotiations with the village of Wheeling to get it.

"It's no secret we've been trying to get this property," Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, told commissioners Thursday night. "We don't necessarily want to deed any of our property over to the village, but some agreement could be worked out."

Park district commissioners decided Thursday that at this stage they are willing to provide the village some land but want some say in what gets built on it.

"We will consider it," said park board President Tom Webber. "But we will have to set some ground rules we will use for guidelines."

# Wheeling train station may develop on smaller scale

11-70-92  
 BY BONNIE BOOTH  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees took their first look Monday at the preliminary engineering study for a commuter station along the Wisconsin Central railroad line.

And while the plans were for a full-blown station with a 1,700-foot-long platform and parking for more than 500 cars, trustees said it was likely the village would start out on a smaller scale and add to the facility

as the number of people taking the train from the village increases.

Wheeling is one of the first communities along the proposed railway — which stretches from Antioch to Des Plaines and goes through Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Mount Prospect in this area — to work toward plans for the station.

But Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said other communities are beginning to move forward.

Studies show that somewhere between 950 and 1,200 people are ex-

pected to board the train in Wheeling per day.

"Initially, we are looking at a large type of shelter," Anderson said. "Something that doesn't cost a large amount of money. If it successful and pans out as we think it will, after two to three years we could add the bricks and mortar of a station."

And he said the total amount of parking spaces would not be developed in the initial stages.

"We would not put in all the parking right away, either," Anderson

said. "We don't want to deter people from riding the train but we want to encourage people to walk, ride bikes or get dropped off in the kiss-n-ride area."

The station is expected to be located on the tracks, just south of the Burger King at Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway. Plans for parking call for spaces on both sides of the railroad tracks. Some land would have to be acquired by the village under the plans prepared by McClure Engineering Associates

Inc. of Rockford.

Construction of the full-blown site would cost about \$2 million — including the station, parking lots and some road improvements to make the station more accessible. There also would be an ongoing cost of renting the Commonwealth Edison easement for one of the parking areas.

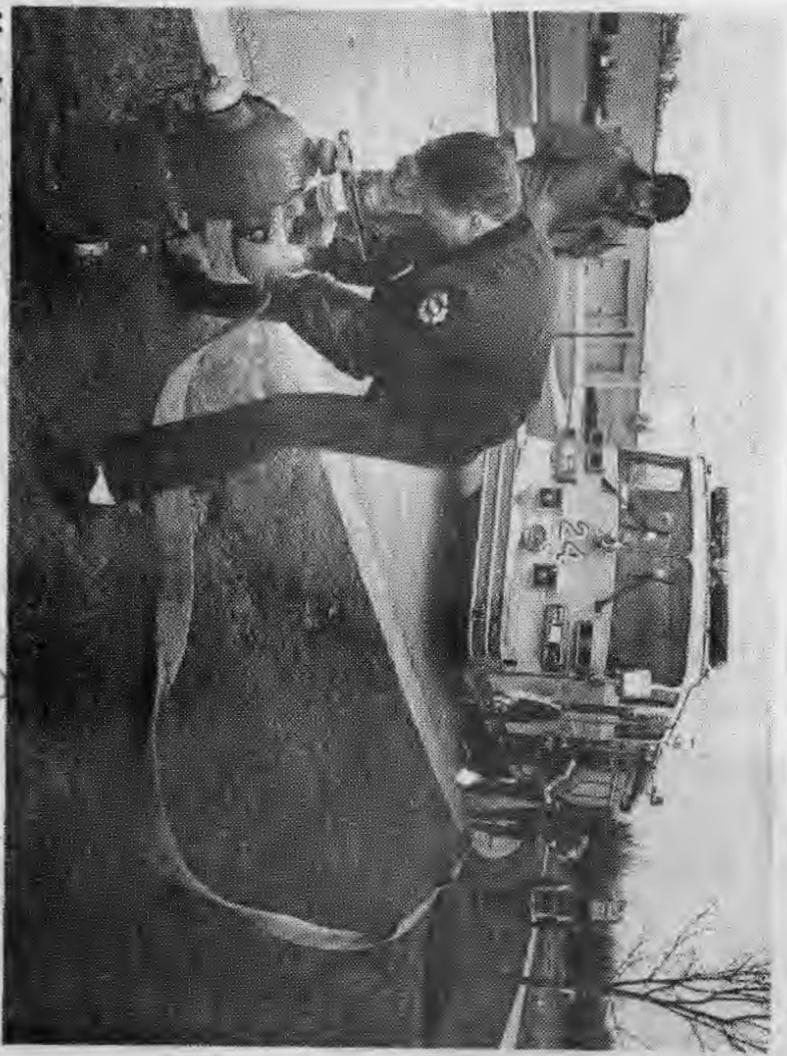
The details of the division of costs between municipalities and Metra have not been worked out yet, Wheeling officials said.



**GETTING A LIFT**  
 Wheeling firefighters examine their new, \$220,000 Triple Combination Pumper as another of their number takes a sky ride.

*Country Club*

Danelle Frou/Pioneer Press



**Hooking up hoses**

Firefighter Tom Conley hooks up a hose from the department's new Triple Combination Pumper. Now each station has one of

the completely enclosed, \$220,000 trucks, which allow firefighters to ride to a blaze inside.

Danelle Frou/Pioneer Press

*Country Club*

# Elections leave Wheeling with little clout

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside 11-12-92*  
Though the rains fell on election day last week, it shone brightly over Buffalo Grove.

The town may have seen the dawn of burgeoning political clout, as for the first time village residents were elected to posts in the state house as well as the Lake County Board.

And these are people strongly linked to village government. Verna Clayton, elected to the 51st House seat, retired last year after 12 years as Buffalo Grove Village President. David Stolman, elected to the Lake County 20th District seat, was campaign manager for his friend, current Village President Sid Mathias. Democrat Stolman was supported by several trustees, including acknowledged Republicans Brain Rubin and John Marienthal.

## Taking care

Buffalo Grove has always been able to take care of itself, anyway. The town has grown steadily over the years, and its population, set by the 1990 census at 36,427 has probably approached 40,000 in 1992. Those numbers give politicians pause in both Lake and Cook counties.

"Buffalo Grove's always felt it had the ear of the county board," said Village Manager William Balling. "But with David, he and Sid see very much eye-to-eye on things."

Mathias, who backed his pal energetically dur-

ing the campaign, effused at the thought of the two locals in position of power. "Now with Verna, it's always wonderful to see a former mayor in position of higher authority."

Down the road apiece, Wheeling once again has no resident in that position, and hasn't since the 70s.

## No clout

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz tried two years ago, when she ran unsuccessfully as a Democratic candidate for the Cook County Board. In another two years, candidates for the board will cease to run "at large," and run in districts. But those districts will be laid out by present board members, and none of them may want to see a district centered on Wheeling, where someone like Schultz could have a good chance of victory.

Schultz said Monday she has made no plans for another run. She expressed regret that once again, her town had no direct representation anywhere. But she said that Virginia MacDonald, who had a tiny portion of Wheeling in her district, had often gone to bat for the village. She expected the same from newly elected 60th District House member Lauren Beth Gash, a Democrat from Highland Park. Gash spent a lot of time campaigning in Wheeling, but she owed little of her huge margin to Wheeling voters.

She has much more of a debt to Lake County Buffalo Grove voters.

But one of Schultz' main interests is transportation, as is Mathias', and they both may get some of the action they crave from Clayton.

Schultz was just named co-chair of the Northwest Municipal Conference committee to bring the Wisconsin Central line through the northwest suburbs. She and Mathias have been in the forefront of the effort.

## Moving seat

Clayton said Monday she'll definitely seek a seat on the House transportation committee, and is obviously capable. She is a former chair of the Chicago Area Transportation Study, as well as the transportation committee of the National League of Cities, vice-chair of the surface transportation task force of the National Association of Regional Councils and also chaired the transportation committee of the NWMC.

She is behind the Wisconsin Central, and also supports the effort to make an environmentally responsible extension of Route 53, long a dream of Buffalo Grove, though not one of new State Senator Bill Peterson of Long Grove, formally a state rep and a Buffalo Grove trustee.

But despite differences with the present board, Peterson said Sunday he has the interests of Buffalo Grove at heart, and Balling said he's been a good friend to the village as a representative.

# Village may end sticker shock

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside 11-12-92*  
Wheeling trustees were given the option of charging their own sales tax, and of dropping the requirement for vehicle stickers, a traditional but costly manner of raising funds.

But if they do it, it won't be in time to offset dismal sales tax revenue that fell 12 percent last year, to \$2.57 million.

It will also not affect Finance Director Bob Fialkowski's prediction of a 1992 tax levy 6.4 percent higher than last year's, after abatements to the old rate and projected abatement of the new one. He told village trustees he'd try to trim the increase, but he wouldn't get it anywhere near what he could if they had passed the proposals he's now suggesting.

Overlaid over this year's figures, a quarter-cent sales tax would raise about \$700,000, or enough to actually reduce the levy 2.18 percent. If the stickers and their \$380,000 in revenue were immediately abolished, the levy would still only rise 1.43 percent, according to Fialkowski.

## No quick fix

But these things won't happen immediately. The last deadline for applying to the state for a home-rule tax passed last May, and the next one is in January.

Buffalo Grove is among the villages considering dumping vehicle stickers in favor of another tax that would not be so difficult to collect. But it would probably have to raise property taxes to make up for it.

(Continued on page 9)

That would be a net gain to taxpayers, but nothing like what Wheeling would enjoy.

Wheeling can instead make up the difference with the modest sales tax, which would not be applied to food, medicine or automobiles. Fialkowski figures much of the burden, light as it may be, would fall to out-of-towners, eating and drinking on

Milwaukee Avenue's Restaurant Row, or shopping at Wal-Mart and Sam's. The two stores are already promising to raise next year's sales taxes to pre-recession levels, according to the finance director.

Buffalo Grove has no such easy option. It already has a half-cent sales tax and a real estate transfer tax.

Other towns with home-rule sales taxes are Arlington Heights and Palatine.

"Glenview and Northbrook don't have a home-rule sales tax, but Glenview has a five percent utility tax and Northbrook has Northbrook Court. If we had either of those, I wouldn't be talking to you about this," laughed Fialkowski.

# Commissioners at impasse on Wheeling development

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

*9-13-92*  
The Wheeling Village Board will consider a developer's request to build duplexes at the northeastern edge of the village.

But they will do so without a clear recommendation from their plan commissioners, following a 2-2 tie vote by commissioners on the plan Thursday.

Tinley Park-based Berkshire Development wants to put 18 duplexes on a three-acre parcel of property it owns at the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road.

But more than 22 homeowners in neighboring single-family housing developments are opposed to the plan. While conceding that the proposed duplexes are attractive, they say the development will break up their neighborhood and decrease the resale value of their homes.

"The units are beautiful but the fact remains that we live there, you don't," Picardy Place resident Stuart Shapiro told commissioners. "The people whose houses border this don't want it. Let the people be heard."

Commissioners Paul Eisterhold and Ellen Butor supported the plan while Commissioners Terry Steilen and Otis Hedlund voted against it. Three plan commissioners were absent.

Steilen said he liked the look of the development but he said the plan called for more duplexes than acceptable on a three-acre site.

Gary Cawn, architect and planner for the developers, said density should not be an issue because each unit of two duplexes closely resembles the single-family houses in the neighboring Picardy Place development.

And he said it is not feasible, because of the site's shape and size, to develop it with single-family houses — as neighboring residents want.

Butor agreed.

"I feel what you have presented is the best use for this property," she told the developers. "Single-family homes would be nice but I don't think it's possible. You have gone to great lengths to satisfy the village and the people. Sometimes people think duplexes and townhomes are transient and bad, but I don't think that is true anymore."

# Wheeling train station may develop on smaller scale

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees took their first look Monday at the preliminary engineering study for a commuter station along the Wisconsin Central railroad line.

And while the plans were for a full-blown station with a 1,700-foot-long platform and parking for more than 500 cars, trustees said it was likely the village would start out on a smaller scale and add to the facility

as the number of people taking the train from the village increases.

Wheeling is one of the first communities along the proposed railway — which stretches from Antioch to Des Plaines and goes through Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Mount Prospect in this area — to work toward plans for the station.

But Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said other communities are beginning to move forward.

Studies show that somewhere between 950 and 1,200 people are ex-

pected to board the train in Wheeling per day.

"Initially, we are looking at a large type of shelter," Anderson said. "Something that doesn't cost a large amount of money. If it successful and pans out as we think it will, after two to three years we could add the bricks and mortar of a station."

And he said the total amount of parking spaces would not be developed in the initial stages.

"We would not put in all the parking right away, either," Anderson

said. "We don't want to deter people from riding the train but we want to encourage people to walk, ride bikes or get dropped off in the kiss-n-ride area."

The station is expected to be located on the tracks, just south of the Burger King at Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway. Plans for parking call for spaces on both sides of the railroad tracks. Some land would have to be acquired by the village under the plans prepared by McClure Engineering Associates

Inc. of Rockford.

Construction of the full-blown site would cost about \$2 million — including the station, parking lots and some road improvements to make the station more accessible. There also would be an ongoing cost of renting the Commonwealth Edison easement for one of the parking areas.

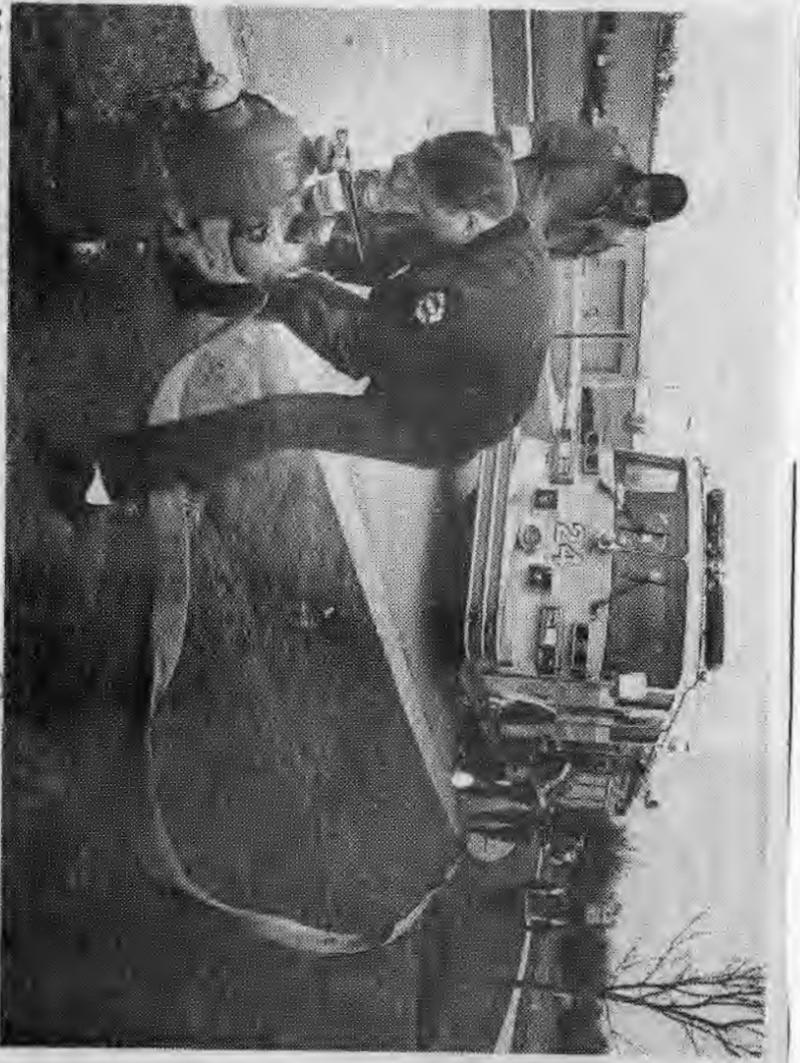
The details of the division of costs between municipalities and Metra have not been worked out yet, Wheeling officials said.



*Conley photo*

**GETTING A LIFT**  
Wheeling firefighters examine their new, \$220,000 Triple Combination Pumper as another takes a sky ride.

Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press



**Hooking up hoses**

Firefighter Tom Conley hooks up a hose from the department's new Triple Combination Pumper. Now each station has one of

*Conley photo*

the completely enclosed, \$220,000 trucks, which allow firefighters to ride to a blaze inside.

Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

# Elections leave Wheeling with little clout

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Though the rains fell on election day last week, it shone brightly over Buffalo Grove.

The town may have seen the dawn of burgeoning political clout, as for the first time village residents were elected to posts in the state house as well as the Lake County Board.

And these are people strongly linked to village government. Verna Clayton, elected to the 51st House seat, retired last year after 12 years as Buffalo Grove Village President. David Stolman, elected to the Lake County 20th District seat, was campaign manager for his friend, current Village President Sid Mathias. Democrat Stolman was supported by several trustees, including acknowledged Republicans Brain Rubin and John Marienthal.

## Taking care

Buffalo Grove has always been able to take care of itself, anyway. The town has grown steadily over the years, and its population, set by the 1990 census at 36,427 has probably approached 40,000 in 1992. Those numbers give politicians pause in both Lake and Cook counties.

"Buffalo Grove's always felt it had the ear of the county board," said Village Manager William Baling. "But with David, he and Sid see very much eye-to-eye on things."

Mathias, who backed his pal energetically dur-

ing the campaign, effused at the thought of the two locals in position of power. "Now with Verna, it's always wonderful to see a former mayor in position of higher authority."

Down the road apiece, Wheeling once again has no resident in that position, and hasn't since the 70s.

## No clout

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz tried two years ago, when she ran unsuccessfully as a Democratic candidate for the Cook County Board. In another two years, candidates for the board will cease to run "at large," and run in districts. But those districts will be laid out by present board members, and none of them may want to see a district centered on Wheeling, where someone like Schultz could have a good chance of victory.

Schultz said Monday she has made no plans for another run. She expressed regret that once again, her town had no direct representation anywhere. But she said that Virginia MacDonald, who had a tiny portion of Wheeling in her district, had often gone to bat for the village. She expected the same from newly elected 60th District House member Lauren Beth Gash, a Democrat from Highland Park. Gash spent a lot of time campaigning in Wheeling, but she owed little of her huge margin to Wheeling voters.

She has much more of a debt to Lake County Buffalo Grove voters.

But one of Schultz' main interests is transportation, as is Mathias', and they both may get some of the action they crave from Clayton.

Schultz was just named co-chair of the Northwest Municipal Conference committee to bring the Wisconsin Central line through the northwest suburbs. She and Mathias have been in the forefront of the effort.

## Moving seat

Clayton said Monday she'll definitely seek a seat on the House transportation committee, and is obviously capable. She is a former chair of the Chicago Area Transportation Study, as well as the transportation committee of the National League of Cities, vice-chair of the surface transportation task force of the National Association of Regional Councils and also chaired the transportation committee of the NWMC.

She is behind the Wisconsin Central, and also supports the effort to make an environmentally responsible extension of Route 53, long a dream of Buffalo Grove, though not one of new State Senator Bill Peterson of Long Grove, formally a state rep and a Buffalo Grove trustee.

But despite differences with the present board, Peterson said Sunday he has the interests of Buffalo Grove at heart, and Baling said he's been a good friend to the village as a representative.

# Commissioners at impasse on Wheeling development

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board will consider a developer's request to build duplexes at the northeastern edge of the village.

But they will do so without a clear recommendation from their plan commissioners, following a 2-2 tie vote by commissioners on the plan Thursday.

Tinley Park-based Berkshire Development wants to put 18 duplexes on a three-acre parcel of property it owns at the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road.

But more than 22 homeowners in neighboring single-family housing developments are opposed to the plan. While conceding that the proposed duplexes are attractive, they say the development will break up their neighborhood and decrease the resale value of their homes.

"The units are beautiful but the fact remains that we live there, you don't," Picardy Place resident Stuart Shapiro told commissioners. "The people whose houses border this don't want it. Let the people be heard."

Commissioners Paul Elsterhold and Ellen Butor supported the plan while Commissioners Terry Steilen and Otis Hedlund voted against it. Three plan commissioners were absent.

Steilen said he liked the look of the development but he said the plan called for more duplexes than acceptable on a three-acre site.

Gary Cawn, architect and planner for the developers, said density should not be an issue because each unit of two duplexes closely resembles the single-family houses in the neighboring Picardy Place development.

And he said it is not feasible, because of the site's shape and size, to develop it with single-family houses — as neighboring residents want.

Butor agreed.

"I feel what you have presented is the best use for this property," she told the developers. "Single-family homes would be nice but I don't think it's possible. You have gone to great lengths to satisfy the village and the people. Sometimes people think duplexes and townhomes are transient and bad, but I don't think that is true anymore."

# Village may end sticker shock

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees were given the option of charging their own sales tax, and of dropping the requirement for vehicle stickers, a traditional but costly manner of raising funds.

But if they do it, it won't be in time to offset dismal sales tax revenue that fell 12 percent last year, to \$2.57 million.

It will also not affect Finance Director Bob Fialkowski's prediction of a 1992 tax levy 6.4 percent higher than last year's, after abatements to the old rate and projected abatement of the new one. He told village trustees he'd try to trim the increase, but he wouldn't get it anywhere near what he could if they had passed the proposals he's now suggesting.

Overlaid over this year's figures, a quarter-cent sales tax would raise about \$700,000, or enough to actually reduce the levy 2.18 percent. If the stickers and their \$380,000 in revenue were immediately abolished, the levy would still only rise 1.43 percent, according to Fialkowski.

## No quick fix

But these things won't happen immediately. The last deadline for applying to the state for a home-rule tax passed last May, and the next one is in January.

Buffalo Grove is among the villages considering dumping vehicle stickers in favor of another tax that would not be so difficult to collect. But it would probably have to raise property taxes to make up for it.

(Continued on page 9)

That would be a net gain to taxpayers, but nothing like what Wheeling would enjoy.

Wheeling can instead make up the difference with the modest sales tax, which would not be applied to food, medicine or automobiles. Fialkowski figures much of the burden, light as it may be, would fall to out-of-towners, eating and drinking on

Milwaukee Avenue's Restaurant Row, or shopping at Wal-Mart and Sam's. The two stores are already promising to raise next year's sales taxes to pre-recession levels, according to the finance director.

Buffalo Grove has no such easy option. It already has a half-cent sales tax and a real estate transfer tax.

Other towns with home-rule sales taxes are Arlington Heights and Palatine.

"Glenview and Northbrook don't have a home-rule sales tax, but Glenview has a five percent utility tax and Northbrook has Northbrook Court. If we had either of those, I wouldn't be talking to you about this," laughed Fialkowski.

# Trustees look at dispatch system

11-13-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees took a first-hand look at state-of-the-art public safety communications recently when they saw a demonstration of a computer-aided call dispatch system that should be up and running in the village within the next couple of years.

Representatives of Integrated Computer Concepts, Inc. of Arlington Heights, showed trustees, who were meeting as members of the Emergency Telephone Systems Board, how their computer-aided dispatch system directly dispatches

police and fire calls to squad cars and fire stations without the use of a radio, automatically sends information from individual squad cars to record-keeping and eliminates redundancy in the tasks a dispatcher goes through each time a call comes in.

And they said the system — which will cost about \$200,000 — will never be obsolete.

"This is a building block system," said Dan Monopoli, president of Integrated Computer Concepts (ICC). "It was designed from day one to be that way so it does not become obsolete — it can be built upon."

Patrick J. Kurz, director of marketing for the company, said 40 police stations nationwide are now using the system and 25 of them — including Deerfield, Schaumburg and Lake Forest — are in northern Illinois.

Wheeling patrol officers have computers in their squad cars now, giving them access to limited information. The ICC system would give them access to more information, store and print out reports on daily activities that are now recorded by hand, and enable them to send silent messages to dispatch and other patrol cars. The ICC software can be

installed on the computers already in the squads.

It's a different story for the fire department, however. There are no computers in the fire department vehicles now, so lap-top systems with graphic capabilities would be purchased for the trucks and ambulances. Fire department personnel would draw up floor plans that would be stored in the computer and called up when needed.

Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said police computers would not be immediately replaced with computers that could receive graphics.

## Wheeling finally surrenders in suit against police chief

11-11-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With only the U.S. Supreme Court left as an avenue for appeal, Wheeling village officials say they will give up their quest to have the guilty verdict in a racial discrimination lawsuit against the police chief overturned.

Chief Michael F. Haeger was found guilty of racial discrimination by a U.S. District Court jury in February 1991 but was hoping the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit would overturn that decision.

However, the appeals court not only upheld the lower court decision last month but last week refused to rehear the appeal — effectively putting an end to a 10-year court battle.

And village officials, although disappointed by the outcome of the case brought by black officer Bob Pressley, said that by exhausting the appeals process they are satisfied they have seen the lawsuit through to its necessary conclusion.

"Certainly we are disappointed," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "It was difficult to

keep pressing forward but we felt we needed to get the issue resolved. This latest decision has not changed my confidence — and the confidence of the board as a whole — in the chief as a professional."

Haeger also said he was disappointed with the verdict and he said he was grateful to the village board for supporting him throughout the case.

"I did not treat Bob Pressley any differently than any other member of the department," Haeger said. "Officer Pressley's race was not a factor in any of the decisions I made regarding him. The original opinion was that of seven people, not bound by fact, who reviewed many years of my administration is just two weeks."

Shortly after the original guilty verdict, trustees voted to pay Haeger's legal fees and the court judgment against him — a move that is now likely to cost the village at least \$250,000.

Pressley was awarded \$40,000 in compensatory damages and his attorneys are expected to receive at least \$212,000 for the more than 1,100 hours they have billed in the case.

## Vote puts brakes on plans for Palwaukee operator

11-17-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling man's plans to become the second fixed-based operator at Palwaukee Municipal Airport came to a halt Monday when the Wheeling village board voted against approving his lease agreement with the airport.

Dennis Jans, president of Service Aviation, has been working with airport staff and the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission for several months attempting to set up shop as a fixed-based operator out of the recently vacated Hangar One building.

Commissioners voted 5-2 in September to recommend approval of the lease to the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights — co-owners of the airport. Both communities had to approve the plan before it could move forward. While Wheeling soundly defeated it — 4-0 — Prospect Heights City Council members voted unanimously to table the plan indefinitely.

At the heart of the matter for Wheeling trustees was whether Jans had enough money and experience to run a successful

fixed-based operation at the airport. And in the final vote, that concern outweighed commissioners' desire to provide competition for Priester Aviation — the airport's only fixed-based operator.

A fixed-based operator is an aviation service company that provides fueling and maintenance service for both transient and Palwaukee customers.

When the airport commission decided last spring to move its office to 1020 Plant Road and return Hangar One to an aviation use, it requested proposals from 54 aviation service companies. Only Jans submitted a bid.

"The committee had a difficult time with this," said Trustee William Rogers, who is also an airport commissioner. "It was our genuine feeling that we should have two fixed-based operators at the airport. But if he doesn't have enough capital to continue, the first thing that isn't paid is the rent. There are no safeguards that if this were approved, the village, city and the airport would not be the losers."

Airport Manager Fred Stewart and Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson had reservations about Jans' proposal.

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

#### Special-use permit OK'd for Matty's place

11-18-92  
The village board approved a new special-use permit for Matty's Place that will allow the tavern to have live music or a disc jockey.

The new owners of the restaurant/tavern, at 1750 Hintz Road in the Tahoe Shopping Center, want to bring in live music on the weekends but have said food service will continue to be the most important part of their business.

And they said the music played by a band or disc jockey will not be any louder than what is already produced by the jukebox.

#### competitive bidding waived for meters

Trustees voted to waive the competitive bidding process for water meters and extend their contract with Badger Meter Inc. for another year.

Badger, of Milwaukee, Wis., is willing to extend the contract and continue to sell the village water meters at the prices quoted in the 1989-90 contract. Meter prices range between \$45 and \$60.

Although the village purchases the water meters, purchasers of new homes reimburse the village for that cost.

#### Hatfield's liquor license extended

The village board, acting as the Liquor Control Commission, extended the liquor license of Hatfield's Pub through April 30, 1993.

The license was set to expire on Dec. 15 at the same time the special-use permit for the tavern was also set to expire. But trustees recently agreed to let the bar stay in business until 1993 because the owner of the shopping center in which Hatfield's is located, 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., cannot find another tenant for the space.

Parking at the pub does not meet village requirements but there have been no problems at the site.

#### Police win award for pedestrian safety

Trustees learned that the police department received an award from Illinois Secretary of State George Ryan and the AAA Motor Club for its programs promoting pedestrian safety in 1991.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the award recognizes programs presented by Crime Prevention Barbara Kobishop in conjunction with area schools and the park district.

"We are very proud of the recognition," he said.

# Group workshop to address signs of gang activity

11-14-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Area residents will have an opportunity to learn some things about street gangs today during a gang awareness workshop sponsored by the Regional Action Planning Project (RAPP) and a Wheeling church.

Wheeling detective Mike Kirby and Philip Herman, a gang preven-

tion specialist from Omni Youth Services, will be on hand at the Our Savior Evangelical Free Church, 300 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling, from noon until 2 p.m. to conduct workshops and answer questions.

Topics to be covered include how gangs are structured and develop and what can be done about them by members of the community.

Kirby said this is the first workshop of this type to be held in the vil-

lage.

"Its purpose is to educate parents and other members of the community," Kirby said. "We will talk about the history and how gangs evolved in the suburbs, how parents can identify children who are at risk for gang involvement and how to recognize the signs — clothing and language — that indicate a child might already be involved."

Kirby said the seminar will end

with a discussion of how community members can help the police and other community agencies deal with the problem.

And he said that while he sees the growth of gangs stabilizing in the suburbs, that does not necessarily mean the problem is easier to combat.

"There was an initial group that migrated from the city," Kirby said. "Initially a lot of kids got involved

that didn't know what they were getting into. But now we are seeing a second generation getting involved and there is no blind involvement. They are doing it through constant choice."

Herman, who also works with RAPP, said this is one of the first of several workshops the group hopes to hold throughout the Northwest suburbs.

"There is a lot of misinformation,"

Herman said. "People are working out of fear. These workshops are designed to give more information and show people that there is something they can do in their own neighborhood."

RAPP is a multi-community alliance — organized last year — to work toward eliminating conditions in the area that foster gang involvement.

# Duplexes fail to win over plan commission

11-19-92

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Developers planning 18 duplexes on three acres of land in Wheeling's Candlewood subdivision knew Wheeling plan commissioners thought that was too many. But they returned to the commission last Thursday with a plan for 18 duplexes anyway, and promptly got turned down.

Actually, the vote was tied 2-2, with three commissioners absent. The panel sent along their non-recommendation to the village board, which will decide if the plan can go forward.

The two no-votes, Commissioners Terry Steilen and Otis Hedlund, doubt the trustees will be more receptive to the idea. "They tend to be sensitive to the wishes of residents," said Steilen, and Hedlund, a former trustee himself, nodded his agreement.

And there are plenty of residents who don't like the plan. They live south of the land, along Mayer Avenue and the numbered streets leading to Strong Avenue. They live north of it, in the new Picardy Place subdivision.

Residents in both areas want single-family homes between them, to stabilize a neighborhood oft threatened over the years by a hodgepodge of spot zoning.

Both Steilan and Hedlund said they would

have gone along with Berkshire Development's proposal as long as they cut down the number of duplexes. That would have allowed one fewer unit to back up to Mayer Avenue, which would make the view nicer for neighbors to the south.

**There are a lot of errors, and a lot of things to make up. But if (single family development) could have been done, Picardy would have done it.**

Commissioner Ellen Butor

And it would have afforded more space between the duplexes, though Berkshire architect Gary Cawn maintains the spaces between his units is similar to those between the single-family homes in Picardy.

When asked what he'll do to convince the village board, Cawn said, "Well, I'll sure bring them an elevation of the back," to demonstrate the attractiveness of all sides of the duplexes. But he said he still won't cut down the number of

duplexes.

Residents, however, are prepared for any eventuality. Led by Picardy homeowner Stuart Shapiro, they have submitted a petition for forced rezoning of the property to single family zoning. That petition will likely be heard by the board simultaneously with Berkshire's, or before.

Success of that option would preclude the use of the land for an industrial use, one that Berkshire has considered, but only neighborhood iconoclast Steve Telow supports.

"These gentlemen bought a lemon, and it's their fault," said Telow. Neither Cawn or Berkshire's Bill Walsh will say how much was spent for the land, but Picardy's developer looked at it first and turned it down.

"There are a lot of errors, and a lot of things to make up," said Commissioner Ellen Butor of the state of real estate in the Strong Street area. "But if (single family development) could have been done, Picardy would have done it."

But Village Planner Mark Janek refused to recommend the plan, and held out for single-family homes, to preserve the character of the neighborhood. The land is surrounded by single-family homes on three sides, with light industry and commercial across Wolf Road to the east.

# Trustees OK two land purchases

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently approved two land purchase agreements that bring them closer to completing two long-term capital improvement projects in the village.

Trustees agreed to pay \$80,000 for a 13.5-acre parcel of property on the northern edge of the village that is needed for the construction of a diversionary channel that will take water entering the village from the northwest and feed it into the Des Plaines river.

Village Manager Craig G. Ander-

son said the village needs to buy or acquire permission to use 23 parcels of land for the channel. The village is more than halfway there with 15 parcels taken care of.

The land most recently purchased by the village, between Northgate Parkway and Wolf Road, will not be used for the channel but will be used to replace wetlands that may be disturbed during its construction.

"This purchase is necessary to a great extent to provide area to use as wetlands," said Anderson. "We will be relocating some."

And he said construction of the \$3 million channel — which has been in

the works for several years and is being almost totally funded by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service — could begin next year.

"Our aim is to continue to try and get the parcels needed so when the funding comes through we are ready," Anderson said. "It's basically flood control. It will take water that now sheets across Wheeling and direct it to the Des Plaines river."

Trustees also agreed to pay \$155,000 for property at the corner of Foster and Old Willow roads where they hope to build a third water reservoir and pumping station. The total water storage capacity

of the village's system is now 9 million gallons. The new facility would add another 3 million gallons in storage to the system.

"The new facility is primarily aimed at providing an adequate amount of water for the south end of the village as it develops," said Anderson.

Construction of the third storage tank facility is still a couple of years down the road, but when it is completed an elevated storage tank, now located near Crescent Carboard at 100 Old Willow Road, will be taken down and the site sold to Crescent Carboard for \$53,000.

# Crime stats paint mixed picture

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

11-19-92  
COUNTRYSIDE

Illinois State Police crime statistics have been released again, drawing both ire and admiration as they often do.

"You know, murder is a good example," said Wheeling Deputy Chief Mike Hermes with disdain. "This year in Wheeling, it'll drop 100 percent."

There was one murder in Wheeling last year, and, as usual, none this year.

Last year's statistics have Wheeling's rate for major crimes — murder/voluntary manslaughter, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault/aggravated battery, burglary, theft, car theft and arson — rising 9.3 percent from 1990 levels, with 3,523 occurrences per 100,000 population. But that doesn't mean the streets have gone up for grabs.

According to statistics for the last five years, Wheeling crime in 1991 was actually 3.3 percent lower than in 1986.

Want to be confused? It's 15 percent higher than it was in 1989. Suburban crime is so relatively sparse, statistics can change a lot year-to-year, but the changes often mean little.

Buffalo Grove's statistics came in almost exactly the same as the year before, with 2,182 occurrences per 100,000, as opposed to 2,103 the year before — a 3.8 percent difference.

But compared to 1986, which was a light year for Buffalo Grove crime, statistically, crime in that village is up 21 percent. Five years ago, the official population had risen, which skewed the statistics even more.

"You have to look at statistics in the aggregate," said Buffalo Grove Crime Prevention Officer Roy Bethge. For instance, burglaries in Buffalo Grove have ranged between 105 and 62, resting at 96 this year. In Wheeling, it ranged between 172 and 115, with 142 this year.

(Continued on page 19) d from page 5

Wheeling aggravated assault and battery reports number typically between 17 and 40. There were 39 last year, 38 the year before.

Buffalo Grove reports few people mad enough at each other to commit these crimes. They typically number below 10, as they have the last two years.

There are usually no criminal sexual assaults reported in Buffalo Grove, or perhaps one or two, like last year. In Illinois, this relatively new crime statistic is basically comprised of the old crimes of rape and deviate sexual assault.

Numbers for criminal sexual assault in Wheeling remained around five over

the years. Last year, there were 10.

The biggest number is always theft, comprised of all reports of stealing in the communities, including car burglaries but not home burglaries. One of the burgeoning crimes of the suburbs, car break-ins accounted for 39 percent of the 660 Buffalo Grove thefts last year. There were 650 the year before. Theft numbers were in the high 500's in the late eighties, and rose to the next level in 1990.

Wheeling has seen thefts rise from 721 in 1986, drop precipitously to 663 in 1989 and blossom to 806 last year.

# Wheeling grounds plans for 2nd airport vendor

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

11-19-92  
COUNTRYSIDE  
"I just hate to see somebody's dream squashed," said Wheeling Trustee Lois Gaffke.

But squashed it was, as Dennis Jans' quest for a Palwaukee Airport fueling and maintenance facility to compete with entrenched Priester Aviation became a nightmare Monday night.

The Prospect Heights City Council tabled consideration of the contract many pilots have longed for, and

the Wheeling Village Board smoked it 4-0, with two trustees absent. Both towns own the airport, purchased from founder George Priester six years ago.

Jans, who recently moved from Kankakee to Wheeling, believes a memo sent by Airport Manager Fred Stewart to the administrators of both towns helped shoot the venture down. But he planned to take his case back to the airport commission Wednesday, the same panel that earlier voted 5-2 to recommend him to the

villages.

## Unfavorable memo

The memo reiterates Stewart's public opposition to the proposal of Jans' Service Aviation Co., calling it underfinanced and ill-prepared, and inflates the gas sales possibilities. "Service Aviation today exists solely in the mind of Mr. Jans," wrote Stewart in the memo, obtained by Pioneer Press.

Airport Commissioner Jim Nickel said he was (Continued on page 12)

"very disappointed" in hearing about the Wheeling vote, as well as the Stewart memo Tuesday morning. Though the airport's ancient Hangar One, recently vacated by the commission and Stewart's staff, might be rented for airplane storage at a higher rate than the \$34,000 Jans' contract would pay, the 8 cents per gallon fee the airport sucks from the pump would likely more than make up for it, according to Nickel.

He agreed with Stewart that Jans' original proposal of \$150,000 in available capital was too low, but the pilot has since raised the ante to \$200,000, than \$250,000, though much of that money is family promises of support, hard to assess beyond the bounds of the 11-member Jans clan.

Nickel said Jans was caught in a Catch-22. Trustees distrust his offer, partly because it was the only one of 54 queries. They want him to be well-financed, but are only offering a five-year lease, since after that, they plan to demolish the hangar, and offer new, prime space to a second FBO.

"What do they expect him to invest? Do they expect him to invest \$1 million in something that isn't going to be there in five years?"

Nickel and two other commissioners were defeated in a vote recently to reduce the insurance costs to Service Aviation. Service had to come up with \$50 million worth of liability, an amount carried by Priester and perhaps no other fixed base operator. The requirement must be reduced for one FBO to reduce it for another at the same airfield, according to FAA rules.

"We can't find anybody in the whole U.S. that exceeds \$25 (million), said Nickel. "He has a \$20,000 (premium) cost penalty from the start."

"I think he needs to restate the insurance case to the commission," said Nickel, promoting the idea that if Jans reduces his costs, his proposal will look more solid. "He made a fatal (business) mistake when he told us, when we asked him if he would go forward with the \$50 million. 'Yes, but.' Nobody hears anything after 'Yes.' He went down a long corridor you can't come back from."

That corridor looked like the tunnel under the English Channel Monday night as Village Manager Craig Anderson, Stewart and George Priester's son, company president Charles Priester, all spoke.

# Town house proposal goes to trustees with planners' OK

11-21-92  
"It's a tremendous eyesore," Commissioner Ellen Butor said of the vacant land.

al Townhomes — set farther back on that corner — from view.

Elmhurst and McHenry roads. And while the town houses are not as upscale as other developments in the village, plan commissioners voted 3-1 to send its recommendation to the village board.

One of Wheeling's more unsightly vacant corners could look a bit different next year, if the Wheeling village board goes along with the plan commission's approval of a town house development for the site.

Dan Davis, of Lake Forest-based Deca Development Co., wants to build six town houses in three buildings on a nearly one-acre parcel near the southwest corner of

"This way the grass will be cut and there will be brand new brick buildings there."

That development has recently come under scrutiny from village officials because several of the buildings are falling into disrepair and there are no homeowners' association standards governing the property.

Elmhurst said he would rather see the property remain vacant. However, other commissioners wanted development of the corner to move forward.

The odd shape of the land and the fact that an access road to the Colonial Townhomes splits the property in half has presented problems for developers and plan commissioners alike as they considered the best use for the site.

Plan commission Chairman Paul

Last year commissioners rejected the plans of a Palos Hills-based developer who wanted to build two 3,000-square-foot commercial buildings on the site.

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# Street relocation plan may be updated

11-23-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The construction schedule for the relocation of Hintz and Wolf roads could be accelerated if the project's engineers and all the agencies that must review and coordinate the relocation can agree on a new schedule.

Moving an intersection is not an easy task, and Palwaukee Municipal Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Cook County Highway Department and representatives from the airport's engineering firm — Rockford-based Crawford, Murphy

and Tilly — and airport staff have been meeting regularly to review the construction schedule and coordinate the efforts of everyone who will be involved in the project.

"There are a number of review agencies," Stewart said. "This (accelerating the construction schedule) would require an extraordinary effort by Crawford, Murphy and Tilly and cooperation from all the agencies who have to review the plan."

The intersection of the two roads must be moved west to create a Federal Aviation Administration-required clear zone at the end of the airport's longest runway.

And Paul Kramer, IDOT's project engineer for the relocation, said any acceleration of the schedule will happen only if the expected funding comes through ahead of the original schedule.

Construction of two bridges over the Wheeling drainage ditch is expected to cost \$1.9 million and relocation of the two roads is expected to cost \$6.3 million. The bridge work is expected to begin next summer and Kramer said if enough funding is available IDOT hopes to begin relocating one of the roads in fall 1993 rather than summer 1994 as originally planned.



Daily Herald Map

# Wal-Mart gets tentative OK for sewer hook-up

11-24-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees gave a tentative nod Monday to extending the village's gravity sewer system to the Wal-Mart Department Store on Lake-Cook Road.

The move is designed to eliminate a pumping station constructed for the discount department store and maintained by the village.

Robert Gray, director of operations and maintenance, said the pumping station was built to serve Wal-Mart because it would have

been too expensive for the retailer to construct a gravity sewer line from the end of the village's system — now at the southeast corner of the Cedar Run housing development, just east of the Wal-Mart.

But he said pumping stations — and there are eight in the village — are expensive to operate and can be costly to maintain.

"We can eliminate future costs by abandoning the Wal-Mart lift station," Gray said.

He said he could not estimate how much it costs to run that particular station annually but he did say it is

checked by someone from operations and maintenance on a daily basis.

The project is expected to cost around \$300,000 and will most likely be included in next year's village budget.

And with the eventual widening of Old McHenry Road by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Gray said the work should be done as soon as possible.

He said the project would become more costly if it is postponed and the road is widened.

"I am concerned that we get the

deep section out of the way," he said. "If they widen the pavement in that area there is little chance of us putting in the sewer without acquiring land."

"It makes a lot of sense to go to the Wal-Mart lift station," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "I don't know of any developments coming in the future so I am reluctant to recommend spending any more money now on the project."

Extending gravity sewer service to the entire area could cost up to \$750,000, according to village estimates.

# Supporters try to revive second vendor bid

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

11-26-92

Acrimonious speeches were hurled around the board room of the Palwaukee Airport Commission last Wednesday, as commissioners and pilots tried to sort out the future of Denis Jans proposal to open an FBO on the airport.

It was an odd battle, since the board had voted last month 5-2 to recommend to airport owners — the municipalities of Wheeling and Prospect Heights — that Jans be welcomed. That's what the pilots wanted.

But Airport Manager Fred Stewart was firm in his distrust of Jans' proposal, and had written memos to the towns disapproving of the deal, mainly because he didn't see adequate financing. He wrote, among other barbs, that the entrepreneur's "Service Aviation exists solely in the mind of Mr. Jans."

Nov. 16, Prospect Heights tabled the measure. Wheeling voted it down.

## Feeling better

Airport commissioners agreed to look at new financial proofs from Jans Dec. 2, and decide if they want to send him back to the village board for another try. They're likely to do so, especially considering William Rogers, who voted against

Jans on each board, felt a lot better about his financial picture after the dust had cleared.

"Why didn't he show us that before?" he said of several proofs of financial stability Jans passed out at last Wednesday's meeting. The Wheeling trustee said he felt much better about Jans bid after seeing them.

Rogers, normally even-tempered, had blown a fuse moments before, after listening to a procession of pilots complaining that Stewart had overstepped his bounds by sending an extremely negative memo to the managers of each village, though the commission had voted positively.

"I've served in the Village of Wheeling 15 years and I've never seen a worse proposal put before us for consideration."

"A perfect example of what's going on is this," he said, brandishing a copy of Jans' proofs of solvency. "I don't have \$150,000, I have \$375,000. Why didn't you bring this to us before?"

## Family affair

"I don't know what you're doing. None of this is guaranteed. I don't believe anything you say. We'd all love a second FBO, but don't saddle us with somebody who isn't going to make it."

But the echo of Rogers' reminder of the several holes in Jans proposals hadn't died before pilot Joe Grimm said, "I'd like to remind you

that Ross Perot started in business with \$2,000 — from his father."

Much of the money Jans plans to use comes from his father and other family members. Relative support was evident last week as at least four members of the Jans tribe were present, including his father and mother. They were using flashlights to direct traffic into Industrial Drive, so pilots could find their way into the new Palwaukee offices on Plant Road.

The old office is the airport's Hangar 1, which Jans wants to rent.

## Competition

So do several non-FBO renters, and Stewart said Monday it's the responsibility of the airport management to make sure rent payments aren't lost because of a failing FBO.

But the lack of a competing FBO was blamed for the halving of the number of planes based at the field, which also costs the airfield money.

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And Prospect Heights Alderman Paul Richards said he was "appalled" by the memo, adding, "In (Continued on page 22)

# Wheeling firefighters, village near arbitration deadline again

11-27-92

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials and representatives of the firefighters Association could find themselves facing a federal arbitrator in January if the two sides cannot reach an agreement on a wage increase for firefighters.

The two sides have been negotiating since May under a wage-reopener provision in the contract ratified by both groups in 1990.

And while informal discussions are still going on, formal meetings between the two sides have broken off.

However, representatives of both sides remain optimistic that a settlement can be reached before arbitration — now scheduled for the first week in January.

"We haven't met on a regular basis lately," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "But we are a little bit apart on where we should be. I would characterize the discussion as having been amicable thus far."

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Bob Leipzig, president of the Firefighters Association, agreed that both sides were basically dealing from the same sets of figures.

"The differences we have are about position," he said. "Not facts and figures."

And he said he hoped the issue could be settled before arbitration.

"I am optimistic we can settle prior to arbitration," he said. "I keep hoping we can avoid it; no one will gain."

Final offers from both sides must be made about one week before the scheduled arbitration, which could cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500 daily.

"Both sides will need to re-evaluate their positions to see if it's worth going to arbitration," Leipzig said.

If a settlement is reached, it will be the second time the two sides narrowly avoided arbitration.

After four years of negotiating on the contract — set to expire in 1993 — an agreement was reached just two days before arbitration hearings were scheduled to begin.

Neither side would say how they expected this impasse to affect firefighters' morale or negotiations for a new contract that will take place next spring.

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Helmer agreed. "Where does this presumption of failure come from?" he asked the silent Stewart, who explained his actions to commissioners in closed session.

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Pilot after pilot, hungry for a new maintenance and fuel provider, complained about the possibility of losing Jans, the only bidder for a deal commissioners admit is not very attractive.

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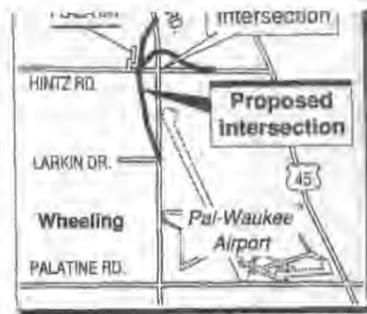
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"We haven't met on a regular basis lately," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "But we are a little bit apart on where we should be. I would characterize the discussion as having been amicable thus far."

Anderson would not say how far apart the two sides are nor would he say where the differences are except to say that both sides agreed on figures gathered from other municipalities and the differences were "philosophical."

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Bob Leipzig, president of the Firefighters Association, agreed that both sides were basically dealing from the same sets of figures.

"The differences we have are about position," he said. "Not facts and figures."

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"You've dropped from 650 airplanes to 342. You've chased away Quaker Oats, the Indianapolis Colts ..."

"Do you know what's happening at your airport? It's going down. Soon it'll be down to zero.

"Then you can talk among yourselves," he told commissioners.

# Wheeling may double street repair funding

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees, looking to keep the village's streets in good shape, will probably spend up to \$800,000 annually over the next several years on street repairs.

A study recently completed by Arlington Heights-based Infrastructure Management Services has indicated that most of the village's streets are in pretty good shape, said Craig G. Anderson, village manager.

The consultants tested and checked all of the village's streets for cracks, ruts and other defects, then ranked them by pavement condition.

Anderson said overall the village received a ranking of 83 out of 100 on a standard scale.

Village officials have been budgeting between \$400,000 and \$500,000 annually for street repairs, but Anderson said that amount would not be enough to sustain the rating.

"We are in overall good shape generally speaking," he said. "And we are aiming to maintain that same level of quality. In order to do that,

In some instances, some streets will need to be totally reconstructed."

And while Anderson said a couple of subdivisions and some miscellaneous streets are scheduled for work in 1993, Director of Operations and Maintenance Robert Gray declined to name specific streets.

"The streets that could be done are tentative and basically contingent upon funding," he said. "I am reluctant to name those streets and then not have them included next year."

Gray said streets in many of the village's planned unit developments are not constructed as well as the streets in residential areas and will need repairs more often.

"Harmony Village is an ongoing problem," he said. "The streets were constructed for a private association but we took them over. They are not going to support garbage trucks, school buses and the type of traffic that goes through there now."

Anderson said the \$6.9 million tentative 1992 levy adopted by trustees in early November includes the \$800,000 for 1993 repairs.

# Airport panel to consider fixed-based operator

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners will again take up the proposal of a local businessman who wants to become the second fixed-based operator at the airport, when they meet in special session tonight.

Dennis Jans, owner of Service Aviation, will present some new facts to commissioners as well as pull together in writing all of the information brought out during discussions he has had with the group over the past several months.

Commissioners decided last spring to vacate Hangar One, which was housing the airport's administrative offices, so that it could be returned to an aviation-related use. At that time they sent out 54 letters to aviation service companies, asking them to submit a proposal for use of Hangar One. Jans was the only one to respond.

And his quest to become a second fixed-based operator at the airport, providing fuel and aircraft maintenance to transient and Palwaukee-based customers, has been a difficult one — with commissioners, airport staff and Wheeling village

board members expressing doubts about the viability of his plan.

After several meetings in which they carefully scrutinized Jans' proposal, commissioners voted 5-2 in September to recommend approval to the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights. As co-owners of the airport, both communities must approve the plan before it can go forward. Wheeling trustees voted 4-0 against renting Hangar One to Jans and Prospect Heights aldermen tabled the proposal.

But Jans and a majority of the commissioners apparently want to ask the two communities to look over

the proposal one more time.

"We felt we should have updated numbers," said Commission Chairman Robert Strauss. "From our verbal discussions, the numbers have changed some from five, six months ago when the original proposal was written."

And Strauss said the commission's desire to see competition for Priester Aviation, currently the only fixed-based operator on the airport, is the impetus for taking another look at Service Aviation's proposal.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the airport's administrative offices at 1020 Plant Road in Wheeling.

# Board approves \$6.1 million levy

By LARRY BUZECKY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling's board of trustees has approved a \$6.1 million 1992 property tax levy that is 4.7 percent larger than the village's \$5.83 million 1991 levy.

The 1992 levy will be used by the county to calculate how much the village can collect in property taxes in 1993. The levy had to be passed by the end of December.

The village's actual levy ordinance will ask for about \$6.9 million in property taxes next year.

However the community plans to

abate about \$800,000 from Wheeling's 1985 and 1986 general obligation bond issues, said Director of Finance Robert Fialkowski.

"It will provide sufficient revenue to maintain services," Fialkowski said about the levy. "It is certainly nothing out of the ordinary."

The new levy will boost the village's road and bridge fund. In 1991 board members levied \$454,000 for the road and bridge fund. This year the village is asking for \$550,000, representing a 21 percent increase.

The village hopes to earmark the money for a multi-year road maintenance program.

The village's police pension fund also increases under the new levy by 19.5 percent. The community hopes to collect \$163,000 in property tax revenue for the pension fund with this year's levy, up from \$136,000 last year.

"This is a recommended level that will keep us ahead of the game," Fialkowski remarked.

The village asked for \$2.64 million for its general fund. This is an 8.2 percent increase over the \$2.44 million raised last year.

Money in the general fund is used for a variety of purposes, including

daily police and fire expenses, finance and community development, and administrative expenses incurred by the village board.

Trustees first proposed the new levy in November at \$6.93 million. After the abatement it was set at \$6.2 million, up about 6.4 percent from last year's levy. Since that time, village officials were able to trim the new levy so that the increase over last year was under 5 percent.

Officials also are considering implementing a sales tax in the village to take of the revenue burden off property taxpayers.

# Palwaukee panel again supports developer's plan

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It was the same song with only a slightly different melody when Palwaukee Airport commissioners met Wednesday to take a look at the revised proposal of a local businessman who wants to open a second fixed-base operation on the airport.

Commissioners once again voted to recommend to the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights — "co-owners of the airport" — that they approve Dennis Jans' proposal to become the airport's second fixed-base operator, providing fuel and aircraft maintenance to airport-based and transient customers. Priester Aviation is the only fixed-base operator at the airport.

But what will happen at meetings of the two communities later this month remains unclear as commissioners already recommended once in September that they approve the proposal.

Wheeling trustees defeated the proposal in a 4-0 vote and Prospect Heights city council members tabled it indefinitely. At least one commissioner was

hoping the commission would take a stronger stand than its previous 5-2 recommendation.

Wednesday's vote was 6-1. Nick Helmer asked fellow commissioners to recommend Jans' proposal unanimously and to give him three months free rent at hangar one because the process has taken so long.

Hangar one recently was vacated as the airport's administrative headquarters so the building could be returned to an aviation use. Jans has been trying to get his proposal passed by commissioners and trustees for several months.

But other commissioners balked at the two conditions of the recommendation and they were later dropped so that the group once again gave only its nod to the proposal.

However, commissioners were impressed with the revised proposal that Jans submitted Wednesday saying it was more complete than his first proposal.

"In my opinion, Jans has provided a most modest pro forma," said Commissioner Henry Levin. "Let us not stand in the way. We have nothing to lose and so much to gain."

# Bank robbed

A man witnesses said a brown Oldsmobile. The mask walked into the car were not registered to the First Colonial Bank car used in the getaway. Police Tuesday were investigating the possible link to a car theft that occurred in the area at about the same time. Store owners in a nearby strip mall told the man, described as a 6-foot tall, weighing 170 pounds, fled the bank at about 9:55 a.m. with \$20,000. Police were searching for the getaway car described as robbery.

# Neither crimes nor cameras rattle this experienced police official

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In his 25 years as a member of the Wheeling police department, Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes has held many titles.

But it is in a role fondly referred to by his co-workers as "press czar," that he may truly have found his niche. Hermes, who celebrated his 25th anniversary with the department in September, has been fielding press inquiries since first becoming deputy chief in 1983. But he has earned the press czar moniker in the year since a 28-year-old exotic dancer was murdered in her Wheeling apartment.

Since last October, Hermes has stared into the lenses of five or six television cameras with nary a fidget. He has patiently waited as journalists ask the same question, phrased slightly differently, over and over in hopes of getting him to give a more revealing answer regarding the murder of Jamie Santos. And he continues to answer the most important question of all, "Has the trail gone cold," with an optimistic "No."

And although Hermes has been on television more this past year than in any other in his career, it isn't really a new role for the man who even

before taking on the job as deputy chief and its corresponding press relations duties, had more than his 15 minutes of fame in the past 25 years.

While he has handled many questions from the press over the years, he said the dumbest one he was ever asked came at him before he became deputy chief. It had to do with an airplane crash near the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"It was when a small plane and a big plane crashed near the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads," Hermes said. "A Channel 9 reporter asked me what the police department was doing to prevent mid-air collisions."

The village of Wheeling and its police force have changed a great deal since Hermes, 50, took his first official drive in a patrol car in 1967. That first day was not uneventful.

On what should have been his first routine traffic stop, the person Hermes stopped had a suspended license.

"He was just a kid and he rolled up the windows and locked the doors," Hermes said. "There were two or three officers on a shift then and the other two were busy so dispatch called an off-duty officer who was driving an oil truck. He came over, we broke the window and the kid was arrested."

On his second night on the job, he was working with a sergeant when the two were called to a domestic fight.

"The woman came running down the hall, followed by her husband who had a knife," Hermes said. "He jumped the sergeant but we were able to get him off. After that I wanted to be a cop even more than before."

Hermes had been thinking about a career in law enforcement for several years, but he took a few detours on his way to the uniform and squad car.

"Sometime in high school I decided I wanted to be a police officer," said Hermes, who was raised in Skokie. "It could have been because I had a good relationship with a lot of police officers in Skokie due to the fact that my dad worked in the public works department."

"I pondered the Cook County Sheriff's police but it was too big and I thought about Chicago but my wife told me she'd be gone the day after I started," Hermes said. "So I saw an ad in the Herald for Wheeling and stopped in to pick up an application."

He said five people took the exam and two passed and were hired as the village expanded the police department from 15 to 17 members.



Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes has been a member of the police department for 25 years.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin.

Before becoming deputy chief, Hermes served as a patrolman, watch supervisor, investigations supervisor and field services supervisor, with some stints back out on the street. And to this day, he still misses the street.

"I miss being involved in all the activity," Hermes said. "I miss the case by case investigations and rotating shifts. But I like the public contact in this assignment. And the thing I enjoy most is being able to have input and see some of those ide-

as happen." Hermes' years in the department have not been totally smooth, however.

See POLICE on Page 2

# Apartment plan more appealing to neighbors

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

The possibility of suburban strip mall sprawl oozing across Elmhurst Road to nestle up against the Colonial Apartments has receded.

A developer plans to build three two-flat apartment buildings on the acre of land across the street from the Creek Side Shopping Center. Two would go on the south side of the access road leading into Colonial, and one on the north side.

That's less crowded than the eight units per acre the present zoning allows, according to Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck. And a lot less busy than the strip mall/office center landowner Bill Groebe had proposed earlier, and had seen shot down by the plan commission.

## Peaked roofs

This time, the plans are for DECA Development of Lake Forest to build peaked-roof apartment buildings of 1,250 square feet per unit, next to the more dense apartment buildings on Colonial Drive. Janeck expects the buildings to sell for upwards of \$160,000, and would be "a spur to improve properties nearby."

He expects the plan to have little trouble getting through the village zoning board of appeals early this month, where DECA will ask to disallow the parking of recreational vehicles on the property. Janeck feels commissioners would heartily agree, since boats and campers might not look beautiful parked on residential property, even near one of the busiest corners in Wheeling.

There would be no garages on the property,

however. Cars would enter the property along the Colonial Apartments access road, which Groebe owns, and park outside, next to the buildings.

## Hidden parking

Janeck said the parking areas would be partially hidden by landscaping, including copious trees planted along Elmhurst Road.

DECA's Dan Davis might retain one of the buildings, but he hasn't promised to, according to Janeck.

He said the project will probably reach the village board in January, and if approved, would be ready for groundbreaking in the spring.

# POLICE: Official celebrates 25th year on village force

Continued from Page 1

In 1979, he was one of 11 officers to sue the village charging that it prearranged department promotions and then fixed police test scores. The police officers lost the suit in November 1982. Hermes said it was difficult for all involved in the suit to work together during that time.

"It was extremely difficult to work for a while," Hermes said. "There were two factions. But over time, some of the key players on both sides left and we started working harmoniously again."

And while that period in his career may have been one of the lowest, one of the high points was in November 1990 when the police department won national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.

Hermes was instrumental in the three-year process leading up to the accreditation, making sure that

more than 829 standards for accreditation in areas of policies and procedures, administration and operations and support services, were met.

"At times it seemed rather slow," Hermes said. "But we got a lot of help and input from departments that had already been accredited."

The department must go through a re-accreditation process every five years. Keeping the department on top of any new accreditation requirements, as well as working within the old ones, is a job that continues to fall under Hermes' purview.

He said a lot has changed since his early days on the force.

"When I was on the street if you got a burglary call you went to the scene and did it all," Hermes said. "You took the report, you did the evidence technician's work and you did the follow-up. Now we are more specialized. We have evidence technicians, traffic specialists and investigators."

## Wheeling board votes down duplexes at Mayer, Wolf

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board took to heart Monday the opinions of residents who don't want to see duplexes built in their neighborhood, unanimously voting against rezoning a parcel to allow the development to be built.

Tinley Park-based Berkshire Development wanted to put 18 duplexes on a 3-acre parcel it owns at the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road, but more than 80 residents of the single-family housing developments that virtually surround the property opposed the plan.

Gary Cawn, agent for Berkshire, asked trustees to delay a decision on the plan Monday because the property owner and his lawyer could not attend the meeting, but trustees decided to go ahead and vote on the proposal. Cawn did not make a presentation on the proposal, and although he reserved the right to speak after residents had voiced their concerns, he did not do so.

And residents, who last month paraded before plan commissioners with a litany of concerns, were also quieter Monday eve-

ning, letting two area homeowners speak for the entire group.

"We are asking for a denial of the proposed duplex town house development at Wolf and Mayer," said Stuart Shapiro, a resident of the Picardy Place development to the north of the corner. "We want you to consider taking steps to change the zoning to single family. We don't want this in our back yard, nor do we want industrial, either."

The property is zoned industrial, but on Wheeling's comprehensive plan for the village it is designated residential. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson recommended against approval and the plan commission deadlocked in a 2-2 tie over the proposal, sending it to the village board with no recommendation.

"The surrounding land uses have taken on a single-family residential character," Anderson said. "And the comprehensive plan does indicate this land is appropriate for single-family also. And while the argument has been made this could be a buffer between residential and industrial — and, certainly, Wolf Road is industrial to the east — Wolf Road itself provides a buffer."

## Developer gets approval for second subdivision

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A local developer can move forward on construction of the second phase of his Wheeling subdivision after village trustees on Monday gave final approval to his plans.

Picardy Place II — a single-family detached housing development of 31 units — will be built just north of Picardy Place I. The two developments are on Wolf Road, just north of Mayer Avenue and west of Milwaukee Avenue.

The success of Picardy Place I — with 39 single-family homes — for developer Joseph Freed and Associates of Wheeling has prompted construction of the second phase on a 13-acre site.

Wheeling resident Steven Telow appeared before trustees, as he has done on several other occasions, to ask them to guard the wetlands on the site.

"The Johnson Lake area is the only wetland left in the Wheeling area," Telow said. "The wildlife there cannot speak for themselves. If you allow Picardy II to be developed and allow them (Freed) to get their feet in the door, you haven't seen the end of

greedy developers."

Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has looked over Freed's plans for moving the wetlands to another place on the site and has issued a permit for the work — in effect, giving approval to the plan.

Telow said he has made several attempts to see an actual copy of that permit but so far has been unsuccessful. However, Klitzke invited him to visit the community development offices during regular working hours to get a copy of the permit, which he said is now on file.

And Village President Sheila H. Schultz said preservation of wetlands is of great importance to the village.

"The village has gone to a great deal of effort to conserve wetlands," she said. "This is a rather complex project. I believe the wetlands this project will impact were considered dying wetlands because they are next to Wolf Road. The new area will be more sheltered and combined. We are looking forward to the benefits. This will give us more wetlands than we previously had in the village."

## Maple Ave. project rejected

By Bill Dotson

Refusing a request to postpone the matter, Wheeling Village Board members voted unanimously Monday to reject the proposed town-house development at the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road.

Gary Cawn of the Cawn Group PC, architect for the project, had asked the trustees to delay consideration to allow more time to prepare a new presentation.

Cawn said he was informed shortly before the meeting that because of an emergency, property owner James Quo was leaving for China the next day.

Cawn apologized for the surprise delay request. "I'm at a significant disadvantage," he said. "We have no legal counsel present, and we are not prepared to make a presentation tonight."

Two resident petitions, together totaling 115 signatures, asked that the proposal be denied.

Stuart Shapiro, a resident of the neighboring Picardi development, said, "We feel the development is too dense."

Shapiro expressed concern about the increased traffic the development would bring to the area, noting that his daughter attends preschool in the neighborhood, "and I can tell you now that intersection is a mess in the morning and evening."

Cawn disputed that claim, saying the development would only bring another 14 cars into an area that already has hundreds pass through it. "If 14 more cars is a problem, then they (the existing residents) shouldn't be there at all."

Cawn, who said he was extremely disappointed with the refusal to postpone, speculated briefly on three possibilities his client could seek, one being reconsideration in court.

Another possibility would be to pursue single-family development, which the neighbors prefer, although

Cawn said the project has never been considered from that angle.

Another option would be to develop the site for industrial use under its present zoning.

"But what he (Quo) will do, I just don't know," Cawn said. "I know he's going to be very disappointed, and he's not going to want to leave for China."

He added that the new presentation would have eased many of the neighbors' fears by detailing how the development would fit into and compare with the surrounding area.

"What we were proposing was designed to blend in with Picardi," he said. "We were spending more per unit on landscaping than had ever been proposed before."

He said he was frustrated

## Vendor may get second chance

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

The governing boards of Wheeling and Prospect Heights will get another chance at approving a new fuel and maintenance vendor at Palwaukee Airport.

There has never been a competitor for Priester Aviation in the history of the airport.

This time, it might have a better chance of passage in Wheeling.

It might all depend on Bob Fialkowski, the village finance director. He's going to look at applicant Dennis Jans' documentation of his financial backing, and see if it measures up to Wheeling standards. His report will be available to Prospect Heights, as well.

That city, which shares ownership of the airfield with Wheeling, tabled the earlier 5-2 commission recommendation of Jans when airport manager Fred Stewart sent a derogatory cover letter along. Wheeling voted it down 4-0.

Wheeling Trustee William Rogers decided to give Fialkowski the papers. The dean of the Wheeling contingent to the commission, Rogers has been on the Palwaukee panel since the airfield was purchased six years ago.

Both municipal boards are expected to reassess their positions later this

month. Among the Wheeling trustees are those who admit knowing little about airport matters. Two of the trustees, however, Anthony Altieri and Elizabeth Hartman, sit on the airport commission with Rogers.

Rogers was the only airport commissioner of seven who didn't vote to recommend Jans again last Wednesday. He said he withheld his vote pending Fialkowski's report.

Commissioner Nick Helmer, feeling that unfair delays had cost Jans too much, had asked the commission to award the Wheeling man three months free rent to get him started. Helmer's motion was defeated, however.

"If you're in village government, you cannot offer to open up the village coffers," said Rogers of the rent forgiveness, a common private business practice. "I couldn't do that in good conscience."

Rogers had blasted Jans a few weeks ago for alleged shoddy paperwork and unproven financial backing, but was pleased when Jans began bringing proof of funding.

Commissioner Jim Nickel, continually amazed that airport Manager Fred Stewart continues to back \$50 million in liability insurance for both the new fixed base operator and Priester,

(Continued on page 21)

Continued from page 5

won a promise from Stewart to study insurance rates around the country. None of the commissioners, Stewart, or anyone else involved has yet found an airport of similar size that demands anywhere near \$50 million. He also feels that Stewart should have undergone the study much earlier, without prompting.

Nickel maintains the high standard causes hardship to any new operator, but wants to make sure the commission demands enough insurance.

Rogers is far from sure, at this point. "If he repairs a plane, and it takes off and hits an apartment building, and there are \$40 million or \$50 million in lawsuits, what's going to happen if we've allowed less insurance?"

Continued from page 5

by the strong preconceived notions about the development. "(Quo) has tried to be a good neighbor. We've listened to the residents' concerns and tried to address them in our new presentation. What the village did here tonight just isn't fair. Nobody wins in a situation like this."

Shapiro, however, called it a victory but cautioned other residents that the project could be brought up for reconsideration.



H. Rick Bamman/Pioneer Press

Wheeling police officers cordon off the entrance to the First Colonial Bank Northwest last week after a masked bandit escaped with cash. Apparently, the robbery was carefully planned, FBI sources said.

# Robbery carefully planned

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The robbery of Wheeling's First Colonial Bank Northwest last Wednesday was apparently carefully planned, said FBI sources, but why it was planned the way it was has them wondering.

The robber and an accomplice apparently left the scene in separate cars, driving across Pleasant Run Park, escaping detection and apparently raising no suspicions of residents on streets along the 4-acre plot.

Investigators aren't sure why they would have wanted to do something so attention-getting as to leave the road. But apparently it worked, since random canvasses of the park's neighbors turned up no witnesses.

That doesn't surprise agents, since there were probably few people at home during the mid-morning robbery.

FBI officials have a theory on why

the robbers apparently used two cars. During an earlier robbery in Brookfield, also attributed to the same pair, a citizen followed the stolen car used in the robbery but lost sight of the car when another vehicle got in his way. Only later did it become apparent the second driver was in on the scheme.

In all, the two unknown bandits are believed responsible for 27 robberies in Illinois and Wisconsin since 1985, 11 this year. The original robber, nicknamed the "masked bandit" is believed to have committed the first 23 jobs alone.

That robber, about 6 feet tall, was usually seen wearing a Halloween-type mask that looked like an old man; some witnesses suggested Ronald Reagan. The accomplice, four inches shorter, was said to be wearing a different mask last Wednesday, perhaps one of Michael Dukakis.

They were not the same duo which robbed the First Colonial branch at 800

S. Wheeling Road two years ago. Jeffrey Erickson, the Hanover Park ex-police officer recently killed in a courthouse gunfight, was considered responsible for that robbery.

Early police estimates of the loss in last week's robbery placed it between \$20,000 and \$25,000. But as in all such cases, local police turned the investigation over to the FBI immediately, and the FBI, as a matter of course, refuses to disclose how much is taken in bank robberies.

The bureau's Bob Long said the robber held up several tellers with a semi-automatic pistol.

The copper-colored Oldsmobile Delta 88 used in the robbery was found on Pleasant Run Drive in Wheeling by Buffalo Grove police. The FBI said the taller robber may have been spotted by a witness in another car in the bank parking lot at the time of the robbery, about 9:55 a.m.

# Officials to eye fixed-based operation

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights City Council members and Wheeling trustees will take another look at a proposal for a second fixed-based operation at Palwaukee Municipal Airport for which a local entrepreneur has been seeking approval the past several months.

Both communities, co-owners of the airport, must approve the plan of Dennis Jans, owner of Service Aviation, before he can open the second fixed-based facility in Hangar One at the airport, on Milwaukee Avenue,

just north of Palatine Road.

It has been rough going for Jans — who moved to Wheeling last summer in an effort to get his business off the ground. Although supported by several members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilot's Association, the plan was met with caution by Palwaukee Airport Commissioners who voted 5-2, after several months of discussion, to ask the two communities to approve the plan in early September. The plan also met with resistance on the part of Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart, who does not feel Jans has the money necessary to run a successful fixed-based operation at an

airport the size of Palwaukee.

Priester Aviation is the only fixed-base operator now on the airport, providing fuel and aircraft maintenance to airport-based and transient customers.

Both communities are scheduled to vote on Jans' proposal on Jan. 4.

It will be the second vote for Wheeling trustees, who defeated the original proposal in a 4-0 vote in November. Prospect Heights City Council members have never voted on the issue, deciding instead to table it when it came before them in November.

However, Jans submitted a

revised proposal that both communities have now agreed to take a look at.

In a recent workshop meeting several Prospect Heights city council members expressed support for Jans and his proposal.

"I'm all in favor of a second FBO," said 1st Ward Alderman Edwin J. Shipanik. "I think competition is the best thing in the world."

And Wheeling trustees, after hearing that Prospect Heights was ready to discuss the revised plan were ready to take it off the table, where they had placed it Dec. 7.

# Wheeling OKs town house development to beautify corner

12-29-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently gave their stamp of approval to a town house development that could dress up one of the village's most unsightly corners.

Although two trustees voted against the plan of a Lake Forest-based developer to build six town houses on a nearly one-acre parcel near the southwest corner of Elmhurst and McHenry Roads, the rest of the board was in favor of it.

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman, who seemed dismayed by the fact that

the plan did not include garages, voted against the plan as did Trustee Judy Abruscato.

And while the town houses, which will be constructed in three buildings, are not as upscale as some other developments now being constructed in the community, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said there was a need for this type of housing in the village.

"I'm glad to see pictures of what the buildings will look like," Schultz said. "I think the buildings are very attractive and they do fill a need. This is a very difficult area to develop."

The odd shape of the parcel and the fact that an access road to the nearby Colonial Townhome development splits the property in half has troubled developers and the village's plan commission as they considered a best use for the site. Several years ago trustees approved a town house plan from another developer but the town houses never were built.

And the Colonial Townhome development recently has come under scrutiny from village officials because several of the buildings are falling into disrepair and there are no homeowners association standards governing the property.

Developer Dan Davis said each of the three buildings would be sold to a buyer who would be required to live in one of the two units in the building and rent out the other one. He said he is targeting first- and second-time home buyers for the 1,250-square-foot units.

And he said he has added landscaping to his proposal to create a green belt between the development and the two roadways.

Last year the plan commission rejected the plans of a Palos Hills-based developer who wanted to build two \$3,000 square-foot commercial buildings on the site.

# Schultz to seek fourth term as village president

12-29-92  
By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz announced Monday that she will seek a fourth term in the April election.

She will be joined on the Wheeling Progress Party slate by three candidates for trustee positions and one candidate for village clerk.

However, trustees William Rogers and Joseph Ratajczak decided not to run for re-election.

"It will be difficult for me to see Joe and Bill leave," Schultz said. "I have worked with them for a long, long time. But the new slate really looks good."

Schultz will be joined on the April ballot by two new trustee candidates: Zoning Board of Appeals Commissioner Wayne Wisinski and Wheeling Park District Commissioner Robert Todd. Incumbent Trustee Elizabeth Hartman will be seeking her third term.

Village Clerk Pat Drewes, who

was appointed to fill the position when Lois Gaffke was elected trustee in 1991, has decided against running for a first full four-year term. The Wheeling Progress Party has slated Jeanne Selander, a 37-year-old teacher of religious education who has been active in Girl Scouts and the parent/teacher organizations at Mark Twain and Walt Whitman elementary schools, to run for village clerk.

Both Ratajczak and Drewes cited work and family conflicts in their de-

isions not to seek another term on the village board.

But Rogers said he felt he had served long enough as trustee.

"My tenure has been longer than I originally envisioned," Rogers said. "And my decision not to run is based on my conception that my initial purpose has been largely fulfilled."

But he said he still will be active in the village.

"I do not intend to be silent," he said. "Periodically my voice will be heard on some issues."



Sheila H. Schultz

been workshopped" before the votes, said Rogers of the relative homogeneity of the voting patterns of the village board he has served on for 14 years.

Rogers and Joseph Ratajczak announced they won't seek fourth terms. Ratajczak's business demands have made it difficult for him to make Monday meetings, according to Schultz. Ratajczak was unavailable for comment.

Rogers, 66, said he had accomplished many of the goals he had set out to when he was appointed to fill out two years of a term of a trustee indicted in a

kickback scheme.

He lost two successive elections, then won a board seat twelve years ago when Schultz, then a two-year trustee, won the village presidency.

He said he originally was interested in helping solve village flooding problems. Today, Wheeling has award-winning flood control.

He said he also saw the board's mission as one of reform, and professionalizing the village staff, which then bowed, along with many of the trustees, to the town's unofficial mayor, Jimmy Stavros, also later indicted in an influence

peddling scandal.

Rogers will continue as a Palwaukee Airport commissioner, a post he has held since Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought the airport. Lately, he has held Dennis Jans' feet to the fire as the 34-year-old entrepreneur seeks to open a second airport service facility with what Rogers views as questionable financing.

Also retiring is Village Clerk Pat Drewes, who took the job less than two years ago, but reportedly can't handle both her government post and a full-time job. The slating crew, led by Schultz and including Trustees Rog-

ers, Ratajczak, Elizabeth Hartmann, Anthony Altieri and Lois Gaffke, nominated governmental newcomer Jeanne Selander to take her place.

Robert G. Todd, a park board member, and Wayne Wisinski, a member of the village zoning board of appeals, got the nod for the trustee slots.

"Four years ago, the entire slate got in unopposed," said Rogers. "It's a feather in your cap, in government, when no one even runs against you."

"The strength that Wheeling has had is that we've had uniformity over

the last 12 years. We (trustees) think alike and talk alike ... and we have the village at heart."

Monday night Todd, on the park board two years, sounded much like present trustees when asked what he saw as his mission in village government.

He said he was looking forward to working on bringing the Wisconsin Central commuter train and the diversionary channel to Wheeling, to getting the Dundee Road/Milwaukee Avenue tax increment finance off the ground, and rejuvenating Milwaukee Avenue businesses.

# Wheeling slates reformers

County side 12-31-92  
By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The crew of reformers that seized the Wheeling reins of government after the Village Hall scandals of the 70's moved to solidify its power base Sunday night, slating new candidates for trustee posts to replace two of the oldest of their number, who

announced their retirement.

Their leader, Village President Sheila Schultz, announced she would run for her fourth 4-year term. Trustee Judy Abruscato Tuesday said "no comment" when asked about rumors she would challenge Schultz for village leadership. It was two years ago when she led a challenge of Schultz' trustee slate, but hers was

the only successful opposition candidacy.

It is a strange opposition, according to trustee William Rogers, since Abruscato typically votes with the rest of the Schultz-led board.

"We don't have real heavy issues in the village," explained Abruscato. "Most of the issues have already

(Continued on page 13)

# Fate of hotel lies in hands of state study

County side 12-31-92  
By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The Union Hotel is the pivot upon which the future of the Milwaukee Avenue widening project rests, according to state transportation officials.

Tuesday, they were awaiting an overdue report from the Wisconsin consultant hired to tell them if the building has enough historical value to give it local or national landmark status.

His report will help IDOT planners in turn decide whether to widen more on the west or east side of Route 21.

If they pare more land on the west side of the street, it would cost the front section of the old hotel, and a few other properties would suffer as well. But if they scrape away land on the east side, that would, according to Wheeling officials, strangle entrances and parking lots of many newer businesses there. The widening project currently is planned from just south of Lake-Cook Road to just south of Willow.

Northbrook restaurateur Duke Hillinger said he doesn't care much; one way or the other, he wants to buy the building from Realtor Lee Minnick.

"I just want the building to exist," said Hillinger, 33, energetic member of the family that owns Northbrook's popular Cypress bar and grill, founded by his father Phil. "Let me operate it a year and a half as it stands now. If they have to take off the front of the building, I can move (the building) afterward, or put on a new front."

He said he wants to move quickly before the liquor license on the hotel's shuttered Billy and Co. restaurant/bar expires next month. But he also says Wheeling village staffers have serious

reservations about the strength of the six-decade-old structure, and wonder if the plans Duke has for the old hotel are too much for it.

And he has big plans for the night spot he wants to call the "Union Club." They include a sound stage for his cable TV sports telecasts, seen on SportsChannel last year, plus live band music, and dinner-and-a-show deals he hopes will energize Milwaukee Avenue.

Jugglers, comedians, mimes and singers would entertain diners and drinkers. He also envisions virtual reality games and a second bar on the long-used upper level.

"This place has got high ceilings and history," enthused Hillinger. He cited the famous fish fries in the hotel, and the memories of the town's first telephone and polling place in the original building, which burned in 1925.

But it appears unlikely the consultant will tell IDOT he agrees the building is worth saving. Ken Hemstreet, environmental studies section chief, said preliminary indications found the building an unlikely landmark, and thus probably unprotected from state bulldozers.

The building was so significantly changed as Billy and Co. was opened that it doesn't bear much similarity to its historic past, according to Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

"They sold beer in the ladies' room," said Hillinger, referring to the legendary Prohibition ploy of moving the bar there to fool Justice Department agents. "This place has history, and the community needs that. If you lose the history, all you'll have is the restaurant, and Milwaukee (Avenue) will go down."

# Wheeling's Top 10 stories of 1992

*Countryside*  
12-31-92

## School districts realign boundaries

**1** School District 214 decided to shift the Eugene Field School area from Wheeling High School to Buffalo Grove last August, to pump up the latter's numbers and keep down the former's.

It's not a solution that will last forever, but it'll keep down the crowds at Wheeling for a few years, while the board mulls the political nightmare of massive reconfigurations of the high-school district's boundaries.

Elementary School District 21 officials were less than thrilled because they had earlier shifted the Cambridge and Tahoe subdivisions from Wheeling's Holmes Junior High to Buffalo Grove's Cooper. Now students in those areas will first travel to Cooper, then to Wheeling High School, and the Field students will go to Holmes, then BGHS, unless they can win exemptions.

## Live at home, don't work there

**2** The odor of rotting grass and the sight of landscape trucks parked in plain view brought complaints to village hall, and those complaints flowered into an anti-home occupation ordinance last summer.

Those with mainly white-collar businesses, evidence of which can't be seen from outside, were left alone. Contractors, landscapers and shade-tree mechanics were told to take their businesses, or at least their trucks, elsewhere.

## Priester Aviation still rules airport

**3** Three months after Wheeling entrepreneur Dennis Jans thought he would bring the first gas-and-maintenance sales competition for Priester Aviation to Palwaukee Airport, neither Wheeling nor Prospect Heights has approved him, though their airport commission has done so twice.

Both towns have put off the decision since Airport Manager Fred Stewart told staffers he thought Jans was underfinanced and ill-prepared. Both municipal boards will probably tell us in January whether he's coming or going.

## Wrecking ball visits Wheeling

**4** It was not a great year for old or historic Wheeling buildings. Whitman School fell to the wrecking ball to make way for a new Whitman last summer. Once known as Wheeling School, for years it had been the only public school in town. It was erected in 1925.

Also lost was Carl Weidner's old house on McHenry Road. The Weidner family settled on the land in 1835. The home of the Depression-era bootlegger was destroyed to make way for townhouses.

The decrepit old retreat home on the site of the historic Childerley Farms was torn down by the Wheeling Park District in November. Only the restored St. Francis Chapel and the St. Joan's House remain of the old Childerley buildings.



Staff Photo

Priester Aviation still held on to a monopoly of Dennis Jans to establish a second vendor service at Palwaukee Airport, despite a bid by service at the airport.



Workers spread sand over a contaminated area behind Camco in Wheeling after a gasoline leak there.

Park officials have said that the St. Joan's House, now used as a day care center, may go next.

Another historic building that could fall in the near future is the Union Hotel on Milwaukee Avenue, now officially up for sale.

## Torrent of gas spills in Wheeling

**5** Three days before a scheduled Wheeling trustees' discussion about a new ordinance to force hazardous waste spillers to pay for their damage, what they dreaded actually occurred. Luckily, it wasn't costly to the village's taxpayers.

About a quarter-million gallons of gasoline leaked on Wheeling's south side June 5. An earth-boring

machine being used to prepare for a North Shore Gas Co. natural gas pipeline tore into a pipeline used to carry gasoline for a consortium of fuel providers. Quick work by area fire companies, led by Wheeling, kept the fumes down, and no fire started and no evacuations were ordered.

The village wound up spending only about \$10,000 on the spill, but the various parties sharing responsibility for the accident immediately began facing off on who pays for the environmental cleanup.

## School District shakes up bosses

**6** Last spring, eight of 11 District 21 principals switched jobs when administrators

(Continued on page 12)



Staff Photo

The year was not a good one for historic buildings. Whitman School, once called Wheeling School, fell to the wrecking ball, as did a number of other very old buildings.

and board members yearned for change. They also wanted to put people in jobs they felt they would retain longer.

Prominent among those moved by the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove elementary district was Ovi Postler, moved from the top job at Holmes Junior High to the principalship of Tarkington, the system's biggest grammar school. Deborah Rose rose from the assistant's job at Cooper Junior High to the top job at Twain, but most of the moves were lateral ones, such as shifting Ed Searing from Tarkington to Riley School, and sending Riley Principal Larry Cline to Poe.

### Police still seek Santos killer

**7** Wheeling Police are still investigating the death of Jamie Santos, 14 months after she was strangled in her Arlington Club apartment.

A year after the Oct. 29, 1991, murder, a Northwestern University speech expert said the mysterious man who called 911 to report the exotic dancer was not breathing, and turning blue, was probably not the

killer. Analysis of his voice didn't betray the degree of fear a killer would normally have, and a sociopathic killer would have been unlikely to try to save her by calling.

Speculation has pointed to someone who didn't want it known he had been at the Arlington Club that Sunday.

Santos' mother pleaded with the caller to come forward, to no avail.

At the end of 1991, police broadcast a tape of a man in a Buffalo Grove liquor store, who entered just as the caller was phoning from a pay telephone outside the door. The liquor-buyer came in and cooperated, but even hypnosis didn't reveal clues to the caller's identity.

### Wheeling outlaws outdoor drinking

**8** Wheeling outlawed drinking in outdoor parking lots last July, responding to citizen complaints of noisy quaffing on Wolf Road, Winetree, Arbor Court and elsewhere.

Months before, the idea had been broached at a village board meeting where trustees were considering granting a liquor license to a package store on Wolf Road, just north of Dundee



Staff Photo

Wheeling residents created their own Unity Task Force, and held a picnic, in an effort to seek ways of promoting racial harmony in the village.

Road. But they didn't allow it to open without beginning the process to keep it from becoming another object of citizen complaints.

Police responded during the summer by ticketing outdoor drinkers, notably on Wolf near Chamber Park, and occasionally arresting drinkers on disorderly conduct or resisting arrest charges as well.

### Cable conversion smooth as sable

**9** Wheeling's cable TV system was converted from dual cable to single cable in 1992,

with a minimum of complaints, according to village officials and cable watchdogs.

The new system allows customers to use their own remote control units, do without expensive cable boxes for multiple sets, and even affords them a small decrease in rates.

But that won't last. TCI of Illinois, Wheeling's cable provider, is planning 5 to 9 percent increases this summer.

### Task Force joins races

**10** Wheeling township residents founded their own Unity Task Force to create a dialogue between races, looking to forestall racial problems experienced elsewhere.

A picnic designed to draw various ethnic groups together in Wheeling's Heritage Park in August was a limited success. It was relatively well-attended, though few hispanics were in evidence.

The task force promises other events, including another picnic next summer.

# Officer wins battle for sergeant job

der in which their name appeared on the eligibility list. But village officials maintained that because there was no written policy stating they follow the list, they were not obligated to promote MacDonald before the two others.

when the two officers were promoted to sergeant and he was not.

ers and the chief making it possible," MacDonald said.

Judge Robert Ericsson sent MacDonald's lawsuit back to the commissioners for examination of the promotion procedures.

In the lawsuit MacDonald claimed he was the first on the department's eligibility list for sergeant when former Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel resigned in April 1990. But commissioners instead promoted Cinquigrani, who was second on the eligibility list to replace Staufenbiel, and then promoted Poppenga, who was seventh on the eligibility list, to replace Sgt. Jack Kimsey.

The promotion was made possible when the board of fire and police commissioners decided in October to administer new psychological tests to MacDonald rather than continue with a hearing that was to determine whether MacDonald was unjustly denied the promotion.

With the promotion of MacDonald, the village has the eight sergeants it is authorized to have. As sergeant MacDonald will make \$50,298, up \$8,000 from his \$42,300 salary as an officer.

MacDonald charged there was no cause for commissioners to abandon a "long-standing custom and practice" of promoting officers in the or-

MacDonald filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court against the board of fire and police commissioners, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and two other Wheeling police officers — Anthony Cinquigrani and Richard Poppenga — in May 1990

A 19-year veteran of the Wheeling police department has won his two-year battle to be promoted to sergeant and was recently sworn into the position by a member of the board of fire and police commissioners.

Robert L. MacDonald, 41, has been fighting to become a sergeant since 1990, when he was passed over for the promotion.

"It took a little bit longer than I thought it would but I appreciate the board of fire and police commission-

## Wheeling board grants lease for airport service operation

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board Monday agreed to grant a lease to Service Aviation to open a second fixed-based fueling operation at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

After several months of review, the trustees voted unanimously to grant a lease to Dennis Jans to operate his fledgling company selling fuel and service to Palwaukee-based and transient aviators from Hangar One at the airport.

"If there's competition at the airport, pilots will buy fuel," said Jans. "With lower prices, there will be a lot of fuel sold and more dollars to the community."

Jans' proposal was scrutinized by trustees and others who questioned the soundness of his financial plan, background and ability to service clients.

Jans said he would sell aviation fuel at \$2 a gallon, and those costs would drop if his business increased more than his projections.

Charles Priester, owner of Priester Aviation, the only fixed-based operator at the airport, produced figures to dispute Jans'

numbers.

He also brought in expert witnesses, including David Newmayer, an aviation professor at Southern Illinois University, and Kevin Leary, a partner in the former Springfield Air Service Ltd. Co., which went bankrupt, who said a second FBO would have a tough time surviving at Palwaukee.

Jans was vice president of Springfield Air Service Ltd. but left the company a year before it filed for bankruptcy.

Newmayer said a vote by trustees approving Jans' lease was unwise and Jans' business plan was lacking.

Several local pilots backed Jans' plan, saying the airport needed competition.

William Terry, a Wheeling resident and pilot, said, "We have a real opportunity to put in place the operation of a second fixed-base operator that will be successful."

Meanwhile in Prospect Heights, aldermen tabled Jans' proposal, seeking further information.

They feared the city could lose as much as \$37,000 in revenue based on the intergovernmental agreement between the villages to operate the airport.

1-5-92  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

# Plan for 2nd airport operator hinges on city, village votes

1-9-93  
BY BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Today could be the day that an area businessman learns whether his quest to open a fixed-based operation at Palwaukee Municipal Airport will be given flight or permanently grounded by the airport's owners — the city of Prospect Heights and the village of Wheeling.

The past several months have been like a roller coaster ride for Service Aviation owner Dennis Jans, who since July has been trying to get his proposal to become a second fixed-based operator — selling fuel and service to Palwaukee-based and transient customers — approved, first by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission and then by Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen.

Airport commissioners voted last spring to vacate their administrative offices at Hangar One, the oldest building on the airport, so it could be returned to an aviation use and generate income.

While it seemed like a simple idea at the time, it was that decision that prompted commissioners to search for a company interested in opening a second fixed-based operator that has turned into a long-running nightmare of conflicting issues, rising passions and heated discussions that could end tonight.

When commissioners decided they wanted a second fixed-based operator, they sent out 54 requests for proposals to aviation companies across the United States.

Jans was the only one to reply and he was slightly late with what — at the time — was considered an incomplete request for a proposal.

Some commissioners, Airport Manager Fred Stewart, and Charlie Priester, owner of Priester Aviation, have said that the fact that the larger aviation companies declined to submit a proposal indicate that Hangar One cannot support a viable fixed-based operator because of its age and size.

And Stewart has gone on record as saying that he believes Jans' proposal is undercapitalized and Jans, with two years in aviation businesses under his belt, does not have the experience to operate a successful fixed-based operator on an airport the size of Palwaukee.

And the two fixed-based operators that Jans has been affiliated with are now on precarious financial footing at best.

Springfield Air Service is now bankrupt and Oliver Aviation, where Jans was vice president until summer 1992, has been hit

with liens by the Internal Revenue Service that total \$54,318.

Some commissioners believe it is not their place to decide whether Jans will fail or succeed and that as a young entrepreneur he should be given an opportunity to try.

It was that thinking — and a deep desire to promote competition at the airport — that led the commission to recommend twice in votes of 5-2 and 6-0 that the two municipalities sign a lease with Jans.

Perhaps Jans' most vocal supporters are some members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilot's Association (PAPA) who also desperately want to see some competition for Priester.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission figures indicate that the airport has lost one-quarter of the planes based there over the past six years and that the number of aircraft operations annually is also falling.

PAPA blames Stewart and Priester for the decline. But Stewart and Priester blame a decline nationwide in business and pleasure flying, the recession and the loss of some hangar space due to Federal Aviation Administration-required safety improvements for the falloff.

PAPA, Jans and at least two airport commission members also blame Stewart for the defeat handed Jans in November when Wheeling trustees voted against his proposal and Prospect Heights alderman tabled it.

At that time Stewart wrote a memo outlining why he could not support commissioners' recommendation of approval of Jans' proposal.

The PAPA group did not feel it was proper for Stewart to buck the commission but both the Prospect Heights city administrator and the Wheeling village manager said that Stewart is required to submit a memo outlining his opinion with all recommendations from the commission — which is strictly an advisory body.

Jans has since put together a more complete proposal and garnered a bit more capital — he now has \$300,000, up from his original \$100,000.

Prospect Heights aldermen have seemed more receptive to the proposal after holding a special workshop session with Jans in December. But how Wheeling will vote this time around is still up in the air.

Both communities are scheduled to take a vote on the proposal tonight.

# Firm receives 1st OK to go to Palwaukee

1-6-93  
Tribune

**Wheeling-Prospect Heights:** Wheeling trustees voted unanimously to let a second flight services operator set up shop at Palwaukee Municipal Airport to provide competitive fuel and maintenance services.

Wheeling trustees voted 6-0 Monday to approve leasing Palwaukee Hangar No. 1 to Service Aviation, a new company, to provide fuel and maintenance services in competition with Priester Aviation, which currently is the sole provider of those services at the airport.

But Prospect Heights City Council members on Monday tabled the lease proposal over concerns about a possible revenue loss to the city should the lease go through.

"I feel incredibly elated," Dennis Jans, president of Service Aviation, said of the Wheeling vote.

Jans said that he will try to convince Prospect Heights aldermen that "all the positive benefits and revenues that would flow from me being [at Palwaukee] would be equal to or greater than any loss that could occur."

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own Palwaukee, must approve the lease before Service Aviation can move to the airport. Prospect Heights aldermen are expected to take up the lease request again Jan. 18.

Pilots who support Service Aviation said competition to Priester is needed to stem the flow of planes out of Palwaukee, which has lost one-quarter of the aircraft based there over the last six years. They also said competition would protect the \$35 million investment that federal, state and local governments have in the airfield at Palatine Road and Milwaukee Avenue.



Tribune photo by Bob Langer  
Vincent Jans (left) and his brother Dennis hope to service planes at Palwaukee Airport. Their plans need Prospect Heights' support.

But in a Dec. 31 memo to the Prospect Heights City Council, Mayor Edward P. Rotchford warned that the Service Aviation lease could end up costing the city about \$37,000 a year.

Rotchford said that an inter-

governmental agreement between Prospect Heights and Wheeling states that if a second "fixed-base operator" were to open at Palwaukee, the division of sales taxes, real estate taxes and fuel flowage fees would shift in Wheeling's favor.

# Firefighters, village bring wage talks to arbitrator

1-7-93  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters and village officials, who have a history of troubled negotiations, are meeting with a federal arbitrator hoping to settle stalled talks on wage increases.

Firefighter union members and village officials spent four years negotiating before they reached the existing pact in 1990. That contract included a clause allowing wages to be renegotiated in May, 1992. But, the sides have not been able to reach an agreement and under contract terms must call in an arbitrator.

"We're still negotiating, there's nothing new I can tell you," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Bob Leipzig, president of the Firefighters Association, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Village officials and firefighters' union representatives have declined to disclose how far apart the two sides are nor detail their differences.

The two sides are meeting at the of the Seyfarth, Shaw law offices in Chicago where an attorney

for that firm is conducting the arbitration hearing.

Both groups chose the law firm to be their arbitrator from a list of neutral parties supplied to them under provisions of the firefighters' contract.

Officials on both sides had said they were optimistic that a new settlement could be reached before binding arbitration proceedings were deemed necessary, but they failed to do so. Arbitration could cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 daily, which will be shared by both sides.

The two sides had a week prior to today's hearing to make a final offer that would have delayed arbitration proceedings.

The new wage agreement will cover 39 firefighters including three firefighter/paramedics and six lieutenants, fire union officials said.

Snags in labor talks are nothing new to either side. After four years of negotiating this contract — set to expire April 30 this year — an agreement was reached just two days before arbitration hearings were slated to begin.

So far, both sides have declined to say how this will affect fighters' morale or new negotiations.

# Hopes dim for Union Hotel revival

1-8-93  
By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER  
*Countryside*

State transportation planners said they gave Wheeling's old Union Hotel one last shot, but found it wanting.

A Wisconsin consultant's report pegged the 67-year-old hotel, built on the site of its 1856 namesake, as not historic enough a site to even be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

That means it isn't important enough to be protected as Milwaukee Avenue is widened.

There is now little to detain the base of a double left-turn lane from taking off the front 100 feet of the hotel, according to state road engineer Rick Young. And that doesn't count five feet of sidewalk, plus parkway. Wheeling officials had added to make the big highway look sharp as it slices through the middle of town.

## Not old enough

The report seems to bury Northbrook entrepreneur Duke Hillinger's quest to buy the building and turn it into a showplace nightclub, eatery and soundstage. Village officials say that his plan wouldn't work in the building anyway. It's not old enough and historical enough to save,

but too old for him to use.

Illinois Department of Transportation staffers expect the contract for widening Milwaukee Avenue from just south of Dundee Road to just south of Willow Road to be put out for bids within two years. Consultant John Vogel's report is only intended for use to guide a recommendation, but the state had already decided to shift the road 13 1/2 feet to the west in front of the hotel, to save the parking lots and entrances of buildings across the street. They said the latest investigation was an afterthought.

Vogel, of Menominee Falls, said Tuesday his sources for the Union Hotel survey consisted mainly of the Wheeling Through the Years oral history book and an Aug. 6 *Wheeling Countryside* story about the possible fate of the hotel, which IDOT staffers say spurred the report. He also looked at fire insurance maps, released about every 10 years, showing construction materials and building configurations. Vogel said other sources he sought could not be located.

Vogel added that he took pictures of the outside of the building, but never went inside, and did not contact any members of the Wheeling Historical Society or other residents.

"I wasn't writing an exhaustive dissertation," said Vogel Tuesday. "We're just trying to find out in a prudently efficient way, by checking readily

available sources, to try and evaluate the potential... to hunt for clues that there might be something significant that happened there, before we would take the next step, and investigate further.

"There was nothing in the oral history, (or the *Countryside*) article, to suggest other steps were warranted," he added. "But if some overwhelming piece of evidence turns up that would even hint at placing it on the list of those eligible for the national register, it should be brought to our attention, and it will certainly be considered." He said the Illinois Preservation Agency had previously "signed off" on the project, and the hotel as well.

There are three ways a building can win eligibility for the list. It must have significant local, regional or national historical value, architectural value, or be associated with lives significant to the community.

Though nearly everyone living in Wheeling after the hotel was built has memories of it, Vogel said all the real history associated with the hotel took place in the old frame building, the one that burned in 1925. That had been the first major hotel built on the way out of Chicago, and the starting-off place for bicycle races and road trips to Milwaukee.

(Continued on page 12)

His report discounted later tales of bootlegging, fish fries and other memories of the modern Union as "anecdotal," and not indicative of significant historical value. Only events occurring before 1943 are considered, since the register has a 50-year conception of significant history.

IDOT staffers say the building has been altered enough that it is doubtful it can really be considered the same structure that stood even in 1943. The east side's windows, canopy and the white paint over the bricks are all relatively recent additions.

Hillinger wants the building saved so he can put a restaurant on the ground floor, with some dancing, a sound stage for his sports television show, shown on

cable TV last year, plus a sports bar.

He said within six months, he'd like to use the 15 hotel rooms and five other rooms on the second floor to use as for billiards, darts, pinball, video, board game, TV room, beer tasting room, and a meeting room for Jaycees and Lions. Hillinger has been a Northbrook Jaycees stalwart for years.

## Costly repairs

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said that as soon as Hillinger would start increasing the intensity of use in the building, especially on the upper floor, he must make significant repairs to the buildings, ones that the \$450,000 in initial remodeling costs planned by Hillinger "wouldn't even touch."

"But if he wants to have a use similar to Billy and Co. (the shuttered restaurant that was owner Lee Minnich's last tenant), he can probably do that for a minimal amount of repair cost," said MacIsaac.

Wheeling buildings boss Tom Fennell said "the uses as he described to me are not possible in that building." He said national and local building codes preclude the use of the second floor in such an old building to be occupied when there's nightclub-like uses below.

He added he felt the upstairs construction was inadequate, providing less than 50 pounds per square foot of strength. Hillinger scoffed at that claim, citing the 14" by 2" joists supporting the floor, and the old building laced with steel I-beams.

# Service Aviation in holding pattern

1-7-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After receiving mixed signals from Prospect Heights and Wheeling, Dennis P. Jans' plans to open a second fixed-based fueling operation at Palwaukee Airport are in a holding pattern.

This week, after several months of review, Wheeling trustees backed granting a lease to Jans to operate his Service Aviation company, selling fuel and service to Palwaukee-based and transient aviators from Hangar One at the airport.

However, Prospect Heights alder-

man tabled the issue citing uncertainty over how much revenue the city would receive under the intergovernmental agreement it has with Wheeling to run the airport on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Palatine Road.

"The aldermen want it clarified. They put it back on the table until these questions can be answered," said Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford. Rotchford was uncertain when Jans' proposal would again be considered by the council.

While officials from both municipalities reviewed Jans' proposal,

Rotchford said Prospect Heights should study it more because four of its eight aldermen did not sign the intergovernmental pact inked by the two towns four years ago.

Jans said starting the FBO he will spend more than \$330,000 raised through bank and personal loans and selling shares in the privately held company to family members. Jans expects to break even or lose more than \$17,000 in the first year of operations, but said under his proposal both towns will share \$80,000 to \$85,000 in rent and fueling fees from the FBO.

A \$20,000 letter of credit will also

be held by both towns which will cash it if Jans' venture goes under and he can't pay up to five months of rent.

"I understand their concern at Prospect Heights at the possibility of losing some revenue, I look forward to presenting to them some information on the revenue they'll receive when Service Aviation goes into operation," said Jans.

The Wheeling village board backed Jans' proposal because of its financing which they believed made it a more viable competitor at

See SERVICE on Page 2

## SERVICE: Proposed fuel operation stalled

Continued from Page 1

Palwaukee for Priester Aviation, owned by Charles Priester, now the only fixed-based operator at the airport, said Trustee William A. Rogers.

"Previously, we (trustees) tried to get an FBO, now that's been done," said Rogers. "The board members felt there was adequate income and financing on his part to make this thing succeed."

Wheeling trustees nixed Jans' last proposal when he projected spending

\$150,000 to start the FBO.

Priester officials said they welcome competition at Palwaukee, but raised concerns about Service Aviation saying Jans didn't have the experience to run an FBO, was under-financed and by selling jet fuel he would divide an already tight market.

Priester serves mainly corporate users of Palwaukee, while Jans said his main market was private aircraft.

"A company that starts out without enough cash is going to be

strapped to make ends meet," said Don Augustine, director of sales for Priester. "You can't run an aviation business on a shoestring."

The Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA) backs Jans' efforts and presented Wheeling trustees with petitions encouraging them to vote for the lease.

"For years the pilots have sought competition at Palwaukee, and we feel Service Aviation will meet the needs in this regard," said Barry L. Axelrod, a pilot and past president of PAPA.

# Wheeling OK's second vendor

1-8-93

Countrywide

By BILL DOTSON

The Wheeling Village board earned a round of applause Monday from citizens and pilots pleased with the board's unanimous approval of the proposed Service Aviation Corporation.

The much delayed arrival of the new fuel and maintenance provider at Palwaukee airport had been eagerly anticipated by many pilots hungry for competitive fuel prices. But the proposal had suffered many setbacks, including prior rejection by the village board.

And it's not out of the woods yet, as Prospect Heights, the airport's co-owner, tabled an approval motion Monday night. That city's board will consider Feb. 1 whether it will give the go-ahead for the first competitor to ever come to Palwaukee.

## Change of heart

Wheeling trustees approving for a very tight budget, even with the personal loans and a bank loan. "I'm wondering if you're not just hoping against hope that all this will be enough," Rogers said.

Wiltse said the company is expected to lose money the first few months, as is typical of any new business, but, "We literally have pilots lining up to be our first customers. We view (the figures in) the revised proposal as a worst case scenario. They are estimates."

According to Schultz, "Part of the problem is basing this on personal loans on one hand but then saying to disregard them on the other. It all comes down to, is there going to be enough money?"

"I can only say the Jans family is obviously a family of some means and I have no qualms that they will continue to back Dennis," Wiltse said.

"I'm not questioning their loyalty, I just think this all needs to be a little more clear," Smith said.

Jans added, "If competition is allowed on the airport, fuel prices will go down, and air flow to this

ently had a change of heart due to a revised proposal that included stronger assurances of sufficient financial backing.

Trustee William Rogers and Village President Sheila Schultz both questioned the fact that personal loans to owner Dennis Jans from family members were not presented as part of the company's financial statements.

Jans' attorney David Wiltse assured the board that, "In no way are these loans to be paid for by the operation of the FBO (fixed base operator). They are personal loans that Mr. Jans himself is personally guaranteeing."

"That's why they're not shown in our financials. We've been advised by our CPA that is appropriate."

## Money questions

Rogers noted that, "There's a lot of money being allocated and spent,"

(Continued on page 12)

airport will increase."

Charles Priester, owner of entrenched Priester Aviation, the airport's only FBO, said "I agree there should be competition, but there have to be some standards."

Priester said he'd keep his comments to a minimum since "I'm basically not allowed to talk, because anything I say is shaded with self-serving interests and I understand that."

## Slow aviation

At the request of Priester, Dr. David Newmeyer, a professor of aviation at Southern Illinois University, told trustees that general aviation traffic, and therefore profits, are lower than in previous years.

He recommended Palwaukee "should develop a business plan as soon as possible, with an updated mission statement."

He claimed the airport should consider attracting business that will create a new market niche rather than an overlapping one.

"Competition is fine, if there's a level playing field but (Service Aviation) is agreeing to come in under some very difficult condi-

tions which is admirable, but not very wise," Newmeyer declared.

## Pilot support

Several area residents, all present or former pilots, spoke strongly in favor of the proposed company.

"I recommend approval of this plan to provide jobs and revenue to the community," said Gordon Mosby.

"What we have here is the best examined proposal any community could have," said William Terry. Terry added if prices are more competitive, "incentive to tanker fuel changes."

To resident Jack Clarey, "The issue is market share. General aviation is down, but we're talking about a minuscule market share here."

Dave Klopfleisch declared that Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon in 1969 was an accomplishment that was made possible by the incentive of competition with the Soviet Union.

"I don't know what the future holds but — if you open the doors, they will come. Just like in the movie."

According to Mike Klitzke, director of community development, three buildings have been taken down under the program, which was instituted last spring in an effort to spur redevelopment along one of the village's most traveled roadways.

While property owners anywhere in the village can apply for the demolition grant, Klitzke said that most of the buildings that meet all of the program's criteria are along Milwaukee Avenue. "The money can be applied elsewhere," he said. "But the majority of the targeted buildings, those that are unused, vacant, miszoned eyesores, are on Milwaukee."

So far, a warehouse building at 168 S. Milwaukee Ave., a house at 160 S. Milwaukee Ave. and an abandoned gas station on the northwest corner of Milwaukee and Mohr avenues have been torn down.

Under the program, the village will reimburse the owner for half the cost of the demolition, once the site has been restored and waivers — indicating the owner has paid for the work — have been submitted. Klitzke said the village will pay half of or up to \$5,000 on approved demolitions, but he said it did not look like it would have to expend the maximum amount on any of the three demolitions completed so far. And he said the program, which will be reviewed as the village begins preparing a 1993-94 fiscal year budget in the next couple of weeks,

has had a successful first year. "Our goal is to get property owners to remove their buildings early and spur redevelopment," Klitzke said. "The buildings are not of a nature where they are hazardous or unsafe and have building code violations. If that was the case, it would be easier to get them down through another set of procedures."

Klitzke said a couple more property owners have expressed interest in the program, and he is hoping a few more buildings could still come down before the village's fiscal year expires at the end of April.

Hermes also attributed the drop in gang crime to a willingness by residents to report suspicious activities to police as a part of neighborhood watch programs.

James R. Whittington, associate principal at Wheeling High School in Northwest Suburban High School District 214, said firm discipline and multi-cultural relations programs have kept gang activity down at the school.

"It's been pretty quiet. We've applied appropriate disciplinary action. We don't have our heads in the sand at all," said Whittington.

# Program clears way for development

By BONNIE BOORTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1-11-93

# Wheeling's anti-gang effort working

1-15-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Thanks to cooperation between agencies, improved neighborhood patrols and a lack of high concentrations of low-income housing, crimes by street gangs in Wheeling have decreased, said law enforcement officials.

"Wheeling is at bare minimum and they (police) are doing a great job with our cooperation," said Michael D. Hartman, an investigator with the Cook County Sheriff's Gang Crimes and Narcotics Unit.

Hartman said county sheriff offi-

cials have previously identified several members of a Chicago area street gang living in the village, but that by sharing intelligence information with the Wheeling Police Department and keeping tabs on them, authorities have prevented such crime from occurring.

Hartman added that Wheeling — unlike other Northwest Cook County communities — doesn't have large apartment complexes where high numbers of low-income residents who may be recruited by street gangs live.

And while narcotics trafficking is a constant on the urban street gang

scene, most gangs are involved in burglaries and break-ins to vehicles, said Hartman.

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes said the reinstatement of tactical officers assigned to special uniform and plainclothes patrols in designated areas of the village, in addition to regular police patrols, have kept gang activity down from the level it reached more than a year ago.

"During that period of time, we noticed an increase in that activity. Last year in June those tactical officers were reinstated and we noticed a decrease," said Hermes.

# Wheeling will compile anti-discrimination law

1-18-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials are drafting a human relations ordinance to protect residents of different ethnic groups against discrimination.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that while there are local ordinances protecting residents against discrimination in housing and other areas, they were made years ago and are scattered throughout the village codes.

Anderson said his office is working on a special human relations ordi-

nance tying those anti-discrimination measures together.

"It's basically an attempt to ensure we all live and work together as best we can," Anderson said of an all-encompassing rights ordinance that would cover all Wheeling residents.

"There's a need to pull all that together and perhaps go a little further," he added.

The Wheeling Village Board later this month is expected to submit names for the formation of an advisory ad hoc committee made up of residents who would make recommendations on a new human rela-

tions ordinance.

Anderson said his office got the idea for such an ordinance from a broad-based human relations measure now being eyed for approval by Cook County officials.

Kamal Zaretsky, president of the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force, a residents group promoting racial harmony, praised village officials for considering the human relations ordinance.

"I think the village is doing a good job (and) has a lot of foresight and wisdom in taking the relations of people from different ethnic groups into serious consideration as they

make plans for the village," she said.

Anderson said Wheeling is not experiencing problems with discrimination against people from different ethnic groups.

The proposed ordinance, which could be drafted in six months, may call for the creation of a mediation board where discrimination disputes are settled.

The proposed ordinance may cover only limited areas, such as housing, said Anderson, because there are some activities, such as lending practices, that other government agencies cover more effectively.

## Wheeling OKs land buy to relocate intersection

1-19-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved purchasing two more parcels needed to relocate the Hintz and Wolf Road intersection further away from runways at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The Wheeling village board unanimously approved the purchase from Morman and Patricia V. Curran for \$200,000 of two adjoining parcels just west of Wolf Road that together make up nearly an acre. Village officials said the land is needed to place the intersection 1,000 feet west of its current location.

"It's done away with the uncertainty for those people (the Currans) and moved us along. We're chipping away," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz about the latest land acquisition.

The intersection relocation is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million capital improvement plan designed to bring the airport on Milwaukee Road, just north of Palatine Road, up to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

Officials from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, who owns the airport under an intergovernmental agreement with Wheeling, hope the

project can be completed by 1995.

The airport's longest runway now is 250 feet from the intersection and airport officials want to create a safety area between the runway and the road required by the FAA.

The Prospect Heights City Council also approved the land purchases Monday in a 6-1 vote, with 2nd Ward Alderman Warren G. Sunde dissenting.

"It's an expansion of the airport," said Sunde who opposes development at Palwaukee because he sees it as an expansion that officials of the two towns promised not to do when they asked for voter approval to buy the airport.

Boards from both towns, instead of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, agreed to the land buy because the closing date for the parcels is Jan. 28 and the commission had not received documents from the sellers in time to review them.

The commission is an advisory panel for the airport.

The commission Wednesday is expected to recommend that purchase agreements or condemnation proceedings be initiated for several more parcels near the intersection. The airport will be reimbursed for the purchases from the state's block grant program in three months.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Airport commission to ask county to stop flea market

1-21-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission will ask the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals to deny a drive-in theater's request for a special use permit to continue to operate a flea market on the grounds.

In a unanimous vote, the commission backed a resolution objecting to the Twin Drive-In's weekend flea market that has been operating at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in unincorporated Cook County for several years.

"We're negotiating to buy the property and we've purchased properties around the drive-in," commission Chairman Robert E. Strauss said. "We own more and more property and now we're the ones against this. And we have more costs keeping it clean, and we want to be good neighbors."

Joining Wheeling trustees, who last August passed a similar resolution, the commission complained motorists coming to the flea market cause traffic problems on Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue, park illegally and restrict access to the site for emergency vehicles.

Trash from the flea market scattering onto neighboring properties also is a nuisance, commissioners said.

The market is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wheeling trustees have complained about the flea market for several years.

Previously, county officials said that because of complaints from people living along Hintz Road, the county found that Loews Chicago Cinemas Inc., owners of the drive-in, didn't have a required special use permit to operate a flea market there.

The Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a hearing to review the drive-in's request from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29 at the Wheeling Township Community Center, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights.

Commission officials are negotiating to buy the drive-in for such airport uses as relocating a drainage ditch. They hope to acquire the 31.3 acre property later this year and said they will object to the flea market until they own the drive-in.

## Wheeling firefighters, village settle wage hike

1-23-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Thanks to 11th-hour negotiations, Wheeling firefighters and village officials avoided arbitration and have agreed to a settlement over wage increases.

The settlement gives 33 firefighters and firefighter/paramedics a 3 percent raise for the period April 30, 1992 to Nov. 1, 1992, and a 2 percent hike until the contract expires April 30.

The split pay raise saves the village money and, overall, for the year

gives firefighters an increase in their base salary of more than 4 percent, from \$37,650 to \$39,555 at the top of the scale. Paramedics' base salary went from \$40,534 to \$42,585.

The hike also places Wheeling firefighters closer to the middle of the salary scale of what firefighters in other communities earn.

"It's a direction being taken to bring them (firefighters) in line with comparable communities," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac.

Six fire department lieutenants received a straight 4 percent pay

raise for the year, taking them from \$48,261 to \$50,191 annually. MacIsaac said the lieutenants' salaries were at the top of the scale of what other communities are paying fire lieutenants.

Firefighter union and village officials spent four years negotiating before they reached the existing pact in 1990. That contract included a clause allowing wages to be renegotiated in May, 1992.

Village officials and the union were able to iron out an agreement just prior to their meeting with a federal arbitrator, avoiding the costly

hearing process the contract requires when there's an impasse.

"We kept negotiating the whole time. The pattern of collective bargaining is (that) the negotiation has been at the 11th hour, and nobody has been able to break that pattern," said Mike Burns, treasurer for the Firefighters Association who was on the negotiating team.

Both sides will soon return to the bargaining table to iron out a new contract. The pact is set to expire April 30.

The village and union should start new contract talks in February.

# Airport commissioners might seek increase in monthly pay

1-25-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Commissioners on the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission are considering asking for an increase in the monthly fee of \$75 they receive to attend meetings.

The commissioners said they were eyeing the increase because they haven't received a raise in the stipend since it was first set in 1986 shortly after the towns of Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"We haven't had an increase in eight years," said commission Chairman Robert E. Strauss.

The panel consists of commissioners from Wheeling and Prospect Heights who are appointed by officials of both towns to run the airport under the intergovernmental agreement between the communities.

The panel is mulling increasing the stipend in light of a recent proposal by Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford to eliminate the \$50 per meeting stipend members of the city council receive. Currently, eight alderman on the city council are paid \$75 per month and \$50 per meeting.

Rotchford said the \$50 stipend was created in 1991 to entice alderman to attend all of the council's meetings.

Commissioner Dan Quiery said he favored leaving the monthly stipend at \$75, and noted Rotchford's proposal which is currently being mulled by the finance committee of the city council.

"It was suggested that if you're elected, you show up at the meeting," Quiery said.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said since the commission isn't elected, it could vote to increase its own stipend. However, Stewart said he wasn't making a recommendation on what action the commission should take.

"Let Caesar do Caesar's business," Stewart said jokingly.

Commissioner William A. Rogers favored raising the monthly stipend to \$125, while Elizabeth L. Hartman proposed increasing it to \$100.

If the commission backs a stipend hike, they would include the money in the new budget they must submit to both towns for approval. Officials from both towns could approve the budget without comment or reject it noting the raises.

The commission will discuss the issue further Feb. 9.

# Developer alters Candlewood plan

COUNTRYSIDE  
By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

1-21-93  
Candlewood subdivision neighbors fighting construction of duplexes in the midst of their single-family neighborhood won a major victory last week. Berkshire Development backed off and agreed to build detached homes.

Berkshire staffers had sworn to stick by their plan to build 18 duplexes on the three-acre plot between the new Picardy homes on the north and older homes on the south. But they are now asking approval to construct 11 homes on the hunk of land west of Wolf Road.

Architect Gary Cawn said landowner James Quo had decided to take a smaller profit and call off a planned lawsuit of Wheeling for not allowing a reasonable development of the industrially zoned land. A short-handed plan commission deadlocked when asked to approve the duplex plan in December.

But Cawn said this far,

and no farther: "They're still giving us a hard time, but we'll still end up with 11 lots. But if they drop it to 10 lots, he'll go to court. \$100,000 for a lawsuit, maybe you can't afford it, but for the price of one more house, you can."

Residents are unlikely to quibble over the final home, after winning one of the few neighborhood-character battles ever won in the West Strong Street neighborhood, long the victim of spot-zoning.

"At any rate, 11 houses are a far cry from 18 duplexes," said Mike Perella, who spearheaded the effort to win over a plan commission which earlier had seemed bent on approval of multifamily homes just north of his Fifth Street house.

Perella spent his shoe leather walking the area and talking up the issue among other homeowners. He was joined by Picardy's Stuart Shapiro and others, who assembled a petition to  
(Continued on page 17)

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling reviews new policy for businesses serving alcohol

1-26-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are considering a revised liquor license policy spelling out additional controls village officials would like to see instituted at local establishments.

Trustees Monday reviewed a policy developed by Village Manager Craig G. Anderson specifying a number of practices for liquor license holders — although non-binding ones — that Wheeling officials prefer they adopt, such as calling a cab for intoxicated patrons, not having reduced-price drink specials and requiring more than one form of identification from patrons under 25.

"This is to make sure everyone is clear about what we expect and what their responsibilities are," Anderson said.

While Wheeling officials say they have not had problems with local establishments that sell alcohol, village officials last year initiated discussions on a new policy to clarify acceptable practices.

One part of the proposed policy some trustees wanted clarified called for restaurants where liquor is sold to stop serving alco-

hol once food service stops. Trustee William A. Rogers asked for restaurants with separate bars to be exempt from that requirement.

"Not all bars are going to be serving food after they stop serving drinks," Rogers said.

Anderson said that under the current village ordinances, some liquor licenses require restaurants to cut off liquor sales two hours before the business closes, while other licenses don't cover such sales.

That section of the policy, he said, would have to be rewritten to make it consistent with current village ordinances.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she wants liquor licenses to feel more obligated to adopt the practices recommended in an expanded policy.

"I wonder if we can make this stronger? Suggested policy says, 'I can follow this, and not follow that,'" Schultz said.

Anderson said he would have a rewritten policy ready for the board's review in February and hopes to have a new policy in place by April, when the village's 31 liquor licenses are up for renewal.

# Incumbents dominate first day of filing for local races

2-2-93  
By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Incumbents, for the most part, took advantage of the first day of filing nominating petitions Monday for the April 20 local elections.

Two slates filed in Wheeling. Three-term village President Sheila H. Schultz leads the Wheeling Progress Party, made up of incumbent trustee candidates Elizabeth L. Hartman, Wheeling Park Commissioner Robert G. Todd and Wayne Wisinski. Jeanne Selander is slated by the party for the village clerk post.

Trustee Judy Abruscato heads the Citizens of Wheeling Party, with Cheryl Fitzpatrick, Michael Lynch and Sue Smedinghoff seeking trustee posts. Mike Kurgan is seeking the clerk's spot on the ticket.

The Long Grove Citizen's Nominating Committee filed petitions for village president candidate Lenore Simmons and for plan commissioners Gregory Conley and Jeri Monroe and former candidate Bob Greiner, who are running for trustee. Maria Rodriguez is running for village clerk on the Nominating Committee slate.

## \*93 ELECTION

Incumbents Bill Reid, Jeffrey Braiman and Charles Hendricks filed for re-election in the Buffalo Grove village board race for three open seats.

Three candidates, park board President Tom R. Webber, Commissioner Greg L. Klutecki and newcomer Mark Parkinson, filed for four open Wheeling park commissioner seats.

No one filed for two open seats on the Buffalo Grove park board, but parks Director Michael Rylko said incumbents Karen Larson and Bob McNeely have been circulating petitions.

Incumbent President Nancy Whitney filed for the Long Grove park board, where two seats are open.

Incumbent Wynne Weiss filed for one of the four open seats on the Indian Trails Library Board, and E. W. "Bill" Milholland was the only candidate to file for the two open seats on the Vernon Area Library Board.

Staff Writer Dwayne Wong contributed to this story.

# Schultz's bid for 4th term challenged

2-2-93

## Abruscato

### seeks healthy competition

By DWAYNE WONG and MICHELLE MARTIN Daily Herald Staff Writers

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato announced Monday she will attempt to derail Sheila Schultz's bid for an unprecedented fourth term as mayor of Wheeling, saying Monday her decision to run for the top job is in the spirit of friendly competition.

Filing for the April 20 municipal election began Monday and will end at the close of business next Monday afternoon.

Schultz, who joined Abruscato in filing mayoral petitions at 8 a.m. Monday, is running for an unprecedented fourth term.

She said she is confident of being re-elected and added her coat-tails should be big enough to carry the rest of the slate on her Wheeling Progress party ticket as well.

"I think it (the race) will take in all of the issues, I think it will be decided on the record of the incumbents, and I am confident of that," said Schultz.

Schultz said that her party will work the neighborhoods and ring doorbells in an effort to get out the vote.

Abruscato said that she is challenging Schultz for the village president spot because competition is healthy for Wheeling and it improves the level of municipal services.

"Everyone should have some competition. . . . I think competition sharpens how you can give more to the residents," said Abruscato.

A two-term trustee, Abruscato hopes her Citizen of Wheeling Party slate, which consists entirely of newcomers, can establish an identity with voters as being "the people's party."

Schultz is running jointly with incumbent Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman and Robert G. Todd, who currently is a Wheeling Park District board commissioner.

Hoping to run an issue-oriented campaign, Abruscato said residents are interested in such items as the village's tax-incremental fi-



Irvana K. Wilks, right, one of four mayoral candidates in Mount Prospect, files her petitions Monday with Village Clerk Carol A. Fields.

## Hot races quick to take shape in suburbs

Filing opened Monday for what promises to be a wide open election season in the Northwest suburbs.

As many as 10 mayoral contests are under way, some to replace retiring dignitaries.

But most candidates, fueled by rising property taxes or other issues, are taking aim at sitting incumbents. Mayor Michael Albrecht in Des Plaines is facing two solid challengers and a former Hanover Park trustee is

coming back to oppose Village President Sonya Crawshaw.

In Mount Prospect, President Gerald Farley is expected to have as many as three challengers.



Trustee Ray G. Basso, who vied with Simmons for the Nominating Committee nomination, said he will not switch loyalties and run on the Independent Voters slate.

Two years ago, the race for three trustee seats between the Nominating Committee and the Independent Voters became bitter and divisive.

Nominating Committee candidates swept the election and defeated candidates attended village board meetings for almost a year afterwards, occasionally armed with videotape recorders and cassette recorders.

## Buffalo Grove hopefuls line up for village board — Page 3

naning district, the development of a commuter rail stop in Wheeling and the improvement of Milwaukee Avenue.

Meanwhile, in Long Grove, 10-year trustee Lenore Simmons got the nod from the Long Grove Citizens Nominating Committee to run for village president to replace Acting Village President Burt Mall.

Mall is stepping down from his trustee seat as well as the tempo-

# Wheeling backs its manager with 8 percent pay increase

2-2-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG Daily Herald Staff Writer

Giving Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson another vote of confidence, the village board Monday granted him an 8 percent salary increase.

The trustees unanimously agreed to increase Anderson's yearly compensation from \$72,450 to \$78,000. Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the board based its decision to give him a pay increase after reviewing his performance in a number of areas.

"We looked at his performance, which has been excellent, and the board was happy with his performance in a variety of areas, and made a decision based on what's adequate compensation for this market," Schultz said.

The trustees reaffirmed Anderson's performance just as he is preparing to enter into talks with unions representing the village's firefighters, its operations and maintenance workers, emergency communications operators and police. The police union is scheduled for a salary increase that, under their current contract with the village, must occur by

the end of April. Other groups also have their current contracts expiring then.

Schultz said that aside from labor negotiations, Anderson has done a fine job preparing Wheeling's budget, supervising the village department heads, overseeing Palwaukee Municipal Airport managerial functions and representing Wheeling on regional governmental panels.

Last year, the village board gave Anderson a five percent increase, raising his annual salary from \$69,000 to \$72,450. Then, village officials lauded his work handling airport matters and efforts to bring a commuter rail line stop to Wheeling.

Anderson, 42, has been with the village for 4½ years and oversees a staff of more than 190 full-time employees and an annual budget that this year is at \$22 million.

He came to Wheeling in 1988 after spending eight years as assistant village manager in Glenview, and started at \$55,000.



Craig G. Anderson

# Wheeling village officials to begin new labor talks

2-3-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are preparing to start talks with four village employee groups to either increase their salaries or negotiate new contracts with them, before deadlines set for those settlements pass at the end of April.

Heading the list of employee groups village officials will be negotiating with are Wheeling police and firefighters. The patrol officers, whose three-year contract with the village expires in 1995, are seeking a salary increase that would cover 45 officers.

Firefighters, who recently received a one-year pay hike, are looking for a new contract with the village to replace the two-year agreement they currently have that's set to expire April 30. The new agreement would cover 33 firefighters/paramedics and six fire department lieutenants.

"We haven't started talks with them (employee groups) yet; we will be setting dates shortly," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The village and firefighters union narrowly avoided going to arbitration before arriving at the

latest salary hike settlement they hammered out. Contract talks between the two parties are scheduled to start this month.

Other village worker groups slated to come to the bargaining table soon include the communications operators and records clerks along with the public works employees.

Public works employees hope to receive a salary increase for 35 of their rank and file. The communications operators — who handle emergency calls — and records clerks are looking for a new labor pact to replace the one-year agreement they have with Wheeling that is expiring this spring.

Anderson said it was "a quirk of fate" that has the deadlines for the pay hikes and new pacts all fall by the end of April. The deadlines are specified under the different agreements the village has with those employees.

Another deadline related to the labor talks looming near is the one the village board has to set the 1993-94 fiscal year budget. A part of the settlements the village sets with its employees could be included in that document trustees are expect to vote on in April, said Anderson.

## The mayoral races

Contests are shaping up throughout the Northwest suburbs for village president and mayor in the April 20 elections.

*Herald - 2-3-93*



### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS:

Three candidates, including current trustees **Ariene Mulder** and **Julia Walsh**, and **Michael Schroeder**, named interim village president last December, have filed petitions in an effort to succeed **William O. Maki**.



Schroeder Walsh Mulder

### BARRINGTON:

Trustee **Ronald M. Hamelberg** has filed petitions in an effort to unseat Village President **Theodore J. Forsberg**, who is expected to seek a second term.



Forsberg Hamelberg

### BARTLETT:

Village President **John Stark** has not announced his re-election plans, but Trustee **Catherine Melchert** has filed nominating petitions to run for the top post.



Stark Melchert

### DES PLAINES:

Mayor **D. Michael Albrecht** has filed petitions to run for a second term. Only Economic Development Commission member **Ted Sherwood** has filed to oppose him though 1st Ward Alderman **Mary Childers** is expected to join the race by the Monday filing deadline.



Albrecht Childers Sherwood

### ELK GROVE VILLAGE:

Trustee **Dennis J. Gallitano** and former trustee **Edward Hauser** both filed their petitions for village president. Trustee **James R. Petri** said he will file his petitions this week.



Gallitano Hauser Petri

### HANOVER PARK:

Village President **Sonya Crawshaw** has filed nominating petitions to seek a third term in office. Former trustee **Frank Dalla Valle** has not formally filed in the race, but has announced he will challenge **Crawshaw**.



Crawshaw Dalla Valle

### LAKE BARRINGTON:

Trustee **Barry Hemphill** is challenging incumbent Village President **Nancy K. Smith** after both locked horns over the issue of making the village president a full-time paid position.



Hemphill Smith

### MOUNT PROSPECT:

Incumbent Village President **Gerald L. "Skip" Farley** filed petitions along with Trustee **Irvana K. Wilks**. Political newcomers **Dennis Goszczynski** and **Ernest Lasse** also filed for village president. **Lasse** also filed for trustee and has until Feb. 10 to decide which position to run for.



Farley Wilks



Lasse Goszczynski

### PALATINE:

Incumbent Village President **Rita Mullins**, who has not yet announced whether she will seek another term, annoyed the local Republican organization by mounting a primary challenge to GOP State Rep. **Bernie Pedersen** last year. She lost, and the GOP has endorsed former village president **Wendell Jones** to run against her for mayor. **Jones** has already filed.



Jones Mullins

### STREAMWOOD:

Village President **Billie D. Roth** has filed nominating petitions to run for a second term. Petitions also have been filed by Streamwood Park District board President **Roger Williams** and former deputy police chief **Paul W. Rauscher**.



Roth Williams



Rauscher

### WHEELING:

Incumbent Village President **Sheila H. Schultz** has filed nominating petitions for a fourth term in the post. Also seeking the village's top job is two-term Trustee **Judy Abruscato**.



Schultz Abruscato

# Second vendor gets clearance to open shop

*2-4-93*

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER  
*Countryside*

No one knows whether it will fly or whether it will crash, but the first fixed-base operator to ever compete with **Priester Aviation** is set to open at **Palwaukee** at the beginning of March.

**Dennis Jans**, the 34-year-old owner of **Service Aviation**, said he was on "Cloud Nine" after the Prospect Heights City Council approved his company for startup Monday night in a 6-1 vote.

Many officials in both **Wheeling** and **Prospect Heights**, which own the airport, as well as the airport staff, believe **Service** can't succeed. **Jans** is confident he can put the venture together and make money before his five-year lease is up. After that, there's no guarantee he will win the right to open a bigger FBO when the airport expands.

"I think he's going to be underfunded," said **Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford**. "Many times, I've told **Jans**, I think the Village of **Wheeling**, **Prospect Heights**, and the airport commission gave him a raw deal. Ten feet of runway space in front of a 100 by 100 hangar. There just isn't enough ramp space. It's totally undersized," he said referring to the ancient **Hangar 1** that **Service** will use. "He only has a five-year lease without a first option on the new FBO. They haven't given this man half a chance."

"But it's his money."

## Mechanical thoughts

He said he doubts **Jans** can keep good mechanics, considering he can't guarantee jobs beyond five years.

"I think five years is a longer period of time than the mayor does," said **Jans**. He said he thinks he can develop a good working relationship with his

mechanics, and has the best shot at winning the FBO slot in five years if he builds a good reputation.

**Mayor Rotchford** wondered how **Jans** could convince local pilots to buy his gas from him, when they can buy cheaper gas in **Wisconsin** and other **Illinois** counties, where taxes are low.

"You should see these (pilots)," said **Rotchford**. "They buy a **BLT** and split it four ways."

## Penny for thoughts

**Jans** said he didn't think he would have to "compete penny for penny," he said. **Palwaukee** pilots, led by the **Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association**, have been lobbying for years for a new gas and mechanical provider, and often claim they will stick with an economical competitor even if **Priester** lowers its prices to match. **Priester** officials, however, have claimed they won't drop their prices to compete.

"He's a very nice guy," said **Rotchford**. "I wish him all the luck. He's going to need it."

The airport, constantly purchasing surrounding land in its effort to expand, has begun the condemnation process on 32 key acres occupied by the **Loews Wheeling Twin Drive-In** north of the airport in unincorporated **Cook County**.

**Loews** had filed for a **Cook County** special use permit to operate its **Sunday Flea Market** last summer, in an apparent effort to increase the value of its property in the face of a future judgment.

## Flea market

**Wheeling** and the airport countered by claiming the flea market fostered the  
(Continued on page 15)

Note: There are several Northwest suburbs where incumbent village presidents so far are running uncontested for re-election. They include **Hotman Estates**, **Michael J. O'Malley**; **Barrington Hills**, **James A. Kempe**; **Inverness**, **Donna Thomas**; **South Barrington**, **Warren Fuller**; and **Deer Park**, **James M. Peterson**. **Long Grove** Trustee **Leno Simmons** is unopposed for village president.

Source: Daily Herald news files

Daily Herald G

## Ver

local criminal element, and should be denied the permit.

After a long delay, **Loews** withdrew its request shortly before the scheduled hearing last Friday. Attorney **Matt Klein** said last week

he would soon offer another kind of commercial permit request, but there were no plans afoot to change how the land is used.

He said the winning of the land by the airport through condemnation was

"probably inevitable," but warned the price a judge assigns to the drive-in might have bearing on whether it ever became part of the airport.

"Not all condemnations are funded," he said.

C4

# Local candidates may file today

*2-1-93*

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Today is the first day candidates for seats on local government bodies can file nominating petitions indicating their intentions to run for public office in the municipal election April 20.

In **Wheeling**, there are five seats up for election, including **Sheila H. Schultz's** village president post. **Schultz** is running for another four-year term along with a slate of trustee candidates including current **Wheeling Park District** Commissioner **Robert G. Todd**, incumbent Trustee

**Elizabeth L. Hartman** and **Wayne Wisinski**. Slate member **Jeanne Selander** is seeking the village clerk spot.

And in **Long Grove** acting Village President **Burt Mall** won't seek re-election, and the **Long Grove Nominating Committee** tapped 10-year trustee **Lenore Simmons** as his replacement. Three village trustee posts are also available for election.

So far, no other candidates have indicated they will oppose **Schultz's** re-election bid.

At the **Wheeling Park District**, five of the seven park commissioner seats are open. Four seats are up for

election, and a fifth is vacant because of the retirement of Commissioner **Edward L. Klocke**.

In **Wheeling Township**, eight incumbents and one newcomer slated by the **Wheeling Township Republican Organization** are running for nine spots. And while the slated candidates probably won't be opposed by other parties' candidates, **GOP** newcomers **Ronald J. Jasniowski**, **Ruth O'Connell**, **Susan H. Goreham**, and **Bing H. Zielka** had hoped to be slated for the trustee seats on the ticket and are eyeing legal action as a way to be included.

On the **Indian Trails Public Li-**

brary District board, four of the seven trustee seats are available in April.

**Buffalo Grove** will have three village trustee spots open. In **Vernon Township**, nine posts are up for election with incumbents and one newcomer vying for them. The park districts of **Buffalo Grove** and **Long Grove** both have two open seats.

The **Vernon Area Public Library** also will have two trustee spots open in April as well. Candidates for all open posts must have their nominating petitions filed with the public bodies by Monday, Feb. 8.



H. Rick Bamman/Pioneer Press

DARE officers Chris Parr (left), Wheeling Police, and Steve Husak, Buffalo Grove, confer before the start of a workshop for parents at Elementary School District 21 headquarters.

## DARE program's drug-free message aims at parents

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

*Countyside*  
DARE's not just for children anymore. The popular and successful program to keep kids off drugs and alcohol has been expanded to their parents.

The last two weeks, concerned parents have listened as Steve Husak of the Buffalo Grove Police Department, and Chris Parr of the Wheeling force told them what many of their kids already know - that there are lots of drugs out there, but they don't have to become part of their lives.

It's not a problem confined to urban and suburban areas. Chief John Roehlk of tiny Earlville, Ill., sat in on one of the four sessions held at elementary School District 21 headquarters. He said he's had two years of DARE at Earlville, and wants to start a parent group, too.

Roelk said there's youthful alcohol experimentation in his town, which is the size of a smaller Cook County subdivision. Those who indulge there are viewed as "outcasts" by their peers. That's one of the aims of Drug Awareness Resistance Education here, to put the sober kids on the hip side, and the young drunks and heads on the outs, but help them to straighten out.

It begins with the parents, who can start keeping their kids away from drugs from

Celeste Rebellion of Wheeling saw it as an opportunity to learn more about the pressures on her fourth son, now at Longfellow School.

"We've had a little problem here and there," she said of her older children. "Children grow up curious. They want to see things - even if it's not for them."

Buffalo Grove's Husak said to try to talk to children

as early as possible. It gets harder the longer one waits.

"I had a one-day program at (Cooper) Junior High," he said. "That's a tough audience. They say, 'Hey, I'm not going to believe anything you say.'"

Husak and Parr plan to run the program for District 21 parents twice next year, in the spring and fall. Parents

the time they begin to crawl.

Parr told those assembled in the district boardroom last week one of the things she tells the littlest of her students - to watch out for look-alikes. These include the milk cartons that look like Egg Beaters cartons, that in turn look like chocolate milk cartons, that look just like orange juice cartons, that look just like cartons of TSP, trisodium phosphate, which is used as a heavy-duty wall cleaner. It can clean out the insides of a youngster, permanently.

Recreational drug and alcohol abuse often begins at home, too. Parr said that the examples parents set may be the most important factor in a child's lifetime dealings with intoxicants.

Though it may be all right for kids to see parents have a little wine with dinner on special or religious occasions, beware: "How often do you see seven or eight people (drink) in moderation but there is one person who does it to excess?" asked Parr. She further warned about choices of babysitters.

She said there are those who muse, "Boy, I wonder what it would be like to see the kid drunk, or high on drugs?"

Many of the dozen or so parents at one of the sessions said they worried about their children in a world with so many dangerous temptations.

(Continued on page 15)

can learn how to recognize drugs and drug paraphernalia, and the signs their kids are using them.

They can also learn where to turn if they see signs their kids are straying. For those who missed the first sessions, good places to start are Omni Youth services, 537-6677, or the Northern Illinois Coalition on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, 263-0800.

## Safety project moving despite shaky takeoff

2-8-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission is now on the road toward relocating the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection and making other improvements, though they've hit some bumps along the way.

Relocating the intersection, where passing motorists currently can see landing aircraft close up, is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million capital improvement project to bring the airport, located at Milwaukee Road and immediately north of Palatine Road, up to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

Just 250 feet from the airport's longest runway, the intersection is now too close to the airport and must be moved 570 feet west to create an FAA required safety area between the road and runway.

Fred E. Stewart Jr., airport manager, said of the 16 parcels left the commission has to acquire to make relocation of the intersection a reality, the panel now has eight firm commitments from property owners agreeing to sell their land. The commission will probably own all the land needed for the intersection relocation by April 1, said Stewart.

"We anticipate having all the properties by April 1. We have quick-take authority. If we have to, we'll file a condemnation and go to court and the judge will award us the properties," Stewart said.

One hurdle the commission was finally able to clear was ending its longest running condemnation case and acquiring land formerly owned by Frank R. Chupich. Airport officials first started negotiations for the parcel located on the south side of Hintz Road in 1986. In 1988, they initiated condemnation proceedings that ended late last year.

Chupich, 79, claimed the commission paid him less than fair-market value for his property. Airport officials noted the site was strewn with old tires, construction debris, old vehicle parts, truck trailers and other items. Airport officials said cleanup costs for the land exceeded its value, and Chupich received a token payment for the site.

Later this year, the commission will award contracts for construction related to the massive project, including demolishing old buildings and clearing the land, building two new bridges on Wolf and Hintz roads, and the relocation, for safety reasons, of a drainage ditch running through the airport along with moving

both roads.

A growing concern of airport officials is the relocation of the utilities beneath the intersection.

When the roads are moved, utilities including lines for gas, telephone, cable television, electricity, water and sewers must also be relocated. Discussions on the utilities move are now underway between the government agencies and utilities companies.

Some utility officials are saying initially moving their infrastructure could cost the government agencies involved in the Palwaukee project - which includes the FAA, Illinois Department of Transportation, the Army Corps of Engineers and the towns of Prospect Heights and Wheeling - additional millions.

The two towns own the airport under an intergovernmental agreement they both inked when they purchased the facility in 1986.

The commission, comprising members appointed from both communities, serves as an advisory and oversight panel.

Still to be ironed out is who pays for the utilities' relocation and what such a transaction entails, said Stephen T. Moore, the commission's attorney.

Stewart said intersection relocation is a complex project for the airport to undertake. Stewart called for an agreement between IDOT and Cook County Highway Department to handle its complexities.

"The whole project is a big improvement for the area. It's not just an improvement for the airport. It's an improvement for the people involved who travel along Wolf and Hintz roads," said Stewart.

This past December, Prospect Heights officials and residents of the Wolf Run Estates subdivision requested a berm be placed near their homes that would shield them from the negative effects of the relocated intersection.

Both towns subsequently agreed to plant trees by the subdivision instead of a berm to screen the area from traffic.

Stewart added that businesses located near the intersection should also see pluses from relocation of the intersection.

"Essentially, it's a benefit to them. It's an improved transportation network," he said.

John Barron, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing for ACCO USA, Inc., a manufacturer and seller of office products at 770 S. ACCO Plaza, whose corporate headquarters would be closest to the new Wolf/Hintz Road intersection, expressed guarded optimism about the project.

# Competing slates file for Wheeling board

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato has filed a slate challenging that of three-term Village President Sheila Schultz. But she said Friday there are no issues for them to run with.

"I want to make it clear that nobody's doing a bad job," said Abruscato, who will top her Citizens for Wheeling party slate by shooting for Schultz' job. She reiterated her statements of December, that there are "no great issues in Wheeling."

She attacked Schultz' attempt at a fourth term obliquely, however. "Two terms is a good amount of time on any commission or board," she said.

She added that it was "a shame that people in Wheeling don't know their village officials."

"They know the President of the U.S. better than they know the elected officials in this village."

## Campaigning

Schultz countered Monday that "even last time, when we ran unopposed, we still campaigned," but added that a contested election was good for the village.

Her Wheeling Progress Party slate, announced earlier, includes incumbent Elizabeth Hartman and newcomers Robert Todd and Wayne Wisinski. The slated candidate for clerk is Jeanne Selander.

Abruscato plans a race with clerk candidate Mike Kurgan, part-owner of an Arlington Heights real estate firm, as well as the Dogs on the Run hot dog stand in Wheeling's Creek Side shopping center.

Mike Lynch, who came up short in his attempt at a board seat on the Abruscato ticket two years ago, will try again. Other Citizens' Party trustee candidates are Zoning Board of Appeals member Sue Smiedinghoff and newcomer Cheryl Fitzpatrick.

## Park fireworks

If there is little excitement at the outset of the Wheeling village race, the beginning of

strict show promise of fireworks.

Steve Telow, the avowed White Christian Racist, has picked up petitions to run for the park board. He sets himself up as Wheeling's opponent of complacency.

He said both the park board and the village board have a penchant for uniformity and unanimous votes, "except for (retiring park board member Ed) Klocke, who voted against the aquatic center."

"It's like a conspiracy. There's nobody on the board who's for the taxpayers."

The 37-year former Chicago tavern owner has been collecting signatures or working for a variety of candidates over the year, including George Wallace, Ed Vrdolyak and David Duke. When he lived in the city, he ran for state representative, 35th Ward alderman and state senator, "and got beat every time, because of the racism, being a bigot, or whatever."

## Racist factor

Telow raised a ruckus at last weekend's Wheeling town meeting chaired by Congressman John Porter, when he told the audience he thought cocaine babies and "AIDS bastards" should be aborted, so that more deserving cancer patients could receive public funds instead.

Telow, 72, said he has recreational experience garnered as president of the old Kilbourn Park Improvement Club, for which he organized Little Leagues.

He hasn't turned in his petitions yet, but said he will before the Feb. 8 deadline. Neither has incumbent Fran Melamed, but she also is expected to return to the fray. Parks President Tom Webber, and Commissioner Greg Klatecki have already filed, as has Mark Parkinson, who helped lead the battle for Aquatic Center votes in both the winning and losing efforts.

"The aquatic center and recreational center are positive things," said title firm owner Parkinson. "We should keep going in that direction."

"There's an awful lot of animosity towards that aquatic center," said Telow. "They should have built that rec center first, and then seen if the people wanted the aquatic

# Officials view BG land swap as answer to several issues

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A land swap with Buffalo Grove has been initiated by Wheeling officials, in an effort to control development, straighten out village borders and placate a restaurateur who wants to annex land into Buffalo Grove.

Wheeling officials this week offered to let Mark Malnati, owner of Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at 85 S. Buffalo Grove Road, switch some property from Wheeling to Buffalo Grove, if the two communities can agree on a series of land transfers.

Malnati wants to convert the property in question — a house located just south of the pizzeria — to offices and put more parking nearby.

"I feel I must be in Buffalo Grove... this is not a big business moving out of Wheeling, but it is a big deal to me," Malnati told Wheeling officials.

The complex deal Wheeling officials proposed includes asking Buffalo Grove trustees not to challenge Wheeling's desire to annex 1.7 acres at the northeast corner of Buffalo Grove and little

Aptakistic roads.

Last August, Ronald Herff, executor of the estate owning that property, filed for annexation to Buffalo Grove on the same day Wheeling trustees annexed the site. Buffalo Grove had targeted the land for multi-family housing while Wheeling thought it was suited for commercial development.

Herff wants to put a commercial use there, but wants utilities extended from Buffalo Grove, which is closer to the property, to make it buildable.

Wheeling officials further proposed that they'll let Buffalo Grove annex the property on the northeast corner of Lake-Cook and Buffalo Grove roads in exchange for Buffalo Grove not challenging the Herff annexation.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said trustees are reviewing the Wheeling proposal and could respond to it later this month.

"I think we'll ultimately work out something to accommodate a local businessman," said Balling. "And our goal, and I think it's Wheeling's goal, is to have a successful business climate."

# 4-legged police officers put bad guys on the run

By Jack Houston

Wheeling Police Officer William Benson and his partner were on patrol on a recent winter night when their squad's two-way radio crackled with a report of an armed robbery.

Just moments earlier, a man entered a convenience store, held a knife to the clerk's throat and emptied the cash register.

Noticing a man on foot who fit the robber's description, Benson slammed on the brakes while his partner gave chase.

The suspect bolted for some nearby woods. But Benson's fleet-footed partner tracked him through heavy brush and across a creek.

When Benson eventually caught up, he discovered his partner had apprehended the suspect.

"By the time I caught up to them, [he was] circling the suspect, who was down on the ground," Benson said. "I never could have done that by myself."

Most police officers would have been hard pressed to match the performance, because Benson's partner, Laser, is a German shepherd and the only four-legged member of the Wheeling Police Department.

Laser's unique abilities—his speed, his agility, his strong sense of smell—are the kinds of tools Wheeling police and other area departments are looking for as suburban crime becomes more serious and criminals more dangerous.

Increasingly, suburban departments are deploying trained dogs to search high-rise buildings and shopping malls, sniff out drugs, track suspects and missing persons... even perform a little public relations with kids by showing



Lake County Sheriff's Deputy Troy Oldham (above, left) attempts to restrain his German shepherd, Panzer, whose jaws are locked around the padded arm of trainer Bruce Marshall during a drug detection exercise held in Wheeling High School. Wheeling Officer William Benson (left) greets his canine partner, Laser, at the beginning of their shift.

Tribune photos by Chuck Berman

# Canine

Continued from page 1

them how the pooches respond to commands.

A handful of suburban departments have canine units, including Wheeling, Roselle, Schaumburg and Vernon Hills. But more are seeing the value of having a dog on staff.

the parking lot where he had left his jacket, hat, gun and money," Smith said.

The team was quickly dubbed Smith & Wesson, after the gun manufacturer.

Wesson was Smith's first police dog. Smith started the canine unit with a mixed-breed shepherd named Bruno, a stray picked up by neighboring Hoffman Estates. Bruno died of cancer in 1985, and Wesson died of a stomach ailment in 1990.

# Officers put bad guys on the run

Tribune 28-93  
By Jack Houston

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Tribune photos by Chuck Berman



## Canine

Continued from page 1

them how the pooches respond to commands.

A handful of suburban departments have canine units, including Wheeling, Roselle, Schaumburg and Vernon Hills. But more are seeing the value of having a dog on staff.

"It's a police procedure used successfully elsewhere over time," said Hoffman Estates Village President Michael O'Malley, whose community is the latest to consider adding a canine to its crime-fighting efforts.

Once simply a bedroom community, the village has grown dramatically over the past decade, and the shopping centers and office complexes that now line its major highways bear out the need for a canine unit, according to O'Malley.

"One-third of Hoffman Estates is made up of forest preserves," O'Malley said. "We have plenty of uses for a dog."

But Hoffman Estates is finding that creating a police canine unit doesn't simply mean getting a dog. At a recent village budget hearing, officials learned that the Police Department would have to pay for a kennel, veterinary care and a four-wheel drive vehicle with special equipment for the dog and its trainer.

When village trustees asked, "How much is that doggie in the Blazer?" The answer came back: \$33,500.

O'Malley thinks it's worth the price. He believes that over time, a police dog will pay for itself.

"One dog can get in there and find a burglar a lot faster. That means you tie up less manpower," O'Malley said.

Schaumburg police know the value of police dogs, having had a canine unit for the last 10 years.

"It's hard to demonstrate need when you're asking for a canine unit," said Schaumburg Police Sgt. Thomas Smith. "While a police dog will never replace a police officer, what you've got is an extra officer working for dog food."

Smith said his German shepherd partner, Wesson, proved his value on the first case they worked together. If it wasn't for Wesson, Smith said he would not have been able to catch an armed robber.

"Wesson found him in the bushes," Smith recalled. "Suddenly, the guy jumped out with his hands up, yelling, 'Don't let the dog bite me.' We all thought he came from the house, because his clothes didn't match the description."

"We kept telling him to go back inside. But Wesson knew he was the guy and eventually led us to

the parking lot where he had left his jacket, hat, gun and money," Smith said.

The team was quickly dubbed Smith & Wesson, after the gun manufacturer.

Wesson was Smith's first police dog. Smith started the canine unit with a mixed-breed shepherd named Bruno, a stray picked up by neighboring Hoffman Estates. Bruno died of cancer in 1985, and Wesson died of a stomach ailment in 1990.

"You can become very attached to the dogs. They become part of the family," Smith said.

In addition to illness, some dogs are killed in the line of duty or die in accidents. When that happens, the animals are treated in some ways just like police officers felled on the job.

Recently, for instance, members of the Vernon Hills Police Department and officers from nearly 30 other agencies gathered for a service for that unit's police dog, Ritchie, who was killed in a traffic accident a week earlier.

Schaumburg's third dog, Major, another shepherd, and his handler, Officer Michael Bowden, work the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift, checking business doors and burglar alarms, stopping speeders, breaking up fights and responding to emergencies.

Recently, he sniffed out 76 grams of marijuana and \$2,000 in cash in a car driven here from Missouri. Another time, Major tracked blood left at a crime scene by a burglar who cut himself while entering a store.

"He took us right to the guy's front door, in an apartment a quarter mile away," Bowden said.

Unlike the Chicago Police Department, which has more than 60 dogs in four separate canine units, suburban departments usually get along with only one dog.

"Other governmental agencies are seeing the need and forming their own canine units," said Chicago Police Lt. Earl Zuelke, who as head of the department's main canine unit oversees 31 dogs and their handlers.

In addition to the main unit, the department's Mass Transit Unit handles 20 dogs, the O'Hare Law Enforcement Unit uses six dogs for bomb detection and the Organized Crime Unit uses another six dogs for narcotics investigations.

Hoffman Estates borrows Schaumburg's canine unit about 12 times each year, and also relies on aid from the Illinois State Police and the Cook County Forest Preserve District, but borrowing depends on availability.

"We only call for a dog in extreme emergencies," said Hoffman Estates assistant chief Clinton Herdegen. "If we got a dog, it would always be on patrol with its handler."

# Mullins' hat in ring, Stark takes his out

BY KIM MIRUS  
and DEEDRA LAWHEAD  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

One high-profile suburban mayor is out. Another hopes to stay in.

The races for suburban mayors, already complicated by record numbers of candidates in some towns, look an interesting twist Monday when Bartlett Village President John Stark announced he would not seek re-election. The man who rode the protest over the proposed balefill to victory four years ago said Monday he wants to "take a break" from public office.

Meanwhile, in Palatine, Rita Mullins said Monday she will fight for re-election against Wendell Jones, the former Palatine village president invigorated for another shot at the title by Mullins' fall from grace with the local GOP organization.

"I intend to run on my record, and the citizens of Palatine that are content with what I've been doing, I hope will respond," Mullins said as she filed nominating petitions with about 500 signatures hours before Monday's deadline.

The January massacre of seven employees of a Palatine Brown's Chicken & Pasta restaurant changed Mullins from an obscure local figure to a recognizable face on the 10 p.m. news. In response to the tragedy, she has gone to Washington D.C. to lobby for stricter gun control laws.

But Mullins' announcement pits her directly against local Republican Party officials and Jones, the GOP's endorsed candidate. Mullins angered the GOP when she ran an unsuccessful primary campaign last March to unseat State Rep. Bernard

Continued from Page 1

Commissioner Robert G. Todd and Wayne Wisinski as trustee candidates and Jeanne Selander as the candidate for village clerk.

Abruscato's slate, the Citizen's of Wheeling Party, includes trustee candidates Cheryl Fitzpatrick, Michael Lynch and Sue Smedinghoff and village clerk candidate Mike Kurgan.

Independent candidate William Spandenbergh also is running for Wheeling trustee.

In Buffalo Grove, no one new filed on Monday, but a lottery was held to determine the ballot position of the three incumbents, all of whom filed Feb. 1. Charles Hendricks will be first on the ballot, followed by Jeffrey Braiman and William Reid.

Here is a list of candidates running in local races:

**Buffalo Grove Park District Board:** Karen Larson (I) and Robert McNesly (I).

**Buffalo Grove Village Board:** Jeffrey Braiman (I), Charles Hendricks (I) and William Reid.

**Indian Trails Library Board:** Wynne E. Weiss (I), Richard C. Tripp (I) and Rita Obuchowski (I).

**Long Grove Park District Board:**



## Newcomer joins Long Grove race

BY MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Long Grove village trustee race turned into a four-way battle as a political newcomer entered the fray Monday — the last day to file petitions for municipal elections in April.

Long Grove Village Tavern owner Norma Sayles filed at the end of the day Monday, assuring that her name would be last on the ballot.

Sayles will take on three trustee candidates slated by the Long Grove Nominating Committee: Robert Greiner, who ran for trustee three years ago as part of the Independent Voters of Long Grove, and plan commissioners Gregory Conley and Jeri Monroe.

Trustee Lenore Simmons, the Nominating Committee's candidate for village president, remains unopposed, as does Maria Rodriguez, the Nominating Committee's candidate for village clerk.

In Wheeling, Judy Abruscato will try to unseat three-term village president Sheila H. Schultz.

Schultz's slate, the Wheeling Progress Party, includes incumbent Elizabeth L. Hartman, Wheeling parks

Barry Nathanson (I) and Nancy Whitney (I).

**Long Grove Village President:** Lenore Simmons.

**Long Grove Village Board:** Gregory Conley, Robert Greiner, Jeri Monroe and Norma Sayles.

**Long Grove Village Clerk:** Maria Rodriguez.

**Vernon Area Public Library Board:** Donn Calloway, Charles Harding (I) and E.W. "Bill" Millholland.

**Vernon Township Assessor:** Gary Raupp (I).

**Vernon Township Board:** G. William Phillips (I), Dan Prowse (I), Kathleen Rubinstein (I), Jennifer Steinger and Davida Terry.

**Vernon Township Clerk:** Barbara Barnaby (I).

**Vernon Township Highway Commissioner:** Dave Anderson (I).

**Vernon Township Supervisor:** William E. Peterson (I).

**Wheeling Park District Board:** Greg L. Klutecki (I), Francine Melamed (I), Michael J. Orlando, Mark Parkinson, Stephen J. Telow, Tom R. Webber (I).

**Wheeling Village President:** Judy Abruscato and Sheila H. Schultz (I).

**Wheeling Village Board:** Cheryl Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth L. Hartman (I), Michael Lynch, Sue Smedinghoff, Robert G. Todd and Wayne Wisinski.

**Wheeling Village Clerk:** Mike Kurgan and Jeanne Selander.

**Wheeling Township Assessor:** Dolores Stephen (I).

**Wheeling Township Board:** Edward Main (I), Martin Mulkerrin, Jerry Sadler (I) and Wayne Wagner (I).

**Wheeling Township Clerk:** Paula L. Ulrich (I).

**Wheeling Township Collector:** Georgia L. Wiltsie (I).

**Commissioner:** John T. Ayers (I).

**Wheeling Township Supervisor:** Ruth B. Grundberg (I).

# Wheeling board OKs plans for Alzheimer's care facility

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling came one step closer to becoming home to the state's first residential care facility for victim's of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders Tuesday when the village's zoning board of appeals endorsed the project.

The zoning board, in a 5-1 vote with board member Thomas Kirchner absent and Susan M. Smedinghoff objecting, backed a proposal by Mequon, Wis.-based New Perspective Inc. to build the New Perspective Specialty Care Homes facility where 36 to 48 people, mostly seniors would live.

The state-licensed development, slated for a 4.7-acre site at 760 N. McHenry Road, would include three 7,000 square-foot, single-story buildings with enclosed yards and gardens, interior walking areas and private rooms, company officials had said.

The officials sought a variance to the village's zoning code so they could erect three buildings on the parcel which now contains one single-family house.

Diane C. Bjorkman, president of the company, said New Perspective wanted to develop the

project with single-story buildings so it fits in with the houses and apartments surrounding the site. She also said that in a large high-rise development, the residents of the development tend to become distracted.

"We want to have three small buildings to keep in our philosophy with our concept of residential buildings...the residents take part. If the residents want to set the table, they set the table. It's much like a home," she said.

Smedinghoff objected to the parcel the development was slated for fearing that its higher elevation at one end would cause storm water run-off to create flooding problems for neighbors.

Thomas E. Fennell, building, housing and zoning administrator for the village, said ordinances specify that all the storm water held on the undeveloped parcel must be held there even after construction is completed.

The project now goes to the village board, which could vote on it next month. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, dementia-related neurological disorder in which the victim loses memory, has impaired judgment and becomes disoriented.

# Bike trail may link villages

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling may get its first few miles of bike path, linking its train station site and aquatic center to each other and to Buffalo Grove and Vernon Hills' extensive path systems.

All three towns will know next month if they qualify for federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act funds. If they do, it won't be long before bicyclists can peddle their way from Dundee Road to Route 60.

"I think it's a great idea," said Wheeling village President Sheila Schultz. "And in a lot of areas, not just recreational." She envisions bike racks springing up all along the 2.5-mile-long path, as it links businesses, homes and recreational facilities.

A Buffalo Grove path running east and west just north of Lake-Cook Road currently dead-ends as it approaches the Wisconsin Central tracks. The new path would join it and continue south under Lake-Cook Road on the Commonwealth Edison right-of-way, along the east side of the new Eastwood subdivision.

It would cut cross-country to McHenry Road and pro-

ceed to the south side of Dundee Road to the site of the new park district aquatic center, recreation center and proposed Metra commuter train station.

The planning of the bike path took place in two meetings between Wheeling Planner Mark Janeck, his Buffalo Grove counterpart Bob Pfeil, Wheeling parks Superintendent Karop Bavougian, Buffalo Grove parks boss Mike Rylko, and John Green, an architect and Buffalo Grove Rotary club member.

Those meetings are a little unusual between two towns that haven't always cooperated closely in the past.

"The professional people are friendly in both towns," said Janeck. "Perhaps they were in a mood to get something done together."

They needed to be in a mood to get work done, because they didn't have much time. The Chicago Area Transportation Study, which administers the federal grant program, didn't send application papers to the villages until mid-January, and they're due Friday, according to Janeck.

The planners had to come up with ways to avoid the railroad tracks, cut through an embankment under Lake-Cook Road, and forge an

agreement with Com Ed.

The Buffalo Grove-Wheeling plan has a much better chance of approval because it links public transportation hubs — the proposed Metra stations in both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, and because the towns got together on it — according to Janeck. "No question about it, the (program) was made for intergovernmental cooperation."

"I think it just shows when there is a lot of common interest, when there's commonality, we can work together very closely," said Schultz.

Both towns' Rotary clubs are cooperating, too, raising money to cover their villages' ends of the project not paid for by the feds. Buffalo Grove needs to come up with about \$12,000 on its end, and Green said his club will try to cover as much as possible.

Wheeling Community Development Director Mike Klitzke, secretary of his town's Rotary club, said the same for his end. But Wheeling would have to cover \$66,000, and is presently searching out several additional funding sources.

Vernon Hills plans its own ISTE-funded bikeway project which would extend the southern reach of its system.

# Metra gets green light for new line

Countryside 2-11-93

By JAMIE SOTONOFF  
STAFF WRITER

A new Wisconsin Central commuter train line will be up and running in this area by September, 1995, Metra officials promise.

After several years of discussing the project, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said Metra believes it has finally found the necessary funding for the train line through state, federal and local sources.

The proposed Wisconsin Central commuter line is expected to cost \$47 million, according to Metra's latest estimate. It would run through Franklin Park, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire, Vernon Hills, Mundelein, Libertyville, Grayslake, Round Lake Beach, Lake Villa and Antioch and would connect with the Milwaukee West line for access to Chicago's Union Station.

On Tuesday, Metra officials announced they would apply for a Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) grant, from which they expect to receive several million dollars in federal funding. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) also recently offered to chip in

between \$5 million to \$10 million.

"At this time, we haven't made any commitments. But we have money that is available and we'd like to be a partner in this," IDOT's division of public transportation director Steven Schindel said Monday.

## Green light

With money waiting in the wings, Metra engineers and planners have been given the green light to start work on their plans. Knapton said Metra will present engineering plans to municipalities as early as this spring.

"You won't see any earth movers out there building railroad track, but we've already got an army of draftsmen down here totally redesigning the signal system," he said.

Metra engineers and planners are also working on an environmental study, which must be completed before any grant money is awarded. Knapton said he expects the study to be finished this spring. The study will examine things like ridership forecasts, traffic patterns and the number of cars expected to be taken off the road. Then, formulas will be used to cal-

culate what this means in terms of carbon monoxide.

"The report will say, we can eliminate X number of tons of pollutants and that a new train will improve the air quality. Once you get that in the record, you can go ahead with the project," Knapton said.

## Widespread support

The municipalities affected by the new train line strongly support the project both in concept and in dollars and are thrilled to see project move ahead.

"Community reaction is very positive and that seems to be the case in all the other communities," said Wheeling Village President Shiela Schultz, who is also the head of the Mayors Task Force for Wisconsin Central. "We are very excited about this."

As proof of their support, municipalities have offered to build their own depots and parking facilities for the project, helping Metra slash the price tag in half. Last April, the new train line was expected to cost \$93.2 million. Now the cost is estimated at \$46.7 million.

This financial support has helped Metra make the project a reality, Knapton noted.

Municipalities hope their local businesses will help pay for these new depots. Schultz said several businesses have already expressed an interest in making the new train depots joint business developments, such as putting a day care facility or a bakery adjacent to the depot. In Vernon Hills, village officials have considered combining a new train depot with a clubhouse for their municipal golf course.

"This (train line) is one of those things that everyone benefits from," Schultz explained.

Residents in the impacted municipalities have also spoken out in favor of the new train and even have given their village officials approval to spend money on it. In an advisory referendum in Mundelein in November 1990, for example, residents voted almost two to one in support of spending between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million on site acquisition and construction of a train depot in town.

## Excess cars

Another money-saving move that helped Metra afford this new Wisconsin Central line was its purchase of 173 wheelchair-accessible

rail cars. The new Americans with Disabilities Act forced Metra to put at least one handicapped-accessible car on each train, giving them a net increase of more than 100 new cars, Knapton said.

"The old cars are in good shape, and we won't have to buy new coaches which would have cost about \$41 million," he said.

By using the extra cars, Knapton estimated that Metra saved more than \$40 million on new rail cars that it would have had to buy for the Wisconsin Central line.

## Funding sources

Federal grant money is expected to come by way of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. In 1991, a new law gave CMAQ money for things like commuter trains to state and local sources. The money was divided based on factors like population and density. Thus, a state like Utah, which only has one or two big cities, would get less money for a new train than a state like Pennsylvania, which has several large towns.

This has left local groups, rather than the federal government, to decide what projects merit federal funding.

# New liquor policy has keg tappers bristling

COUNTRYSIDE

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

2-11-93

Wheeling Trustees say there aren't any problems with liquor sales in restaurants and taverns in town, but they've instructed village staff to write a new policy to make it easier to abide by the liquor ordinance.

Local keg tappers agree that there aren't any problems. Not until the new policy comes out, anyway.

The policy is a written statement, filed each year, describing how the prospective licensee plans to run his establishment to keep it safe and orderly. The new policy would be a minimum standard, and would define how a licensee allows his employees and customers to behave.

That confuses bar and restaurant owners who have written their own policies for years, and run clean establishments.

"If you don't have any judgment, they shouldn't give you a liquor license in the first place," said Jim Masterson, owner of Hackney's Restaurant, 241 S. Milwaukee Ave. The old policies, written by the applicants themselves, indicated if they had any idea how to run a tavern. The new ones would spell it out for them, while not going far beyond liquor ordinance standards.

One of the points on the

proposed policy drew amused comments from local owners. While stating the obvious — "The establishment will call a cab for an intoxicated patron, or have a friend or relative drive the person home" — it doesn't necessarily work in the real world.

"You can call a cab, but you can't force anybody to get in it," said Joe Adornatto, owner of Hatfield's Pub, 141 S. Milwaukee. "And a lot of the drivers don't want to take them if they've been drinking at all."

"Ever try calling a cab in Wheeling?" asked Masterson. "If you plan on calling a cab for a customer, better plan on staying open a couple hours longer."

Another policy point instructs bartenders, "If an intoxicated individual becomes violent or abusive, the police department will be notified immediately." One tavern owner said that's fine, but remembers a former licensee who was "chided" for repeated calls. "It seemed unfair to call him on the carpet for that. But on the whole, it's a lot easier to just call the cops."

Jim Lederer, general manager of Don Roth's Restaurant, 61 N. Milwaukee, said getting two ID's from "any patron who appears to be no more than 25" is standard practice in many establishments today without a



Tim J. Tufty/Pioneer Press

Requiring a second identification for anyone that looks under 25 is just one of a number of

new rules spelled out in Wheeling's new liquor policy.

specific policy, "but it's easier to put on the books than it is to enforce."

As for calling cabs for patrons, he said, "At this point, it's becoming more frequent. Restaurant workers are more aware of intox-

ication levels — even our new people.

"But it's difficult to get a cab out here. And in seven years, I've only done that for one person. People who come here are out for a dif-

ferent reason. They're not just bar-hopping."

The restaurant paid for the ride. "For a \$20 cost, it beats hell out of a lawsuit or the other problems it can cause."

# Wheeling has lots of candidates, no issues

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Countryside  
2-11-93

An independent trustee candidate filed last week to challenge the slates put up by Village President Sheila Schultz and Trustee Judy Abruscato.

They don't make independents like they used to.

William C. Spangenberg, 37, said "There really aren't any issues. I don't have any crusades, nothing that sticks in my craw, no issue I want passed."

The week before, Abruscato announced her own slate, remarking that she, too, was satisfied with the way the village had been run.

Spangenberg said the reason Wheeling needs him is because he is Wheeling.

"I think the village has changed over, as far as demographics go," he said. "I fit the profile of

the typical citizen at this point.

"I'm the right age, in my late 30's, with three little kids, and I'm mortgaged. I did not buy my house for \$17,000 31 years ago.

"And I'm in the right profession. I'm a lawyer."

**"I fit the profile of the typical citizen at this point."**

He said the village board can use his help because "I understand legislation. I deal with statutes all the time. I majored in political science. I understand these kinds of things."

He joins Abruscato's slate of Sue Smiedinghoff, a Zoning Board of Appeals member, newcomer Cheryl Fitzpatrick, and Mike Lynch, who

ran for the board two years ago. The Citizens for Wheeling's clerk candidate is Mike Kurgan, owner of a hot dog stand and a real estate firm. Abruscato is running for Village President. She doesn't have to give up her seat to do so.

Schultz's slate includes herself in the top job, incumbent Elizabeth Hartman, Parks Commissioner Robert Todd and ZBA member Wayne Wisinski. Jeanne Selander is running for clerk.

Trustees William Rogers and Joseph Ratajczak are retiring from the board after more than a decade's service each.

The Wheeling Park District has four spots open, and seven candidates. They include incumbents Fran Melamed, Greg Klatacki and President Tom Webber. Ed Klocke is retiring. Challengers are Mark Parkinson, Mike Orlando and Steve Telow.

## Wheeling trustee hopeful challenges foe's petition

2-13-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The nominating petition of independent Wheeling village board hopeful William G. Spangenberg is being challenged by another trustee candidate who claims it contains questionable signatures.

Wheeling Progress Party village trustee candidate Robert G. Todd filed the challenge with the village Friday claiming eight of the 77 people on Spangenberg's petition were not registered voters; that two other residents signed who had also signed petitions for other candidates; and another person wrote only a last name.

"That's why the election rules are as they are, and it's important to follow procedure," said Todd.

Todd said questions about the signatures arose when his party reviewed the petitions of all the candidates for the board. Including Spangenberg, there currently are 11 candidates running for five open seats on the Wheeling village board.

Spangenberg said he found that some of the signatures questioned were made by registered voters, and was uncertain what the election law covers regarding people



who sign nominating petitions for multiple candidates for the same office.

"I want to know what is the source of the claim these people are not registered voters?" said Spangenberg, who added he was actively verifying the signatures.

Under state election law, the village must convene a local electoral board comprised of two village trustees not affiliated with the Wheeling Progress Party or the Citizens For Wheeling Party slate headed by Trustee Judy Abruscato, who is seeking the village president post.

That panel will review the challenge and make a ruling on the matter. Todd and Spangenberg can have attorneys present at the review.

Village officials said they were uncertain when they would appoint the panel and hold the hearing. The deadline for contesting candidates' nominating petitions for the April 20 election is Wednesday.

## Wheeling joins push to keep state income tax surcharge

2-17-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging Gov. Jim Edgar and the General Assembly to make the state income tax surcharge permanent.

The board passed the resolution the Illinois Municipal League urged its member communities to approve, asking the governor and legislators to keep the "temporary" surcharge for cities, which is set to expire June 30. This year, that surcharge is expected to generate \$320 million statewide, and Wheeling is set to receive \$837,500 as its share.

"We still receive a substantial amount of dollars from the surcharge... This has proven to be a source of revenue that we've used to keep the property taxes as low as we can," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Currently, Edgar is uncertain if the surcharge should be maintained and is considering recommending that that money instead go to the state treasury. Wheeling Village President

Sheila H. Schultz said that in the first year of the surcharge, the state and cities split those tax revenues. The following year, she said, the municipalities received less money.

"It's been a very tentative thing from the beginning," Schultz said.

Schultz added that when the surcharge first went into effect in 1989, some lawmakers feared the money would be spent frivolously.

Noting that Wheeling abated money it received from such revenue sharing then, using it to reduce its 1990 tax levy, Schultz said legislators later told her the gesture to taxpayers was "a stupid thing to do."

As originally approved, the surcharge increased Illinois income tax rates by 20 percent, to 3 percent for individuals and 4.8 percent for corporations, but for only two years. In 1991, the General Assembly made the portion for schools permanent and the life of the cities share was extended to this spring.

Daily Herald staff writer Kristy Phariss contributed to this report.

## Villages call truce in land war

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Countryside  
2-17-93

A truce seems to have been called in the traditional land wars between Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, as the towns are close to an agreement on three pieces of land they previously guarded jealously.

Parcel peace was declared after Mark Malnati pleaded with Wheeling to let a Wheeling lot he bought south of Lou Malnati's restaurant in Buffalo Grove be released so he could use it as a parking lot for the eatery.

Wheeling wouldn't let him use it as a parking lot, and Buffalo Grove wouldn't provide water and sewer service if it wasn't in the village. It would have cost a lot more to bring the pipes from Wheeling, which has none close by.

Malnati wants to convert a house on the property to an office building, and use the rest of it for parking. "As far

as converting the building into an office building and allowing him to expand his parking, we're certainly willing to accommodate Mr. Malnati," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz. Malnati had been waiting for a break from Wheeling for many months.

The deal also would allow a house now in Wheeling, on the northeast corner of Buffalo Grove and Lake Cook Roads to similarly detach so the residents can also get water and sewer service from Buffalo Grove. That would put the entire intersection in Buffalo Grove, and also give it responsibility for responding to the accidents on that corner.

In addition, Buffalo Grove would have to provide a school crossing guard at a cost of up to \$7,000 per year.

Buffalo Grove trustees will be asked to drop the village's challenge to Wheeling's August annexation of the

1.7-acre property belonging to the Marie Raupp estate on the northeast corner of Buffalo Grove and Short Aptakasic Roads. Wheeling forcibly annexed the land on the same day last summer that executor Ronald Herff petitioned Buffalo Grove for inclusion in that village.

"I don't think it's a deal-breaker," said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling of the third portion of the proposed agreement. It may be the weakest part, because, like Malnati's, it has no water or sewer service, and it would be costly for the estate to bring them from the nearest in Wheeling to the site. And the estate may be interested in a commercial use, and Wheeling is amenable, while Buffalo Grove is probably not.

"We could have said, 'We're sorry, we're not going to do anything for anybody,'" said Schultz. "At least we made an attempt to make a different situation for Mr. Malnati."

# Opticom has motorists seeing red

Countyside 2-17-93

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

The collective American consciousness has been raised enough for many of us to accept socialized medicine, gays in the military and interplanetary travel, but there are still people who don't stop and pull over for a fire truck.

"I'll tell you, it amazes me, but they do it all the time," said firefighter-paramedic Ken Emerich, who drives trucks, engines and ambulances for the Wheeling Fire Department. "They're not paying attention, or listening to music, or looking at the stoplight."

That's why his village was expected Tuesday to pass an ordinance effectively doubling the number of devices that now automatically change a red light to green for an oncoming fire vehicle. That way, when a motorist approaching an intersection fixates on the light instead of noticing a fire truck or ambulance, he or she will be fixating on a red light, and will hopefully stop.

The fourth Opticom, as the 3M-developed devices are called, costs \$6,661 and would be installed at Dundee and Elmhurst Roads. It would join others now at Wheeling and Palatine Roads and Dundee and Old McHenry Roads. A third, at Milwaukee and Dundee Roads, is awaiting state approval.

## Seeing red

Motorists need not worry about preparing themselves for an episode with an Opticom. The lights change from green to yellow to red for all competing sides of the intersection, just a little quicker than they would normally. The system engages after a sensor on top of the traffic signal reads a high-frequency strobe light mounted on the fire truck.

The emergency vehicle then typically pulls into the oncoming traffic lane, and goes around the cars on its own side of the street, according to Emerich. When it approaches the intersection it doesn't have to slow down much, because cars on the cross street are typically at a full stop for the red light.

He said the drivers "you're never quite sure are going to stop" slow down a fire truck far more often than the ones that are oblivious. And it takes fifteen or twenty seconds for several tons of ladder truck to start



Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

Firefighter/paramedic Pat Trunda checks out an intersection as he flips on the Opticom

lights red. The department is seeking a fourth Opticom signal at Elmhurst and Dundee Roads.

up again after stopping.

But the advantage of the Opticom is safety more than speed, according to Deputy Chief Ralph Perricone. His department has a good roadway safety record, and he wants to keep it that way.

"In the last 15 years, there's only one (accident) I can recall, but the odds are going to catch up to us," he said.

## By request only

He'd like to see Opticoms on all the lights in town, but he probably won't. Wheeling, older than most neighboring communities, couldn't demand Opticom-equipped lights from developers as part of the price of approval.

The first one in the village was installed on Wheeling Road two years ago, but that doesn't mean Wheeling will install a couple each year. The village is considering them on request from the fire department, on an as-needed basis.

Police vehicles could be fitted for use with the devices, but "they go so fast they overpower the signal," said Perricone. "They're already in the intersection before it has a chance to operate."

There's little danger of



Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

The Opticom sensor sits above the traffic light, and reads signals from an activated unit on a fire truck.

two fire truck drivers approaching the same intersection, both expecting the light to change for them, and meeting by accident.

According to Lt. Mike Proebstle, a "solid white" light shines above the signal if another vehicle is controlling it.

## Wheeling considers Alzheimer's facilities

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling is likely to soon welcome homes tailored especially for Alzheimer's Disease sufferers. There are few of those nationwide, and this would be one of the first in the state.

Those plagued with the disease, which robs sufferers of memory and other faculties, including speech, usually must stay at home with relatives. Their wandering, distracted behavior can be an annoyance and danger to fellow nursing home residents.

Diane Bjorklund, principal owner of the proposed facility, said its three homes planned for a five-acre strip of land at 760 N. McHenry Road are fashioned after five owned by her partners, New Perspectives Inc. of Mequon, Wis.

### No dead-ends

Those homes are built with an indoor solarium, and a long hallway with no dead-ends, which tend to frustrate pacing sufferers of Alzheimer's and other dementias. Residents of the homes would be able to walk outside into fenced gardens to enjoy the outdoors. They would have private rooms with showers.

The plan has cleared the Wheeling plan commission and zoning boards, and is scheduled to come before the village board for approval March 15. That seems likely, as two of the principal complaints of commissioners and staffers have been largely assuaged. Bjorklund's original attempt to build five homes for 12-16 people each was reduced to three on the request of Village Planner Mark Janeck months ago. He and other staffers felt it was too many for the residential plot which now contains a single home.

Questions about stormwater runoff have evaporated, according to village build-ings and zoning administrator Tom Fennell.

The state licensed the proposed facility in mid-January, according to Bjorklund.

### A place of their own

"Previously, the real thrust was toward integrated care," said Bjorklund, referring to the practice of placing Alzheimer's

(Continued on page 14)

patients with other nursing home residents.

"But they are often shunned, their behaviors are rejected, and they're yelled at, which is the opposite of what they need. What they need is not to be put down."

"In this situation, sheltered care is better."

Residents at the Wisconsin facilities are cared for by nursing staffers on a 24-hour basis, and are allowed to do minor chores such as table setting if they desire to do so. "It's as much of a family-type setting as possible," said Bjorklund. The residents of the Wheeling homes would have similar

lifestyles, she said.

The fees would total about \$3,200 per month, and nothing would be covered by Medicare or Medicaid. But Bjorklund said the Wisconsin homes filled up quickly, and so would those in Wheeling, partly because nursing home care costs even more.

the money in the new budget which must be submitted to both committees for approval. Officials from both communities could approve the budget without comment or reject it noting the raises. Althert, the commission's finance committee chairman, said that the budget could be ready for approval by his committee at its March 2 meeting. Commissioners hope to have the budget approved before the start of the new fiscal year May 1.

has not been set. Airport officials expect to generate \$1.6 million in revenue and make \$1.2 million in expenditures this fiscal year, which ends April 30. Previously, William A. Rogers, a Wheeling trustee on the commission, advocated increasing the stipend to \$125. Commissioner Elizabeth L. Hartman, who is also a Wheeling trustee, advocated raising the fee to only \$100. If the commission supports the stipend increase, it would include

The commission is mulling the stipend increase in light of a recent proposal by Prospect Heights Mayor Edward F. Roehford to eliminate the \$50-per-meeting stipend members of that city's council receive. Roehford's proposal later received a negative recommendation by a city council committee and never came before alderman for a vote. The final budget for the airport

stipend has not increased since the commission was formed in 1986, shortly after the committees of Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased the airport. "That (the \$50 increase) is what we're proposing at this point," Commissioner Anthony Althert Jr. said. The commission consists of eight members, four from each community, who are appointed by officials in those communities to run the airport under an intergo-

had said that the commissioners' \$50. Chairman Robert E. Strauss discussed raising the fee by \$25 or \$50 to each receive \$75 per meeting. Last month, the commissioners, pending meetings, by \$50 the fee they receive for at-ers Wednesday indicated they still are considering a budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year that would raise by \$50 the fee they receive for at-

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

# Wheeling officials hope to tie centennial project to land deal

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials want to tie a lease for a commemorative project to village efforts to acquire a parcel of land in Buffalo Grove.

Commissioners Thursday approved pursuing an agreement to lease land to Wheeling for a fountain or small park to commemorate the village's centennial.

The project would be on the 17 1/2-acre site on Dundee Road between Wickes Furniture Co. and the village hall, where the district's \$5 million, 17,000 square-foot aquatic center is under construction.

In exchange for the lease, park officials want Wheeling officials to pursue acquiring a four-tenths acre parcel of land that is north of Chevy Chase Golf Course within

Buffalo Grove's boundaries.

Park officials want to acquire the land, which is adjacent to Johnson Drive, so they can fully own the golf course, located at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The site on Johnson Drive is just west of Milwaukee Avenue.

Wheeling officials recently proposed a complex land swap with Buffalo Grove officials to straighten borders between the towns and control development.

The plan also is designed to placate restaurateur Mark Malnati, who wants to disannex from Wheeling a property just south of Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at 85 S. Buffalo Grove Road.

Park officials want Wheeling to include the Johnson Drive land in the deal for allowing Malnati to disannex a house on his property from Wheeling. Malnati hopes to

place additional parking on the land for his Buffalo Grove restaurant.

"I think we have to get an inter-governmental agreement... We could say this (leased site) is contingent on that property," Director of Parks and Recreation Karop T. Bavougian said.

Wheeling officials previously had discussed construction of a fountain or small park to mark the village's 100-year celebration in 1994.

The project would be on a parcel of unspecified size on the park district's aquatic center site where the old Koeppen farm once sat.

Officials from both towns may discuss the deal publicly later this month.

Park officials also want input on the centennial project's design.

# Hearing planned in petition challenge

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials today will convene a special municipal electoral board to hear the challenge to the trustee nominating petition filed by William C. Spangenberg.

The hearing is set to occur at 8:15 p.m. at the Wheeling Administrative Center, 255 W. Dundee Road. As required by state law, the panel hearing the complaint will comprise Village Clerk Patricia J. Drewes, Joseph W. Ratajczak, the trustee with the longest tenure on the village board,

and Robert Peck, a LaGrange attorney chosen by the Cook County Circuit Court from its list of impartial parties.

State law allows the village president on the three-person panel, but Wheeling Village President Shella H. Schultz excused herself from the board because she is running for a fourth term. Ratajczak, who has been a trustee 12 years, will be chairman of the special board.

Robert G. Todd, who is also running for trustee with Schultz on the Wheeling Progress Party ticket, challenged Spangenberg's peti-



tion, saying it contained questionable signatures.

Spangenberg is the lone independent candidate running for trustee.

On Spangenberg's petition that contained 77 signatures, Todd, currently a Wheeling Park District commissioner, claimed there were eight signatures from people

who weren't registered voters; that two other residents signing for Spangenberg also signed petitions for other candidates; and another person only wrote a last name.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the village will have independent attorneys serving as legal counsel to the panel, and that Todd and Spangenberg can require Cook County Clerk David Orr to check the rolls.

Rhodes said the panel's decision on the filing is subject to review by the Cook County Circuit Court.

# Palwaukee commissioners consider increase in stipends

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Airport commission-ers Wednesday indicated they still are considering a budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year that would raise by \$50 the fee they receive for at-

had said that the commissioners' \$50. Chairman Robert E. Strauss discussed raising the fee by \$25 or \$50 to each receive \$75 per meeting. Last month, the commissioners, pending meetings, by \$50 the fee they receive for at-

ed from page 7



The Brickman Group received an award from the Village of Wheeling's Appearance Commission for creating the landscape setting at 401 S. Milwaukee Ave.

## Wheeling lauds office landscaping

By GERRY ALGER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

### COMMERCIAL REALTY

The Village of Wheeling recently honored The Brickman Group landscape company for its role in creating the landscape setting for the office building at 401 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The nine-year-old building selected for the award was designed and is owned and occupied in part by the architectural firm of Erickson & Stevens. The Brickman Group designed the original landscape and has maintained it since the beginning.

The awards, given annually by Wheeling's Appearance Commission, recognize the work of architects, landscape architects, business owners and homeowners in their efforts to improve the town's appearance. Awards are given in four categories: multi-family, industrial, commercial and non-profit.

### Elk Grove lease

Technical Concepts L.P. has leased 39,500 square feet of space at 1100 Pratt Blvd. in Elk Grove Village.

The Chicago-based sales, distribution and manufacturing firm specializes in cleaning and chemical supplies and expanded operations.

Bennett & Kahnweiler represented both Technical Concepts and building ownership, Meridian Point Properties in lease negotiations.

### Office leases

Two companies have leased a total of 7,756 square feet at the Grand Tri-State Corporate Centre. Building ownership was represented by Tri-State Realty. Anchor Glass Container, repre-

sented by CB Commercial, leased 2,976 square feet for a sales office.

Rose-Tillmann, an insurance and bonding company from Northbrook, leased 4,780 square feet and was represented by Cushman & Wakefield.

### Industrial leases

Corporate Realty Advisors leased over 21,000 square feet of industrial space at 747 and 787 Glenn Ave. in Wheeling.

Children on the Go, a clothing distributor, negotiated a lease for 7,500 square feet. Arthur Rogers & Co. represented the tenant.

R/J Contracting Services leased 14,300 square feet. The space will accommodate R/J's office furniture distribution business. Equis Corp. represented the tenant.

# Independent drops his bid for trustee spot

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Some politicians claim that if elected, they'll save taxpayers money. Wheeling's Bill Spangenberg says he'll save taxpayers money by not running.

Spangenberg, the only village trustee candidate running against slates put up by Trustee Judy Abruscato and Village President Sheila Schultz, decided not to run when one of Schultz' slated candidates, Robert Todd, challenged some of his petition signatures.

He said there was half a chance he wouldn't succeed in defending his petitions, and he didn't want the village to waste money for outside attorneys fighting his attempt to get on the ballot. Most of the challenged signatures were those signed with nicknames or middle names instead of the way they're presented on election registration cards.

### Costly defense

It wouldn't cost Spangenberg anything but time, since he's a lawyer. "But it bothered me to ask taxpayers to pay for a defense."

"If I prevailed at the electoral board (the village level), and (Todd) wanted to take it all the way to the Circuit Court, and perhaps

the appellate court, and the village had to hire outside council, it might get very expensive."

Spangenberg said he didn't sign up "dead people, or people who weren't registered. One thing I did, I made sure I asked everybody if they were a registered voter. I didn't go into a tavern, pass the thing down the bar, and buy a round of beers. These are real people, with real kids, who I know."

"I'll know better next time."

Jack Quigley, of the Cook County Clerk's election office, said Tuesday if the challenge were to be taken beyond the village level, Todd would have to do so, not the village. Some of the costs could be charged back to the village if Todd won "but that (chargebacks) rarely happens," said Quigley.

### Intent that counts

He said the state board of elections would almost certainly have verified signatures of valid voters even if they weren't exactly as shown on registrations. "It's the intent that's important," he said.

Spangenberg had submitted 77 signatures to satisfy the requirement of 73, (Continued on page 15)

though he could have brought in over 100. Eight were challenged as not being registered, but Spangenberg said two of those were indeed registered as signed, and the rest had nicknames or abbreviations. Two signature were challenged because they were of people who also signed for one of the parties' candidates previously. Under Illinois law, voters can't sign for independents after signing for a party candidate.

"I'll keep my eyes on things," said Spangenberg. "There are three more trustee seats up in two years, and there are other public bodies that have elections. I have three kids in every conceivable program in the park district."

## Wheeling considers instituting sales tax

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Faced with the possibility of losing state income tax surcharge revenue and having property tax income capped, Wheeling trustees are considering instituting the village's first sales tax.

Trustees Monday indicated they would support placing a tax on retail sales in the village equal to 0.25 percent of the purchase price of goods or services, to make up for revenue losses incurred due to state-imposed restrictions.

Currently, the village is one of the few in the area without such a tax, though consumers still pay a 7.75 percent Cook County sales tax on retail purchases.

"If someone is having a difficult time, a lot of this spending is dis-

cretionary," Village President Shelia H. Schultz said. "... The sales tax is something people are used to paying."

Under the proposed sales tax, groceries, drugs and big-ticket items such as automobiles would be exempted from the sales tax.

Village officials estimated that with such a tax, Wheeling could generate \$600,000 annually.

The sales tax was part of a number of proposals made by the village's staff to find ways to generate revenue to replace \$600,000 that Wheeling would lose this year — and \$800,000 the next fiscal year — if the General Assembly were to approve eliminating the state income tax surcharge for municipalities, which is set to expire June 30.

This year, that surcharge is ex-

pected to generate \$320 million statewide, and Wheeling is set to receive \$837,500 as its share.

Other taxes trustees mulled included a home rule property tax and taxes on real estate transfers, hotels and motels, utilities and an increase in ambulance fees.

If trustees were to institute a home rule sales tax, they said they would consider eliminating the \$20 fee for vehicle stickers in the village. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said even with the sales tax, trustees could opt to retain the vehicle sticker fee.

Robert Fialkowski, finance director, said that fee generates \$430,000 to \$450,000 annually.

If the village were to impose its own sales tax, it would have to do so before Oct 1. The new tax would take effect the following Jan 1.

# Wheeling trustee candidate withdraws from election

2-23-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

**\*93 ELECTION**

Not wanting taxpayers to pay for a hearing to determine the validity of his nominating petition, independent candidate for Wheeling trustee William C. Spangenberg has withdrawn from the April 20 election.

Spangenberg, 37, a local lawyer, withdrew from the election late last week. He cited as his reason the hearing set for Monday, which would consider a challenge to his nominating petition made by Robert G. Todd, a trustee hopeful running on the Wheeling Progress Party ticket.

"I did some legal research and checked with my colleagues with a background in election law, and they said my chances of prevailing before an electoral board or in circuit court are equivocal, a 50-50 proposition. Based on that, I don't want to cost the taxpayers money. I don't want the taxpayers to foot the bill to prove I'm right," Spangenberg said.

Spangenberg said the signatures on his petition were correct, and the challenges were

on "matters of interpretation."

Todd said eight of the 77 signatures Spangenberg received were from people who weren't registered voters; two other signers also had signed petitions for others running for the same office, and another person signed only a last name.

A minimum of 73 signatures were required on the petitions to qualify for the election. Spangenberg had hoped to capitalize on voter dissatisfaction with incumbents to win local office.

To hear the challenge, the village had appointed a special municipal electoral board consisting of Village Clerk Patricia J. Drewes, Trustee Joseph J. Ratajczak, and Robert Peck, a La Grange attorney drawn from a Cook County Circuit Court list of independent observers.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who under state law could have sat on that panel, opted out in favor of Ratajczak, noting she is seeking re-election on the Wheeling Progress Party ticket.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# SWANCC \$86 million plan includes new construction

3-1-93

By KIM MIKUS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Construction of two garbage transfer stations and a proposed balefill near Bartlett are the major projects included in a suburban waste agency's preliminary \$86.5 million spending plan for the upcoming year.

Officials from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, a consortium of 23 municipalities, presented their budget Wednesday to executive board members for initial review. The overall budget shows about a 50 percent increase over last year's \$57 million budget.

Construction costs are the main reason for the increase, said SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt.

Construction will continue at the waste transfer station in unincorporated Wheeling Township near Des Plaines, said Abolt, who added that he expects work to begin late in the 1993-94 fiscal year at a second station to be located in Rolling Meadows, as well as at the proposed balefill site near Bartlett.

Residential garbage would be taken to three transfer stations

— including a future Elk Grove Village site not included in this budget — to be compacted and trucked to the proposed balefill at West Bartlett and Gifford roads in Hanover Township, where it would be buried.

However, before SWANCC can begin work on the balefill, it must obtain approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agency is now reviewing SWANCC's application and accepting comments and concerns from the public.

Abolt expects a public hearing to be held in about 90 days, prior to the Corps' final ruling on regulatory requirements.

However, the Village of Bartlett and Citizens Against the Balefill continue to fight plans for the garbage facility proposed to be located on the community's western border.

SWANCC's budget also shows a \$64.5 million debt at this time. However, once the member communities and residents start using and paying for the completed garbage facilities, the bonds will be paid off.

Meanwhile, SWANCC is planning to pay \$1.1 million in attorney fees in 1994.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling approves housing in one-time industrial zone

3-2-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved a developer's plan to build single-family houses in a part of the village formerly zoned for industrial development.

In a unanimous vote, with Trustee Lois J. Gaffke absent, the Wheeling Village Board approved plans from the Berkshire Development Co. of Tinley Park to build the 11-unit Wolf Pointe subdivision on a nearly 3-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road.

Previously, Berkshire had planned a nine-building, 18-unit multifamily development for the parcel, which had remained a tiny island of industrial property surrounded by houses, but after five months of hearings and subsequent zoning denials the company later agreed to develop a single-family home subdivision there.

The subdivision will include 2,200-square-foot houses surrounding a cul-de-sac that ends 5th Street just north of Mayer Avenue.

Trustee William A. Rogers questioned how the village would remove snow from the subdivision because of the cul-de-sac.

"The residents will probably end up with a lot of snow on their lawns because the plows will have to take the snow somewhere. As long as they understand that," Rogers said before voting in favor of the subdivision.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village experiences less difficulty removing snow from developments with cul-de-sacs when there are center islands available to deposit the snow, and the Wolf Pointe subdivision does not have one.

However, because village officials wanted a single-family home subdivision located on the northeast side of Wheeling, the benefits outweighed the snow removal inconvenience, said Anderson.

Gary Cawn, an architect representing Berkshire, had said the company could start building the development's first three houses this month.

## Taking the DARE

Kari Bordenake and Dena Kniskern from Kilmor School try to

at a DARE party at the Wheeling AmVets Post 66. The activity

Country Club 3-4-93

Tom J. Tuohy/Pioneer Press



# Village fountain may hinge on land deal

3-4-93

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Wheeling may soon have its own fountain, a monument commemorating the village's longevity in northern Cook County. But the way it gets it depends on who one asks.

Village leaders have long coveted a fountain on Dundee Road between the Village Hall and Wickes Furniture. They'd like to see work on it begin relatively soon, since the village's centennial is June 19, 1994, and it would be fitting to have it in place by then.

The Wheeling Park District owns the land in question, having purchased it from Wickes to build its aquatic and recreation centers. The land was formerly

owned by G. D. Searle, the Skokie drug giant. During all that time, and before, the 17½ acres were part of the land farmed by the Koeppen family, one of the village's oldest.

Wheeling Park District commissioners have tried to tie a lease or gift of an acre or so of land for a fountain to an effort by the village to get them a tiny piece of land in Buffalo Grove, which would simplify matters at the Chevy Chase Country Club golf course. The villages may be in the mood for such deals, since they've been working on an annexation swap that would benefit landholders in each town.

The two-fifths of an acre lies in the path between the ninth green and the tenth tee. There's a break in the

fence around the course there, because the village of Buffalo Grove owns the bit of vacant land, so the park district can't fence it from its Buffalo Grove neighbors and trespassers.

The land once supported the Johnson family's water treatment facilities, serving 86 customers, including the country club, which was also owned by the family until they sold it to the park district in 1977. The EPA threatened to close down the high-polluting system, so developers of the Lincoln Club apartments, which basically surround the club, and the Riverwalk, both in Buffalo Grove, paid to set up their properties with county water and sewer a decade ago. They razed the water tower, and gave the land to

Buffalo Grove.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said Tuesday his town is open to the suggestion of giving it up, though possibly trustees might wish to sell it instead of giving it away. But the land's position gives it value to the park district and little else.

Balling's Wheeling counterpart, Craig Anderson, said Tuesday he figures the park district will let the village have its fountain no matter what happens with the Buffalo Grove land. He said he's waiting for a response from the park district to a letter sent last fall.

He's going to get one, according to parks Superintendent Karop Bavougian. The letter will tell him park commissioners are "ada-

mant" about getting the land in exchange for its largess.

It's likely Anderson is right, since the fountain would not only be an asset to the village, but a guidepost to the park facilities. The aquatic center is intended to attract not only local customers, but out-of-towners as well.

Village President Sheila Schultz said a fountain could be "lovely, and exciting, and encouraging to pedestrian traffic. It would be a place to stop off, with benches, trees and flowers.

"There aren't too many other places to look at between Village Hall and Milwaukee Avenue."

# Mayors know tax when they see it

3-4-93

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said Monday she knows what it means if Gov. Jim Edgar asks for an extension of the income tax surcharge, but keeps all of it to pay the state's bills.

"I would consider it a new tax," said Schultz. Edgar has been dropping a plethora of hints he'll ask the legislature for the extension this week, but retain the municipalities' portions, ostensibly to fund state education bills.

Schultz made the trek down to Evergreen Park Monday with 14 other mayors to rally against Edgar's perceived plans. The Governor chided the mayors later in the day, telling them to calm down and wait for his announcement.

Though most of the mayors' towns use the surcharge cash for one-time capital projects, most also claimed increased local property taxes and other onerous fiscal remedies would be brought to bear if the state gobbles the approximately \$300 million annual surcharge to cover a portion of its budget.

## No castles

Those projects were necessary ones, and would have been paid for with increased taxes, they say. In the past, Wheeling replaced an old fire truck with the money, and Buffalo Grove

built a fire station on Route 22 to handle that village's north end.

"It's not like we're building a castle," said Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney Mathias.

**"It's not like we're building a castle. These are things that are needed by our residents."**

Sid Mathias

"These are things that are needed by our residents."

Mathias didn't go to the Evergreen Park shindig, but attended a recent one hosted by Cook County Board President Richard Phelan. At that get-together, the other side of the state-funding coin was flipped and stepped on: the many state and federal mandates requiring spending by municipalities, but without funding from Springfield or Washington.

"He says, 'You must spend this, but I'm not gonna give you the money,'" said Mathias.

## Catch 22

A looming local fear is new state-imposed limits on municipal spending increases, which mayors look upon as

locking them into a fiscally insolvent Catch-22, with mandates they can't afford because they can't raise enough money to pay for them.

Two weeks ago, Wheeling leaders toyed with different possible solutions to tax-cap maladies, such as real-estate transfer fees and home-rule sales taxes.

"It was enough to make us gag," said Trustee Lois Gaffke.

"I think the issue is local control," said Mathias. "They've even decided how we're supposed to pay the pensions of our employees. That should be a negotiating point.

## Daley battle

"What's the next thing they'll want to do — negotiate salaries, too?"

One mayor who doesn't play it safe and set aside surcharge monies for one-time uses is Chicago's Richard M. Daley. He finds himself in an especially nervous position after cancelling his politically explosive property tax increase bid last month, hoping for a bailout by new federal programs.

Daley was part of the Evergreen Park group calling for "war" with Edgar Monday. But later in the day, appearing with Edgar at a Casimir Pulaski Day function in Chicago, he didn't bring up the battle, and the two acted like old pals.

"You have to be polite. This is a civilized society," said the mayor on a radio program. "Just because we have differences, so what?"

# Social service agencies bid for Wheeling funding

By DWAYNE T. WOOD  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-9-93

Wheeling trustees Monday heard from several social service agencies seeking a total of \$114,605 in funding in the 1993-94 budget, an increase of 18.6 percent from what the village spent this year.

Representatives of several agencies lobbied the Wheeling Village Board for funds for next year, noting that social service contributions from a number of sources including the United Way, Wheeling Township and the Village of Mount Prospect, were being slashed or eliminated for next year.

"It's a tough environment for funding," said J. Harry Wells, Executive Director of Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services.

Wells' agency, which provides a variety of youth counseling services and has offices in Wheeling, is seeking \$70,750, the village's largest request, which represents a 4 percent hike over the \$68,000 it received this year.

Representatives for the Horizons Children's Center, which provides subsidized child care for low-income parents from its location at 3316 Schoenbeck Road in

Wheeling, asked for \$20,000, a 23 percent increase over its current \$15,400 allocation.

"All of these agencies do a fine job, but to give someone a 25 to 30 percent increase, we have to look at that. We have to operate under constraints," Trustee Anthony Alberti Jr. said.

William Georgeron, Horizons treasurer, said the increase was needed to pay 62 percent of a \$31,680 deficit the agency incurred paying for the daycare of 18 Wheeling children.

Other agencies — including 21/4 Fighting Back, a substance abuse prevention group serving Northwest Suburban High School District 214, and the Children's Advocacy Center, a Hoffman Estates-based agency serving sexually abused children in the Northwest suburbs — are requesting funding from the village for the first time.

Additionally, Shelter Inc. is requesting \$5,355, a slight increase over this year's \$5,100, and the Salvation Army is seeking \$6,500, \$600 more than this year.

Wheeling trustees will formally decide how much the agencies will receive when they approve the new budget April 5. The village's new fiscal year begins May 1.



With other area mayors in the background, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley makes his case Monday in Evergreen Park why municipalities, and not the state, should get the tax-surcharge money.

TRIBUNE - 3-2-93

Tribune photo by Walter Neel

*Country side 3-4-93*

## DARE WEAR

Brian Firfer sports a wide array of DARE clothing Sunday at the Wheeling AmVets Post 66. The DARE party featured games, music and food, providing a safe environment for local teens. Another picture appears on

PAGE 7



# Villages seek grants for bike path

*3-9-93*

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove officials are applying for state and federal grants to fund construction of a bike trail that will connect the two villages and tie into other area amenities.

Wheeling trustees this week agreed to go along with park districts in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and the village of Buffalo Grove to seek funding to develop a two-mile-long bike path between the villages.

The path would start at the

Wheeling Municipal Center and the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center site on Dundee Road, near where village officials want to see a Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station built.

The path would run west along Dundee Road and then north up McHenry Road to a village well site. From the well site, the path, which would be eight-feet wide with concrete and asphalt surfaces, travels north along a Commonwealth Edison utility easement to Lake-Cook Road, where it connects with a 30-mile-long path system in Buffalo Grove.

"The bike path is trying to connect with both municipalities, both train station (and), provides access to the new Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center and access to Lake County trails," Mark Janeck, Wheeling village planner, said.

The four local governments are applying for a \$435,000 federal grant through the Chicago Area Transportation Study agency. If they receive the grant, the federal government would pay 80 percent of the grant, leaving the local governments to pay the remaining 20 percent, which is about \$85,000.

The local governments have also applied for assistance from the Illinois Department of Conservation to help defray the local share of the federal grant costs. The DOC grant could yield \$20,000 to \$35,000, Janeck said.

Officials will know later this month if they received the grants. If their application is denied, they could apply for the funds again in July. Construction on the trail could start next fall, Janeck said.

Rotary clubs in both villages also may raise funds for the project.

# Wheeling trustees renew support for tax exemption

3-5-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hoping to encourage development and retain business, Wheeling trustees have again backed a request by a local business for an exemption to Cook County property taxes.

In a unanimous vote, Wheeling trustees recently approved a request by A&M Tool Co., 450 Chaddick Drive, for an exemption allowing the company to pay lower Cook County property taxes for eight years.

Company officials sought the exemption so they could finance the construction of a 5,667 square-foot addition on to their building. The addition will be used by the company to house AMS Seals, Inc. which manufactures mechanical face seals.

Company officials said the addition would cost \$300,000 and add four new jobs to the village.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said there were a number of reasons trustees grant

such an exemption.

"One, first, to encourage business to locate here. The other is to encourage them to stay here and an expansion of their building keeps them from moving elsewhere, that's what the county says," Anderson said.

Under the county property tax exemption the village board approved, A&M Tool Inc. will be allowed a reduction in assessment from 36 percent of the building's fair market value to 16 percent of that value. The exemption will last for eight years.

In 1987, the company was granted its first county property tax exemption for construction of a \$770,000, 20,290 square-foot addition to its building that resulted in creation of 30 jobs.

Since 1986, the village has granted 29 exemptions that has resulted in the creation of 809 jobs. Those companies have also built additions to their businesses in Wheeling with a total value of \$39.8 million.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD

### Village joins in street program

Wheeling trustees agreed to have the village participate in the truck access road program run by the Illinois Department of Transportation for improvements to industrial streets.

This year, under the program, the village will receive \$48,200 in reimbursements for street improvements. The agreement also calls for the village to retain records of the improvements for five years.

Village officials have said since they permanently retain those records, they would not have difficulty meeting the requirement.

### March 6-12 named Girl Scout Week

Wheeling trustees proclaimed March 6-12 to be Girl Scout Week in the village.

In the proclamation, Village President Shelia H. Schultz said the organization has made important contributions to the village and urged residents to be supportive of the organization that has existed since 1912.

### Board designates Red Cross month

The Wheeling village board

proclaimed March to be American Red Cross month and urged all residents to support the organization.

The proclamation includes a request by Schultz for residents to support the Mid-America Chapter of the organization that serves several million residents in the seven-county Chicago metropolitan area.

### Trustees increase employee bonus

Wheeling trustees agreed to change the village personnel policy manual to increase the amount of the annual bonus employees with 12 or more years with the village receive from \$500 to \$600 per year.

The policy, in effect for this year, will affect 18 non-union employees and cost the village an additional \$1,800.

### Fee established for sidewalk fund

The Wheeling village board set a fee of \$3 per square foot to be used to determine deposits made to the village's sidewalk construction fund.

Developers and others involved in construction in Wheeling in some instances are required to make contributions to the fund in exchange for village improvements.



The Wisconsin Central line, shown here near O'Hare International Airport, could serve commuters as early as 1995.

Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

# Towns stepping up search for commuter station funding

3-6-93

By JOHN CARPENTER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Now that federal money appears headed for Metra's coffers to prepare for the proposed Wisconsin Central commuter line, local officials along the route are

stepping up efforts to pay for stations and parking lots.

Part of the bargain to secure approval of the long-awaited rail service through Northwest Cook and central Lake counties is local participation in the project. This, Metra officials have said,

includes securing land for depots and perhaps building them.

Most local officials, saying there is overwhelming citizen demand for the commuter service, already are hard at work. They say they must find available state or federal dollars, fund the work themselves or work with private developers.

"I don't think we have obstacles. There are just things that need to be worked out," Libertyville Village President Jo Ann Eckmann said. "We're all excited that this seems to be moving forward."

"As long as Metra gets their part of the job done, we'll get our part of the job done," Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling said.

Once known as the Soo Line, the Wisconsin Central has been talked about as a possible passenger carrier for years. It would carry riders between Antioch and Chicago's Union Station, with stops in Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Prospect Heights and Des Plaines, as well as a stop serving O'Hare International Airport.

Officials with Metra, the agency that oversees suburban com-

## Rail commuter line facts

**What:** Metra hopes to open the Wisconsin Central as a commuter line in 1995.

**Where:** Line runs from Antioch to Chicago's Union Station.

**Stations:** A few towns have chosen sites. Vernon Hills site south of Route 45. Buffalo Grove's on Busch Parkway in BG Industrial Park. Wheeling's on Dundee Road near village hall. Prospect Heights station likely on Camp McDonald Road.



Sources: Metra, local officials.

## RAIL: Towns eye developers' dollars

Continued from Page 1

muter train service, say their ridership estimates predict thousands of commuters will use the line. Libertyville, for example, already is served by Metra's Milwaukee District North line. And Eckmann said there is a waiting list of more than 500 people for parking spots at that station.

Indeed, Metra officials say the Wisconsin Central could attract many riders from the Milwaukee District North and Chicago & North Western northwest lines, freeing spaces there.

Local officials say they are looking at a variety of potential funding sources, including federal and state money set aside for reducing

traffic congestion.

Many also are looking to the private sector, hoping they can convince developers to join state projects in return for placement of businesses compatible with station traffic. These might include convenience stores, news stands, dry cleaners or small restaurants, as well as office or residential space that could benefit from proximity to public transportation.

Prospect Heights Village Manager Kenneth Bonder said officials there are eyeing a vacant commercial building that might be converted to a station.

"We may combine it with a commercial space to come up with some very compatible uses," Bonder said.

# Wheeling backs developer's plans to upgrade property

3-10-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have thrown their support behind a shopping center owner's plan to refurbish his property.

The village board recently approved a plan by Fred Linsky, owner of the Dunhurst/Dundee Plaza Shopping Center, near the southwest corner of Elmhurst and Dundee Roads, for a three-year refurbishing program for the center.

In the first year, Linsky would install new building facades, windows and make other improvements to the exteriors of buildings at the center, which originally was constructed in the 1960s. The second year of the plan calls for curbs to be improved along with trees and sod to be placed.

In the last year, Linsky would finish improvements to the 15-acre center's parking lot and landscaping. The village would plant trees on a stretch of Dundee Road in front of the center.

Linsky had said it was in his own best interest to complete the improvements, and village officials said the upgrades,

which include new lighting and signs, would improve traffic control at the center and reduce motorists cutting through the property.

Linsky had told village officials that he wanted to complete the refurbishing in phases because the landscaping could cost \$60,000. However, if the occupancy rate of the center improves over its current 80 percent level, the improvements could be completed in a shorter time.

Trustee William A. Rogers questioned how well Linsky would follow the plan.

"It's a little unusual for a petitioner to give us a three-year plan... Are we assured all three phases are going to be completed?" Rogers said.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that outside of enforcing village code, Wheeling officials had little recourse to force Linsky to comply with their wishes, and they were relying on his word the work would be done.

Linsky had received positive recommendations for his plan from the village's appearance and plan commissions.



William Spangenberg, of Wheeling, is eager for the Wisconsin Central commuter line to start. He's standing near where a Wheeling station would be built.

Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

# New rail line on track

## Officials, residents like Metra plan

3-15-93

By JOHN CARPENTER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Like many suburban attorneys, Wheeling resident Bill Spangenberg often finds himself with business downtown. Sometimes he commutes to the Loop four or five times each week.

Unfortunately, Spangenberg's options for the trip are limited. He can head to a nearby town like Des Plaines, Northbrook, Deerfield or Mount Prospect and search for a parking space among those set aside for non-residents.

Or he can drive, which he of-

ten does.

And he can sit in traffic, which he often does.

But that may soon change for Spangenberg and thousands of other residents of Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. As early as 1995 or 1996 — estimates vary — they could be riders on the Wisconsin Central, the Chicago area's first new railroad commuter line in more than 50 years.

"I will definitely be a regular," Spangenberg said. "I think the train is the best ride around. You can read. You can write. You can think without having to concentrate on the bumper in front of you."

In fact, Metra officials hope as many as 5,300 people will be relaxing on Wisconsin Central trains within five years. It is a line, they say, that could be so immediately successful as to be one of the most cost-efficient in the Metra system.

Formerly the Soo Line, it has been talked about since the mid-1980s as potential relief for suburban congestion, only to constantly fall victim to the lack of federal and state funds for public transportation. Now, thanks to Thursday's announcement by the Chicago Area Transportation Study that nearly \$6 million has been set aside to start getting the line ready for service, people like Bill Spangenberg soon can expect to enjoy what so many other suburbanites take

# Facility to cater to Alzheimer's patients

3-16-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first Illinois residential facility for Alzheimer's patients will be built this year in the Northwest suburbs, and health-care advocates say they hope it will be the first of many.

The Wheeling village board on Monday gave approval to a plan by New Perspective Inc. of Mequon, Wis. The company will build the 48-patient facility at 760 N. McHenry Road. The company hopes to open the facility this fall.

The home would serve primarily Cook, Lake, DuPage and Kane counties, where about half of the state's 200,000 Alzheimer's patients live, according to the Skokie-based Alzheimer's Disease Association. The dementia-related neurological disorder causes memory loss, impaired judgment and disorientation.

James M. Spiro, president of the Chicago-area chapter of the Alzheimer's Disease Association said about 80 percent of the patients are cared for by family or friends at home, which can be draining.

"The care giver of the patient is the second victim of the disease," he said earlier. "They must be on duty 36 hours a day and that stress makes them ill."

The nearly \$2 million project will consist of three 7000 square-

foot, single-story buildings on 4.7 acres, a fenced yard and gardens, private rooms and wide hallways where patients can walk freely.

The monthly charge for a spot at the facility will be \$3,200. In a skilled nursing home, the average monthly fee ranges from \$1,900 to more than \$4,900, depending on what services the resident receives, according to the Suburban Agency on Aging in Oak Park.

The state-licensed facility also will have a security system that warns the staff if residents attempt to leave the grounds.

New Perspective President Diane C. Bjorkman said only patients who suffer solely from Alzheimer's will be accepted — those with multiple problems will be referred somewhere else.

She said Alzheimer's patients do better when grouped together, since other patients sometimes dislike their behavior.

Several people are on a waiting list to become residents in the new facility, said Suzanne A. Larson, president of the company's Wisconsin operation. Residents are taken on a first come, first served basis and a deposit is required.

"We're proposing 48 beds, we have 126 referrals (from doctors)," Larson said. "In an environment we're proposing, these people maintain their health and dignity longer. They don't degenerate as quickly."

## Commuting on the Wisconsin Central

**History:** Formerly the Soo Line and long used for freight service, Metra first pegged it as a possible commuter line in a 1986 study. Stalled since then by lack of money available for public transportation, \$5.7 million in federal dollars have now been set aside for preliminary engineering, with another \$17 million on the way over three years. When opened, it will be the first new Chicago area commuter line in more than 50 years.

**Cost:** Metra says it will need \$53 million to improve tracks, build platforms, refurbish cars and locomotives as well as buy land and build a storage yard in Antioch. \$22.7 million will come from the federal government and Metra says it is confident other funds can be found. Stations and parking lots will be built by municipalities along the route at an estimated cost of \$17 million.

**How soon:** Metra says it can be ready to run the line as early as 1996, if stations are in place.

Sources: A



## TRAIN: New laws give motivation, funds for plan held on drawing board

See TRAIN on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

for granted — living in a community with direct commuter service downtown.

"We are constantly getting calls from people thinking about relocating here," Vernon Hills Assistant Village Manager James W. Doyle said. "This is a great development for our community."

### Towns build depots

Local officials like Doyle, Libertyville Village President Jo Ann Eckmann, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and others have been pushing for the commuter line for years, saying it will both improve quality of life for their residents as well as attract business. Such local support often has been cited as one of the reasons the project has won federal funding, especially since that support has come in the form of a willingness by municipalities to build stations and parking lots.

prompted business leaders and planners alike to look more favorably on transit projects that might get commuters out of their cars.

Also, last year's multibillion-dollar federal Surface Transportation Act included strong support for projects that help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The money Metra received Thursday came directly from this legislation.

Ironically, however, it was a completely unrelated law that may have given the project its biggest boost. The Americans With Disabilities Act is, among other things, forcing Metra to make every one of its trains accessible to the handicapped. This means 173 special cars must be built so that each train can meet the requirement.

This also means, of course, that 173 cars on the system will be replaced, freeing at least enough for duty on the Wisconsin Central. Metra spokesman Chris Krapton

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Source: Metra



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See TRAIN on Page 4

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Buffalo Grove, for example, already has built a park-and-ride bus facility in its industrial park at the spot where a Wisconsin Central station would be located. And officials in Antioch have agreed to help with land for an end-of-the-line storage yard.

Although few municipal officials are absolutely sure where they will get money to build stations and lots — costs could exceed \$1 million for some villages — most are confident funding can be found. Some even may seek support from the same federal program tapped by Metra. The so-called C.M.A.Q. (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds will be doled out each of the next five years by the Chicago Area Transportation Study.

### Private talks

Many local officials also say they will talk to private developers about the possibility of a joint venture. A depot could be built by a developer, they say, in return for permission to open one or more businesses there. Things like dry-cleaners, coffee shops and convenience stores are often mentioned.

Until recently the project had been stuck in a Catch-22, with Metra officials demanding a definitive show of local support and local officials saying they did not want to commit funds to a railroad that might be years down the road.

"I've always thought it would get up and running someday," Doyle said. "I honestly didn't think it would be this soon."

After languishing on the drawing board for several years, a number of factors beyond local support have conspired to get the Wisconsin Central on the right track toward opening.

### New laws

The 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act have laid out tough requirements for employers in badly polluted metropolitan areas like Chicago — it was recently classified among several other major cities as being one notch below Los Angeles in terms of air quality — to reduce the number of car trips to their offices and factories each day. This has

prompted business leaders and planners alike to look more favorably on transit projects that might get commuters out of their cars.

Also, last year's multibillion-dollar federal Surface Transportation Act included strong support for projects that help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The money Metra received Thursday came directly from this legislation.

Ironically, however, it was a completely unrelated law that may have given the project its biggest boost. The Americans With Disabilities Act is, among other things, forcing Metra to make every one of its trains accessible to the handicapped. This means 173 special cars must be built so that each train can meet the requirement.

This also means, of course, that 173 cars on the system will be replaced, freeing at least enough for duty on the Wisconsin Central. Metra spokesman Chris Knapton stressed that many of the cars, some of them dating back to the 1950s, simply will be retired. The best 25, however, will be given \$5 million worth of rehabilitation and pressed into service on the new line.

This plan has nearly halved the projected cost of starting the service, from more than \$90 million to just more than \$50 million. The major costs to get the line started now include track improvements, the construction of a connection at Franklin Park, environmental studies and building platforms.

Knapton said Metra is using 1996 as a target date to have cars available and the line ready. But he said this is a conservative estimate and service could start sooner.

### High expectations

The latest ridership estimates predict that between 3,500 and 5,300 people will use the line almost from the day it opens. Knapton said it will primarily serve traditional downtown commuters. But a "strong push" will be made to serve reverse commuters and suburb-to-suburb travelers.

Vernon Hills resident Jerry Coleman says he would take the train to Niles every day.

"I've been looking forward to this line for a long time," said Coleman, who was a train commuter for years until his company moved from Chicago to Niles. "I will use it on a regular basis."

Many people also are expected to use the line to get to and from O'Hare International Airport. It will run within a few hundred yards of the soon-to-be-opened People Mover at the airport.

"That is just fantastic," Wheeling resident Christine Dolgopoul said.

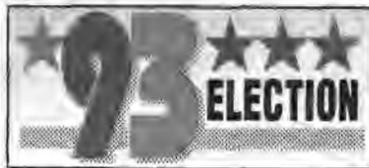
She does not expect to change her habits, which now involve a short drive to Des Plaines for a trip on the Chicago & North Western's Northwest line, which leaves her across the street from her office as opposed to at Union Station, where the Wisconsin Central will stop. As for trips to O'Hare, however, she said the Wisconsin Central will be ideal.

"I often travel more than once a month," she said. "I will definitely use it for that."

# Mayoral candidates debate success of Wheeling's development efforts

3-18-93

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



With a limited amount of land left for new development, the two candidates for Wheeling village president, incumbent Sheila H. Schultz and Trustee Judy Abruscato, are looking at redevelopment as a way to keep the village vital and flourishing.

One area village officials have targeted for placement of new shopping centers and other kinds of businesses is Wheeling's tax increment financing district which is along Milwaukee Avenue, north and south of Dundee Road.

Other properties village officials hope to see upgraded are some of Wheeling's existing shopping centers, some of which were built in the 1960s.

Related to the redevelopment in Wheeling is the improvement of the village's older neighborhoods, which includes getting residents to maintain some of the town's older housing and not letting infrastructure, such as street lights, fall into disrepair.

One major project will be development of the Wisconsin Central Railroad by 1996 or sooner. To serve the Metra-run rail line, the village will build a commuter station near the village hall on Dun-

dee Road hopefully spurring development of that area as the center of town, which some have said Wheeling lacks.

Additionally, the Illinois Department of Transportation could start in 1994 an expansion of a three-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue through Wheeling making the road safer for motorists and possibly stimulating development along that corridor.

The two candidates addressed those issues when they answered the following question:

**Q.** How is redevelopment in the village progressing and what are your impressions of what should result from those projects?

**A.** Sheila Schultz is laudatory about development in Wheeling and what it holds for residents. Schultz said residents will witness a number of positive changes in the look of the village over the next four years.

"We have had a dry spell certainly in the TIF district, but things are starting to happen. We have to keep up the neighborhoods," she said. "The other thing that is going to make the difference is the Milwaukee Avenue improvements. And our industrial development remains very strong."

Schultz bases that optimism on recent redevelopment projects that resulted in construction of the Wal-Mart and Sams Wholesale Club stores in the village. And while the village cannot compel owners of some of the older shopping centers in Wheeling to upgrade their properties unless they're violating appearance ordinances, those owners have been open to officials' requests.

Recently, for example, the owner of the Dunhurst/Dundee Plaza Shopping Center at Elmhurst and Dundee roads won backing from Wheeling trustees for a three-year improvement plan for his center he voluntarily submitted to the village.

And owners of abandoned buildings are encouraged to demolish them under a village program that has officials paying part of the demolition costs, Schultz said.

"Our basic thrust with the community is redevelopment. And

with the TIF district there will be new construction in our development area. We have shared funding of old buildings to remove the eyesore, it's helping the owners," she said.

Additionally, said Schultz, the village has attracted what she calls "fill-in" single-family and multi-family residential development on the remaining parcels of buildable land in Wheeling.

Related to the development of the village is its appearance, and Schultz said that enforcement of the anti-graffiti ordinance has had a positive effect in reducing the number of marred buildings in town.

Schultz also lauded the village's industrial tenants, saying that base of companies "remains very strong."

Hoping to encourage and retain businesses, the village has backed efforts by local companies to receive exemptions reducing the amount they pay in Cook County property taxes. Since 1986, those exemptions resulted in creation of 809 jobs and construction valued at \$39.8 million.

**A.** Judy Abruscato sees things

differently. Abruscato noted that the years of litigation involved with the TIF district has hampered its development, but added that, now unimpeded, development can occur in the area.

"Redevelopment as far as Milwaukee Avenue goes has gone slow because of what happened with the courts. And that the work is finished, we can go forward. I remember it's been 12 years ago I began hearing about the TIF," said Abruscato.

Abruscato also said that Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road both need some kind of amenities — that could include trees and improved lighting — placed on them that gives them a character unique to Wheeling.

"I think we have to address the main thoroughfares in the village. On Dundee Road, we have no identification on that thoroughfare, all we have is Dundee Road," she said.

To add to the base of land to be developed in Wheeling, Abruscato wants the village to investigate with Cook County officials the possibilities of annexing unincorporated parcels in the area near the intersection of Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Another area where Schultz and Abruscato have large differences is their view of the village's industrial park. Abruscato said on a regular basis she has seen companies leave the village. She has called for investigation of the legalities of a requirement that companies leaving Wheeling first inform officials about their intentions, giving the village time to see if it can somehow retain that business.

And though the commercial and industrial development of Wheeling is on Abruscato's mind, the main focus of her campaign and discussions has been neighborhood issues. She called for upgrades in lighting in the older subdivisions in Wheeling, such as Highland Glen or the Dunhurst East and West areas.

"A lot of people have been talking about the (neighborhood) lighting and how bad it is. It (lighting improvement) has to be done by referendum. With more lighting you have less crime," said Abruscato.

Abruscato sees the piling up of garbage in the village as something that has to be closely monitored, so it doesn't turn into a future eyesore affecting Wheeling's appearance.

# Board gives fueling operation a break

3-23-93

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Giving a fledgling business a break, the Wheeling Village Board recently approved lowering the amount of insurance Service Aviation has to carry on its fixed based fueling operation at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The Prospect Heights City Council, which co-owns the airport under an intergovernmental agreement with Wheeling, also backed allowing Dennis P. Jans, owner of the airport's second fixed based operation, to reduce the amount of

liability insurance he had to carry from \$50 million to \$25 million.

The insurance reduction allowed Jans to pay less for insurance on his operation.

"It was an excessive premium for excessive amount of insurance," Jans said.

The original \$50 million insurance requirement was first discussed when Jans was seeking the approval from both communities to open his business at the airport on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Palatine Road.

Jans noted that Priester Aviation Service, the other fixed based

operator at Palwaukee, carries more than \$50 million in insurance, but that company's business includes corporate jet traffic and needs more extensive coverage.

Jans noted that his company will not be involved in that corporate market.

Additionally, he argued that in his own survey of other airports, the \$50 million insurance coverage requirement was much more than they required.

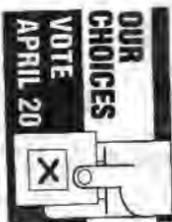
Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that when Jans inked the agreement with the two towns to locate at the airport,

he agreed to all the terms of the contract including the insurance stipulations. She said she was "unpleasantly surprised" to learn he wanted the coverage reduced.

Previously, the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, which is comprised of an equal amount of representatives from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, agreed to recommend to both towns lowering the insurance requirement.

Jans said he would not object to carrying \$25 million worth of liability insurance for his company.

Center is bringing the latest advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment to the northwest



lighting for a couple of older neighborhoods. She also suggests making village offices available during some additional off-hours for people whose work schedules keep them from conducting village business during regular hours. Finally, Abruscato, who previously served as village clerk and a member of the board of zoning appeals, says village officials should work harder to make themselves available to residents. Indeed, one gets the impression that the egregious Abruscato might make it her business to meet

# EDITORIALS For president in Wheeling

In Wheeling, three-term Village President Sheila H. Schultz is being challenged by Village Trustee Judy Abruscato.

The two do not differ significantly when it comes to what they identify as key issues facing the village or how they say they would approach the issues. Both are eager to coax new retail businesses to the village. Both say the village must continue making steps to accommodate the town's expanding ethnic diversity. Both are eager to do whatever the village can do to hasten the arrival of commuter rail service on the Wisconsin Central

Railway, service that would clear some street congestion and make life easier for many Wheeling commuters.

Abruscato, vice president of personal banking for the 1st National Bank of Wheeling, says she would look into improved

Heard 3-30-93

# Wheeling finances, surcharge key issues in village president's race

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Like their counterparts in other towns, Wheeling officials are concerned about what actions the General Assembly could take that would affect local finances.

The first place Wheeling could feel the impact of state belt-tightening is the loss of the state income tax surcharge funds the village receives. Gov. Jim Edgar is proposing that \$211 million earmarked for local governments be redirected to the state treasury.

If the municipalities' share of the surcharge is taken, Wheeling could lose \$600,000 this year and \$800,000 next year, said Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

Recently, more than 200 officials from municipalities throughout the state told the Senate Revenue Committee the plan would hurt towns and taxpayers. Edgar wants to use the money instead to support schools and social services.

Additionally, state lawmakers are considering imposing a tax cap that would limit the amount local governments could raise property taxes each year to no more than 5 percent of the previous year's amount or the cost of living, whichever is lower.



The state tax cap proposal also would eliminate exemptions for municipalities and make the measure inclusive for all Illinois taxing bodies.

Because the village already has a bare-bones budget that limits increases and freezes hiring and does not have many of the taxes neighboring communities have, Wheeling trustees are studying whether to impose their first 0.25 percent home rule sales tax on goods and services.

Noting the funding concerns municipal officials share, Wheeling village president candidates Sheila H. Schultz, the incumbent, and Judy Abruscato, who now is serving her second term as trustee, were asked by the Daily Herald what actions they would take if state funding restrictions become reality.

**Q.** Faced with possible state measures limiting the amount of tax revenue towns can collect, what actions should Wheeling take

to maintain services while cutting spending?

**A.** Village President Sheila H. Schultz, in her third term, previously has said the village would have to consider imposing a home rule sales tax.

"We would have to look at a variety of options, and that we have already begun to do. And we have been very conservative in projection of our revenues.

"We do not have a home rule beverage tax, a real estate transfer tax, we do not have a home rule sales tax. We would look at all of those if we need to go for another source of revenue."

**A.** Trustee Judy Abruscato also believes that a home rule sales tax may be necessary to bolster the village's finances. And Abruscato has advocated studying whether a tax can be imposed on meals sold in restaurants in the village famous for its "restaurant row" strip along Milwaukee Avenue.

"We've already reviewed some things like the home rule sales tax. You pay it in Buffalo Grove, you pay it in Mount Prospect.

"We always have a reserve, we're always prudent in the way we spend our money," she said.

"I look at it (the restaurant tax) as a user tax. Those who use it pay for it. The home rule sales tax is the greatest tax with the smallest impact on the residents because everyone would pay it," Abruscato said.

**Q.** If the village has to make some further changes to its budget to more effectively use the dwindling amount of state dollars it receives, in what areas do you feel spending should be reduced or redirected?

**A.** Schultz said the village would be hard pressed to find areas in its spending where it could make further reductions. The budget, she said, is determined by a professional staff headed by Fialkowski.

"In our recent budget review, it's pretty clear we have kept the costs pretty well contained, even though our population has continued to grow. We've kept the staff stable.

"We've been careful about our expenditures.

"It's been good management — it's as simple a phrase as I can use. When I first became involved with the village, we were working with tax anticipation warrants. We couldn't even meet our payroll,"

she said.

Schultz noted that the village has a "reasonable" but not extravagant facility in its municipal center, 255 W. Dundee Road. The budget is professionally developed and the village has made effective use of computers, acquiring only the technology it needs.

"If we were to lose the surcharge, it's obviously less money to do the things we need to do ... It's really a matter of adjusting the budget. You need to cut services or increase revenues," said Schultz.

**A.** Abruscato said state lawmakers can help municipalities by controlling the unfunded mandates they pass on to the local governments to carry out.

"We're hoping there won't be any more mandates if we're going to do certain things. The state should come up with the money to help us.

"But I can see where they (legislators) are coming from. Where they're coming from is a lot of villages and municipalities didn't use that (surcharge) money prudently. They spent it on roads instead of services.

"We've watched that and we've always watched what we spend.

The way we spent, we're not overspending. I'd like to see more police, but we're not overspending," she said.

Abruscato said the village is careful with its employees over how much it yields to them in salary hikes. Currently, the village is negotiating new contracts or pay hikes with four employee unions, including those in the police and fire departments.

Abruscato added that she did not favor some taxes other trustees backed, such as an ambulance fee for people who receive that emergency service in the village. Nor did she favor a real estate transfer tax that would charge residents up to \$3 for every \$1,000 of market value for a property sold in Wheeling. Abruscato said such a fee would not generate enough revenue for village coffers.

And she said she is completely opposed to a tax on utilities, which village officials said would be the most complex to impose in Wheeling.

Abruscato said the possibility of a food and beverage tax interested her but noted village officials said imposing such a tax would involve establishing special accounting procedures for Wheeling businesses.

## LOCAL REPORT

### People skills important to sole mayoral challenger

First in a series

3-31-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even in a situation where there was an irate customer, Judy Abruscato was able to make friends.

A customer came to the bank where Abruscato is a vice president complaining that checks she received were damaged in the mail. Abruscato took care of the situation, even going so far as to make inquiries about the post office by calling U.S. Rep. John Porter's office. And while the matter wasn't rectified the customer was somewhat placated, she said.

"These are the kinds of things I think are important. The customer wasn't happy about not getting her checks, but I made a good friend," said Abruscato.

The current trustee, who is in the middle of her second term, is the only challenger for the Wheeling village president's post. She characterizes herself as a people person who is more comfortable having conversations with people in the neighborhood than mulling over plans for infrastructure improvements.

"They have complaints. I tell them, 'come to a village board meeting.' They pay my salary, however small it is, we work for them. My people are so comfortable with me, they call me anytime. I feel I owe the people that, if they have that trust with

me," she said.

Abruscato, a 27-year Wheeling resident, is basing her campaign for Wheeling's top spot on neighborhood issues and residents' concerns about crime, subdivision improvements and activities for youths.

She's hoping that that knowledge of the neighborhoods will help her unseat incumbent Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

While concerned about other village matters, such as the widening of Milwaukee Avenue and the installation of a commuter train station for the proposed Wisconsin Central Railroad, she believes they are all projects long in the works that will be completed in the next few years.

"They're all given things, they've been in the works 12, 15 years. It's the small things that make your life, your job, what it is," she said.

Abruscato used her knowledge of people to manage her son, Anthony's campaign for park board commissioner about a decade ago. The then 18-year-old candidate became the youngest office winner in the village, Abruscato said.

Abruscato plans to use the people approach of going door-to-door in the village and knocking on doors to get the vote out.

"You're not only around at election. I go to the grocery store people see me. I have visibility," she said.

Taking the visibility issue one step further, Abruscato claims that village residents rarely see their elected officials in action. And because residents don't see their elected officials, Abruscato alleges there is a distance between the two groups.

"They're (officials) there, people don't know them because they don't see them. They don't know the trustees and they don't know (village) President Schultz," she said.

And while Abruscato acknowledges she is a well-known political figure in the village, she knows that her ability to win in April is going to depend on more than just name recognition.

"Popularity doesn't make you a good elected official. People ask 'What are you going to do for me?'" she said.

### Mayoral profile: Judy Abruscato



Age: 59

Hometown: Wheeling

Who is she? Challenger for Wheeling village president; a vice president of personal banking with 1st National Bank of Wheeling; member of the Wheeling Village board.



PROFILE

# Schultz seeks 4th term with energy to serve

3-25-93

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Fourteen years ago, Sheila Schultz was elected trustee in the wake of scandals that cast grim doubt on the Wheeling board. Two years later, she was elected the board's president, and has presided over the successful effort to raise the village from derision to respectability.

She's confident enough at this point to exhibit a little swagger. "We have pride, not pretension," she says. "We like it here. And we don't care what people say about our community."

The village has progressed markedly during her dozen years as village president. She and the trustees point with pride to a "professional" village staff, an accredited police department, the latest fire trucks, and Palwaukee Airport, which it purchased jointly with Prospect Heights about six years ago.

The airport continues to buy up property by the acre in its quest to expand, and now boasts its second fixed-

base operator, the first competition ever for former airport owner Priester Aviation.

The village has been on the leading edge of flood control, and may get drier with planned completion of a diversionary channel.

Spot-zoning, once Wheeling's bane, is no longer the rule. Though progress has been slow, partly because of lawsuits, the Milwaukee Avenue Tax Increment Finance district inches closer to becoming a viable retail attraction, spurred by planned widening of Route 21 by Illinois roadbuilders.

But if Schultz is reelected and serves her full term, she will have held the village presidency longer than FDR held the U.S. presidency. She's well aware of the criticism accompanying a fourth-term bid.

"I gave this a lot of consideration," she said. "I don't think I've lost any energy. I've learned a lot over the years, and I think it makes me a better public servant."

Schultz ran for a seat on the Cook County Board two

years ago, and won't rule out another run for that or a state office if asked again. "But I'm not even considering running for anything else now," she said.

Over the years, Schultz, 63, has given up most of her hobbies, contenting herself to do her job at the village, attend to her full-time work as circulation manager at the Indian Trails Library, and enjoy her seven children and her grandkids.

She travels extensively, and just returned from a National League of Cities meeting in Washington, D.C. While in town, she met with legislators, discussing the Metra train that now seems a cinch to be built on the Wisconsin Central tracks slicing through Wheeling.

Long a member of several local and national transportation boards, she's presently co-chair of the Northwest Municipal Conference's Mayors' conference on the Metra Line. She's also on the boards of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, the Chicago Area Transporta-



Sheila Schultz

tion Study, and the Solid Waste Agency of Cook County.

Defending herself from opponent Judy Abruscato's inference the board is inaccessible, she said "There's a big difference between expecting public officials to

be at every public event and being inaccessible."

"Residents can call me, and call the (village manager) and the trustees," whose phone numbers are published in the village newsletter. "There are several means to be heard."

# Abruscato makes goal increased accessibility

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Judy Abruscato may not have held public office before 1987, but her career in public service began a half-century ago when she was eight years old.

"I was walking down Belmont Avenue and the door was open — I saw a dummy in there, it looked just like Charlie McCarthy."

The ventriloquist's dummy drew her into a Chicago Salvation Army office, and the orphaned youngster adopted the Army life, and played her euphonium and sang on street corners until she was 23.

"It teaches compassion for people, and gives you inner peace," she said of her stint in uniform. She gave it up when her grandmother, who had raised her from the age of two, took ill.

Abruscato, in the middle of her second term as trustee, has fielded a slate to run against Village President Sheila Schultz' Wheeling Progress Party. Abruscato tops her Wheeling Citizens' Party ticket,

running against Schultz herself.

She won't say anything bad about her opponent, only that she feels three terms is plenty, and that the board in general seems distant from its constituency. She feels the development of Milwaukee Avenue, the diversionary channel and Palwaukee Airport are among indisputable projects the board is committed to.

"Aside from the givens ... as village president and trustees, we've got to get back to the people." She promises to be "visible, available, and accessible."

"We've got to scrutinize the tax dollars," she said. A couple of years ago, she voted against a 31 percent water rate hike, and cites it as proof of her fiscal fortitude, though she admits there was little choice. "We should have planned for that nine years prior," she complains.

Abruscato can claim a measure of financial acumen, since she's been working in banks since the age of 16. She's the vice president of the First National

Bank of Wheeling, in charge of personal banking. Her day at the bank often begins before dawn. "Bankers' hours aren't bankers' hours," she laughs.

Her Salvation Army days are evidenced in some of her attitude toward liquor. Though she sees nothing wrong with allowing new big-ticket restaurants to have beer and wine licenses, that's about as wet as she gets.

"I think we have enough liquor in Wheeling," she said. "I don't believe every establishment needs liquor. Somewhere along the way we've lost morality if we think that way." She recently voted, in the minority, against awarding a new liquor license to a package-goods store on Wolf Road, and was against awarding a license to an indoor golf facility, which backed out of opening in Wheeling for unrelated reasons.

She's lived in Dunhurst 26 years, and with husband Mario raised daughter Valerie and son Tony there. Valerie Abruscato lives in a



Judy Abruscato

Dunhurst house as well.

Her son Tony, 29, was at age 18 believed to be the youngest elected official in the state when he won a seat on the Wheeling park board. Two years later he became its president, and kept the position the last four years of his term. Today he's a vice president

at a downtown Chicago bank.

Abruscato said residents call her "because it's easy for them to talk to me."

"If they have the negative view — even if they think you're wrong, you have to show what's best for them and for the community."

# Two candidates face off for clerk

3-25-93

## Kurgan: time for what's important

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

*Country Club*

It's no coincidence that Mike Kurgan is a co-owner of Dogs on the Run eatery in Wheeling.

Kurgan himself is always on the run.

He is a broker for an ERA realty franchise, an Arlington Heights company he co-owns with one of his two partners in the restaurant. Sometimes one can catch Kurgan spending his lunch hour helping in making hot dogs and sandwiches to go for customers. And after that, it's back to work in his real estate office.

At the end of the day, Kurgan returns to Wheeling as a husband to Kathy and father to his six children, ages two to 14. Asked if he has any hobbies at all Kurgan simply said, "My hobby is the enjoyment of time with my children." But he's a Wheeling Park District baseball coach for the junior league and a football coach for youngsters 12 to 15 years old.

Despite his job, family and coaching commitments, the 33-year-old Kurgan says he will make time for the clerk's position, a job which could require about 12 hours commitment a week.

"You make time for what you care about," Kurgan insists. "I'm going to make that time for the people that elected me. I'm not going to take that position if I am not going to be available 100 percent."

Since moving to Wheeling about nine years ago, Mike and Kathy Kurgan have made time to volunteer for various programs in the village. Kathy Kurgan herself is a coach for soccer and floor hockey for the park district, and the Kurgans have various plaques of appreciation to show for their involvement in Wheeling.



Kurgan

"The single most important reason that I am running is to give back to this community," explains Mike Kurgan, whose family is now living in their second home in the village.

As a real estate broker, Kurgan understands the importance of accurate record-keeping and of providing information that can help a client make the best decision about any transaction. A village clerk's position, he argues, is similar. "I kind of feel that I am a clerk for a living," he says. "As a real estate person, you deal with the public. You know the laws, take preventive steps. You want to make the people around you aware of laws."

As village clerk, Kurgan said he would like to make some changes in the office, such as being available to Wheeling residents at convenient times of their choice, particularly on weekends. "As village clerk, one of the most important things I am going to do is investigating the possibilities of restructuring the office of the village clerk," Kurgan promises.

What hours Kurgan keeps as village clerk would be determined by the results of a survey he plans to send to residents after the election.

## Selander: giving back to village

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER



Selander

Wheeling has won Jeanne Selander's heart so much with its "good schools, good parks, good village services" that she and her family are now living in their second home since she and her husband, John, moved into the village in 1980 to begin a family.

In fact, Selander said, it's these attributes of Wheeling that have made it easy and enjoyable to raise their three daughters, Christine, 10, Katie, 6, and Megan, 4. The youngsters all enjoy their schools and participate in several park district programs like swimming, cheerleading, dancing, outdoor programming, and scouting.

"We have been very happy here. We've met a lot of people," Jeanne Selander said.

"When you live in a community, you just begin to develop an overall good sense of pride. I think we have a sense of pride in our family" for living in Wheeling, she added.

For her, Wheeling is a place that fosters that sense of community, neighbors watch out for one another and pitch in easily to help those in need. Wheeling residents are "just down-to-earth. . . , very sincere people."

Jeanne Selander said her appreciation for both the residents and their community spirit prompted her to run for the village clerk's position in April.

"I believe in a sense of civic responsibility. That's my intention — to fulfill a sense of civic responsibility. I think it's one thing that I can do for my community," Jeanne Selander said.

The 38-year-old mother's current involvement in the community includes serving as a Girl Scouts leader and as a religious education

substitute teacher at St. Joseph the Worker.

"I want to get more involved with the community. I have been involved with the schools, the church and the Girl Scouts," she said.

As village clerk, Selander said, she would draw from her professional experiences, which include several years of managing Venture and Gap department stores and working as customer service representative for NCR Corp. and Metropolitan Life Insurance.

"I have a lot of organizational background and obviously comfort with people that would be required for the position," Selander said.

"I'd like to make myself available to the people of Wheeling as needed. As far as going into the office with any preconceived notions, no," she added.

After taking leave from work for several years to raise a family, Selander returned to the classroom to earn a teaching certificate in literature and is working on a master's degree in education. Meanwhile, she said making time to carry out her duties as a village clerk would not be difficult.

"I am not working outside of the home at this time. That won't be a conflict for me. I have my school work, but I will be able to juggle" the schedules.

### LOCAL REPORT

## Candidate's forum no longer in cards for Wheeling voters

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

4-3-93

Wheeling voters will have to rely on personal contact and news reports to learn about candidates for local office because there are no informational forums scheduled before the April 20 general election.

The Wheeling Jaycees had hoped to hold an evening debate between village president candidate Sheila H. Schultz and Judy Abruscato April 15 at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, but those plans fell through due to scheduling conflicts.

Abruscato said she agreed to debate that night but organizers later told her they were considering holding it on either March 30 or April 1. Expecting the date change, Abruscato's campaign manager booked another meeting for her for April 15, she said.

Abruscato said later she received a letter from the Jaycees informing her the debate was scheduled for the original date they had mentioned.

"I said I'm unavailable and scheduled, and I heard nothing (from the Jaycees) until I got a letter," she said. There are no other forums

planned by any other civic group to allow voters to hear candidates for village board and park district board discuss issues.

Schultz, the incumbent village president, said she was "very disappointed" that the debate was canceled.

"I thought it would be a great public forum for everyone. There was almost any day available. They didn't have the time," Jaycees president Richard Carr said.

The local chapter of the League of Women Voters, which traditionally sponsors such debates, covers communities that are in Wheeling Township including Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove and Mount Prospect, but it does not have members in Wheeling. It won't have candidates forums there, Mary Lou Smith, voter service co-chairperson said.

Abruscato said both candidates will still meet with resident groups before the election.



## Three for trustee

4-8-93 COUNTRYSIDE  
Wheeling residents have the two village president candidates to thank for this year's choices for village trustee. Once again, the field is divided into two parties, a direct result of the presidential-hopefuls hand-picking running mates for trustee.

Voters should elect incumbent **Elizabeth Hartmann** and park board member **Robert Todd** from the Wheeling Progress Party and **Sue Smedinghoff** from the Citizens for Wheeling party.

Hartmann has served on the board for seven years and is proud of the village's accomplishments in stormwater management. She pledges to keep a close eye on the budget and would like to increase the village's participation in recycling.

Todd is a promising newcomer with many good ideas, a much needed addition to a board that has more often been followers than leaders. Todd would like to see Wheeling become a more stable community. He favors restructuring lots along Milwaukee to spur development and take care of blight along the roadway. He wants to increase the number of programs for young people as an alternative to gangs.

Smedinghoff has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for two years, and has become well-versed in zoning issues facing the village. She has an impressive appreciation for the differing needs of all sections of the village. She supports a no-tolerance position on gangs and would like to resurrect the youth commission.

Voters should look beyond party labels when they cast their votes for trustee and select Smedinghoff, Hartmann and Todd.

## Wheeling leader respected for her work, not tenure

4-22-93  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Elected to office for an unprecedented fourth term, Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz also claims the unofficial title of dean of the Northwest suburbs. But her influence comes from hard work and not tenure, her peers say.

Now that Elk Grove Village President Charles Zettek has retired after 32 years in public office — 22 of them as village president — Schultz has become the longest sitting mayor of a high-profile community in the Northwest suburbs. When she completes her new term in 1997, she'll have headed Wheeling for 16 consecutive years.

Like Zettek, Schultz is active with a number of regional organizations including the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, the Illinois Municipal League and Solid Waste Agency of Cook County. Beth Bunge, assistant to the di-



Sheila Schultz

rector of the Northwest Municipal Conference, said Schultz has regionwide influence because of those involvements.

"She's involved in a lot of different types of organizations ... that provide for planning in the Northwest suburbs," Bunge said. "By being involved in a wide range of organizations certainly lends her support for a number of issues," Bunge said.

Schultz once served as president of the NWMC, an organization which promotes intergovernmental cooperation among the 30 municipalities and five townships that are its members.

Recently, Schultz has been highly visible in the efforts by municipalities to keep state officials and Gov. Jim Edgar from eliminating the cities' share of Illinois state income tax surcharge funds.

Schultz, who said she first started attending meetings of regional groups on her own as a Wheeling trustee in the late 1970s, agreed that if she does have areawide clout it's based on her activities, and not years in office.

"(Tenure) gives a sense of history, that's the one good thing, and experience," she said.

6  
Schultz has the credentials and capabilities to move Wheeling forward.  
9

## Countryside Schultz 4-8-93 for president

In Wheeling, incumbent village president Sheila Schultz, seeking a fourth term in office, is being challenged by Judy Abruscato, a trustee looking to move up into the presidency.

Schultz, who heads the Wheeling Progress Party, has the credentials and capabilities to move Wheeling forward, and voters should return her to office for another four years. Circulation manager at the Indian Trail Library, Schultz was largely responsible for ushering in a new era of professionalism among village staff and on the board when she first became president in 1979.

She has lost none of her zeal in the intervening years and remains the strongest force pushing Wheeling into the future. She lobbied hard for the Wisconsin Central and a train station in downtown Wheeling, and both are close to becoming reality. She has served on a variety of intergovernmental commissions and earned a reputation as an outstanding village leader, giving the village stature in negotiations with other communities.

Schultz has been involved with the downtown TIF district since its inception, and has the clearest understanding of what needs to be done to revitalize the area and strips of run-down property up and down Milwaukee Avenue.

Abruscato serves a more valuable role to the village as a trustee from the opposition party, representing a segment of the village which has grown comfortable bringing their problems to her. Her goal of being more accessible, visible and available to residents if president is laudable, but Schultz has served the village quite well for 12 years. She deserves another term.

## Selander for clerk

Two qualified candidates, Jeanne Selander and Mike Kurgan, are running for Wheeling village clerk. Selander, a member of the Wheeling Progress Party, demonstrates a good working knowledge of the office and deserves voter support.

Since deciding to run, Selander has attended board meetings, talked with former village clerks, and come up with ideas for the office. Selander said she would commit time to working in the village's front office so she would be accessible to residents and gain a first-hand knowledge of any problems. She said she would study expanding evening hours and adding Saturday morning hours to make the office more convenient. She is the best choice for clerk.

## Wheeling trash pickup rates to go up

4-9-93  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After July 1 Wheeling residents will pay more for garbage collection, while rates for second trash pickups and recycling household materials remain unchanged under agreements the village board recently approved.

The trustees approved a rate increase for the Waste Management-Northwest to charge \$12.20 a month for garbage collection, a 3.3 percent, or 39 cent, hike over the current monthly fee of \$11.81. Village officials said the increase was

reasonable in light of the expenses the company incurred during the last year.

Rates for recycling household materials will remain at \$1.95 a month, while the optional second trash pickup residents normally use for removing landscape refuse will stay at \$3.10.

John M. Boyer, division president for the Oak Brook-based company, said the rate hike Waste Management was seeking is less than the 6 percent annual increase in the Cost-of-Living index.

The rate increase trustees approved puts the monthly cost

Wheeling residents pay in the middle of the rate scale the company charges for several communities it serves.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said currently the board merely sets rates for the trash removal and recycling services in Wheeling, which Waste-Management follows.

However, in 1994 the village will have to have in place a formal agreement with a waste hauler to provide garbage collection services to the residents under requirements from the Solid Waste Agency of Cook County, which in-

cludes Wheeling as a member community.

Anderson said those requirements were in place so the agency has knowledge that the garbage will be disposed of in an approved transfer station site.

The company is now negotiating with Wheeling officials for a longterm agreement to serve the village next year.

Village officials have also considered having the company include other materials for recycling such as magazines and old phone books.

4-10-93  
**Board seeks funds for low-income residents**

The Wheeling village board agreed to request from Cook County officials \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds to be used to help low-income homeowners refurbish their residences.

The money is slated for zero-interest non-amortized mortgage loans to assist the lower-income homeowners make repairs to their houses to bring them up to village building code standards.

**April 22 to salute Girl Scout leaders**

The Wheeling village board proclaimed Thursday, April 22, Girl Scout Leader's Day in the village.

The proclamation noted that there are 17,500 girls and 6,500 adults involved with the Illinois Crossroads Council Inc. Girl Scout organization.

**Auditors to review finances for \$15,900**

Wheeling trustees hired Wolf & Co. certified public accountants to do the state-required annual audit of the village's finances at a cost of \$15,900.

The village board also agreed to spend \$1,300 to have the company provide to the Wheeling Fire Protection District an audit that costs it submits to that panel are covered under its

contract with Wheeling. The additional audit cost brings the total the board spent on auditing to \$17,200.

**Trustees approve Palwaukee expenses**

Wheeling trustees approved expenses for Palwaukee Airport that included having airport officials pay \$15,819.15 to the Crawford, Murphy and Tilly engineering firm for a variety of work.

The village board also agreed to have airport officials pay an additional \$5 an hour in legal fees that the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson had requested.

Wheeling operates the airport with the city of Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement.

**3 non-profit groups to stage tag days**

Wheeling trustees granted requests by three local non-profit groups to hold tag days in the village for their fund-raising efforts.

The Clearbrook Center in Rolling Meadows, which serves adults and children with developmental disabilities, will hold its tag days on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 4-5. AMVETS Post 66 will hold its tag days on Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, and the village is allowing the Salvation Army to hold tag days on Friday and Saturday, June 4-5.

4-10-93  
**Municipal airport panel proposes budget increase**

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission proposed a budget of nearly \$900,000 for the 1993-94 fiscal year that includes an increase in fees commissioners earn for monthly meetings.

Wheeling trustees recently approved without comment the new spending plan that's about 4 percent higher than the \$863,000 the commission spent last year. The Prospect Heights city council tabled voting on the budget until April 19 because it wanted further explanation of the expenditures from Michael S. Zonslus, assistant manager for finance and administration for the airport.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights own and operate the airport on Milwaukee Avenue just north of Palatine Road under an intergovernmental agreement. Officials for both towns have final say over airport spending.

The new budget includes a hike in the fees the eight commission members, four from each town, receive monthly for the meetings increasing them from a \$75 a month to \$125 a

month. The commissioners have not received an increase in the stipends they receive since 1986, shortly after the two communities acquired the airport.

Commissioners first discussed raising the fees earlier this year when Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford proposed eliminating the \$50 per-meeting stipend city council members receive. Rotchford's proposal was not backed by a city council committee and never came before alderman for a vote.

Other expenditures under the new budget include \$354,000 for the salaries of eight full-time employees, a 5 percent increase over the \$336,000 they earned last year.

Airport officials also allocated \$350,000 for capital expenditures such as pavement repairs and finance charges.

Airport officials expect \$1.66 million in revenue, a jump of 10.1 percent over this year's revenue of \$1.4 million. Most of those revenues will be generated mainly by fees on hangar leases, fuel sales and related-aviation work.

**Railroad backers to wage informational campaign**

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Municipalities backing the proposed Wisconsin Central railroad will launch a program next month to rally grass roots support for the commuter rail line.

The Wisconsin Central Mayoral Task Force, a group of 11 communities located along the line's route, are being asked to pledge \$1,000 each to be used for a brochure and booklet highlighting the train. The literature will be sent to civic groups, businesses and congressional representatives, Mark L. Fowler, transportation project coordinator for the Northwest Municipal Conference, said.

"It's (the literature) just to generate grass roots support for the project and to let everyone know the time lines and possible costs," he said.

The 11 task force communities are Antioch, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Grayslake, Lake Villa, Libertyville, Mundelein, Prospect Heights, Round Lake Beach, Wheeling and Vernon Hills. Those towns are also

members of the NWMC, a consortium of north and northwest suburban municipalities.

Wheeling trustees this week awarded \$1,000 to the task force for the public education program. The money will be spent on a brochure and presentation materials.

The NWMC will also speak with representatives from Franklin Park, Rosemont and Schiller Park about joining the task force. The rail line also passes through those communities and the eastern edge of O'Hare International Airport.

In addition to the literature, a speakers bureau will be formed to address groups interested in the 53-mile long rail line.

Targets of the educational efforts will include congressmen Henry Hyde, John Porter and Phillip J. Crane.

Officials have cited support by the municipalities and their willingness to build commuter stations as the reason the line has received federal funding. Officials of Metra, the regional commuter rail system, have said the line could be ready to run in 1996 if the stations are in place.

4-15-93  
**Costly tires make land less of bargain**

By IRV LEAVITT  
 STAFF WRITER

*Courtesy*  
 The 1.8-acre piece of bargain property the Palwaukee Airport got for \$15,000 early last winter has turned out to be not so much of a bargain after all.

The \$50,000 contract to clear the thousands of tires off it was doubled by Wheeling, which owns the airport with its neighbor, Prospect Heights. That's because the stacks of Goodyears, Goodriches and Firestones, et al, seem to never end. The tires, perhaps 80,000 in all, were piled high above the ground, and packed about eight feet below the surface of the old junkyard, according to Airport Manager Fred Stewart.

And the bill for clearing the dirt there of toxic chemicals will likely reach an additional quarter-million dollars, according to Stewart.

But he said only about 5 percent of that will wind up being paid by Wheeling and Prospect Heights taxpayers. The federal Airport Improvement Program will probably pick up 90 percent, with the villages and the Illinois Department of Transportation splitting the remainder, according to Stewart. The land was purchased for FAA-required airport expansion, to move the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads away from its main Runway 34.

The tires have to be cleaned of toxic goo on site, then shredded and shipped out of town, where they'll be added to coal and burned as fuel.

The toxins in the old dump are the result of presumably legal dumping of fuel oils on the site. The Cook County Circuit Court awarded the airport the property, on the south side of Hintz Road, between Wolf and the drainage ditch, for a token payment to junkyard owner Frank R. Chupich, 79.

4-13-93  
**Wheeling's appearance top concern of residents**

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The appearance of Wheeling is the primary concern of residents, according to the results of an extensive community needs survey unveiled Monday.

The results of a 32-question written survey of residents conducted by the police department from last June to February showed that while the majority gave the village high marks for appearance, 458 people listed 23 different concerns and topping the list was the

appearance of Milwaukee Avenue, especially where it intersects with Dundee Road.

"A lot of these items are, again, being addressed," said village manager Craig G. Anderson, noting village improvements are under way and the old Dunkin' Donuts building at that intersection was recently demolished.

The wide-ranging survey was conducted by the police to meet national accreditation requirements, police chief Michael F. Haeger said. The survey was expanded to include questions about

the fire, community development and operations and maintenance departments along with the Wheeling Park District.

Eight percent of Wheeling's population, or 1,033 residents, returned the surveys that includes questions about crime, residents' knowledge of social services and contacts with village departments.

The survey revealed that 79 percent felt safe in Wheeling, while 78 percent felt the village had an excellent or very good appearance.

Another 68 percent said that they generally had a positive con-

tact with the village's administrative employees.

Haeger added he was disappointed at the low response by minority residents to the survey. The responding group was 89 percent white, 4 percent Asian, 4 percent Hispanic and 4 percent black.

"This was a disappointment because the figures didn't reflect the 1990 census results," he said.

Village officials said they will use the survey for planning and they may circulate a verbal survey to increase minority responses.

# Two parties offer their slates for trustees

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

The three candidates for trustee slated by Village President Sheila Schultz' Wheeling Progress Party can claim more civic experience than those running on trustee Judy Abruscato's Citizens for Wheeling party.

But the Citizens Party trio assert they want to give village government the

common touch, to bring it closer to the people. They took a first step before their slating process ended, by trying to talk a Hispanic candidate onto their ticket.

That didn't work out, when the coveted candidate, a realtor in the office of Abruscato's clerk candidate Mike Kurgan, begged off due to an already full plate of activities.

But not before contact with Wheeling's Hispanic minority gave the opposition party an idea they might want to change things for them.

Michael Lynch, a loss-prevention manager for an insurance company, supported recent Village efforts to teach Spanish to the police, but thought it might be time to put more effort into getting native Hispanics onto the police and fire rolls.

"Sgt. Rivera at the police department can't be everywhere," he said. He added that at Wheeling Village Hall "nobody habla espanol" and it would be helpful to have some fluent Spanish speakers there.

Lynch, who missed in a trustee bid two years ago, is a nine-year resident passed over for village commission appointments about three years ago. "I didn't have a ghost's chance of getting in there," he said.

When Abruscato asked him to run the first time, he accepted, because he felt it was the only way to break into Wheeling civic affairs.

The only incumbent in the race is Elizabeth L. Hartman, a trustee trying for a third term with Schultz' party. She supports village efforts at enhanced communication with Hispanics, but reminds that "it only takes care of Hispanics, while there are so many other immigrants that don't speak English."

Asked if feelings of alienation had dissuaded Hispanics from volunteering for village commissions, she

said, "I really don't know. The three (families) I called on today all seemed very very happy with the community."

She said the board will continue to bolster efforts to build the diversionary channel to shunt water away from homes, a train station on the proposed Wisconsin Central Line, and the widening of Milwaukee Avenue, in order to enhance life in the village and boost property values.

"Whatever new developers come into town, they have to provide a higher grade of visual attractiveness," she added. "Most of the recent developments are very attractive."

A former village clerk, she taught primary school before settling in Wheeling in 1961. She said one of her special interests is recycling, and looks forward to increasing the variety of items residents will be able to keep out of landfills in the future.

Sue Smedinghoff is the only Citizens party candidate to have served on a village commission. She's been on the Zoning Board of Appeals about two years.

Working on zoning variances gives her a thrill she didn't expect. "Residents come in (seeking exceptions) for a garage, or a kitchen. Later on, I'll drive by, and feel like I'm a part of it — I'm excited for them. I really enjoy being a part of the betterment of the village."

As a trustee, she'd like the chance to approve "nice medium-priced single-family homes" on undeveloped property in the village. "Wheeling has been looked upon as a starter-home village. People often move out of the village on the next step up." She said she'd like more developments in town similar to Picardy I and II.

She thinks village trustees would have an easier job planning for the future if they met with village commissioners. "After being appointed by the village board ... I don't know if any of them could have picked me out of a crowd," she said.

The ZBA "has had hardly any interaction with the planning commission or the village board. There haven't been any social functions or any collaborative functions."

She claimed Wheeling has a hard time competing with Buffalo Grove for businesses. "We seem to lose a lot to Buffalo Grove," she said. "It's a great town, but I live here."

"Wheeling is viewed as



Hartmann



Todd



Wisinski



Fitzpatrick



Lynch



Smedinghoff

run-down, littered, dirty. We need to do a lot about our appearance."

"There's a pocket of people that are very involved. But on the whole I don't feel (residents) have a feeling of ownership in the village."

Another candidate with ZBA experience is Progress Party hopeful Wayne Wisinski, who has served that board since 1987. He feels the small size of the lots along Milwaukee Avenue have made them "unconducive to development" and property owners should be convinced to combine their efforts.

He said while on the ZBA, he's "learned how to focus on an issue, learned to ask questions and get people to answer questions," skills that would hold him in good stead on the board of trustees.

He wants to bring to the board "a fresh pair of eyes, a fresh, open mind, without preconceived ideas, good or bad. I want to start from square one."

He said a trip to a recent Wheeling budget hearing added to his impression village "government is fiscally sound. We've got to make sure we don't get behind the eight-ball money-wise."

"I don't react to things instantly," he said. "The things I read, I don't take as gospel truth. People have to be able to (weigh) information in order to be able to sort through it."

Another Progress Party candidate, Robert G. Todd, said Schultz asked him to run for trustee in the middle of his first term as Wheeling Park District Commissioner.

"It was an opportunity," said Todd. "A couple of guys wanted to leave the board, Bill Rogers and Joe Ratajczak, and I thought I'd like to try it."

He leaves the park district on the upswing, as its new aquatic center is poised to open and ground has been broken for the recreation center. Todd feels the two facilities, combined with a new Wisconsin Central Station, will be an anchor to boost redevelopment of the Milwaukee-Dundee retail intersection.

He said as he talked with voters, he found them mainly concerned with "tax issues, and neighborhood issues, such as the gang problem."

He said the first step in dealing with gangs is to "realize they exist, and deal with them in the best possible way."

He supports strict enforcement of the village graffiti-removal ordinance. "Graffiti should be taken down as soon as possible, because that's the way they take over a neighborhood."

He added he felt the aquatic and rec centers would give youth more activities, and that would help keep young people off the street.

Todd, an advertising company project manager, says Wheeling is viewed as a "stopover community. People might buy their first house here, or come here when they retire. I want them to raise families here, to stick around. They're doing that more and more, but I'd like to see Wheeling get a reputation for that."

Citizens Party candidate Cheryl Fitzpatrick has no civic experience, but feels she could be valuable as a trustee because of her background working on the support staff of an accounting/legal firm.

"I'm pretty fluent in legal terms," she said. "And I understand (accounting) protocols necessary to get answers back and forth," she said.

"I'm a real hard worker, and I'd work really hard for the village," she said. She added she'd continue knocking on doors "even after being elected, asking people what their needs are, and inviting them to meetings."

"Wheeling has a lot of work to do as far as reputation goes," she said. "We'd like to preserve the nice low tax base, but surrounding towns are cleaner and more well thought of. We've got to get the children more involved, and the commissions more involved. There's a definite difference when you cross the line between Buffalo Grove and Wheeling."



# Schultz wants another crack at village president position

Last in a series

4-7-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



## PROFILE

When Sheila H. Schultz first started in Wheeling village government as a trustee in 1979, she used to scrutinize everything the village staff told her.

Racked by corruption earlier in the decade that saw some Wheeling officials receiving federal indictments, Schultz felt an air of mistrust still existed at village hall then.

"When I was first elected to the board, I can remember spending five nights a week researching every issue that came before the board. We didn't have the confidence in village staff. We weren't getting the reports... There was distrust. That distrust doesn't exist now," she said.

As she seeks a fourth consecutive term as village president, against challenger Trustee Judy Abruscato, the best way to describe Schultz's administration is that she has left it to professional staff to carry out the day-to-day functions of Wheeling while the trustees set the policy.

"The things I'm most satisfied with aren't very exciting. We've been able to build a professional staff that drives the wonderful things," Schultz said.

### Mayoral profile: Sheila H. Schultz



Age: 63

Hometown: Wheeling

**Who is she:** Incumbent Wheeling village president; head of circulation for the Indian Trails Public Library.

**Family:** Husband Robert, seven children and 10 grandchildren.

Like a coach discussing the team, Schultz describes the village staff she helped make more professional and her fellow board members as "we."

The wonderful things Schultz refers to includes the likelihood that Wheeling will have a commuter stop on the proposed Wisconsin Central Railroad line, the upcoming widening of a 3 1/2 mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue through the heart of the village and the start of redevelopment of the tax increment finance district along that street after years of litigation — all of which can stimulate the local economy.

Another hallmark of Schultz's tenure in office is her taking the regional view and involving the village in organizations with other local governments working for collective goals such as the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Lake Michigan Water Commission, which helps the village receive Lake Michigan water.

"We can't operate in a vacuum. The neighborhood things are the primary concern that certainly hasn't been neglected. I don't know how long you can operate without dealing with the outside things that affect us," she said.

As a result, she is well known among local and state officials and has been outspoken about such regional concerns as retaining the municipalities' share of the Illinois income tax surcharge.

By helping to modernize village government, experience dealing with regional concerns and keeping Wheeling from imposing many of the taxes on its residents that neighboring communities have, Schultz hopes voters will return her to the town's top spot.

"I think it's a town with a high sense of community. I like to use the term 'we know who we are.' I'd like to maintain and enhance that, and that goes back to the (regional) involvements and quality of life issues. People are busy and they shouldn't have to be watchdogs. Leadership has a lot of different faces and everyone follows their own style," she said.

# Wheeling trustees approve slimmer village budget

4-6-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board on Monday approved a \$22.5 million 1993-94 fiscal year budget that is 3.08 percent lower than last year's \$23.3 million spending plan.

In a 4-2 vote, with trustees William A. Rogers and Judy Abruscato dissenting, the board approved a budget that maintains village programs and freezes hiring.

Under the new budget, the vil-

lage will spend \$840,000 for a street improvement program starting this summer. Another \$430,000 is allocated for construction of a McHenry Road sewer extension and \$385,000 is set to pay for construction of a third Lake Michigan water receiving and pumping station for the south end of the village.

Another \$1.8 million will go toward the village's retirement of general obligation bonds issued in 1985.

The village also targeted \$100,250 for several social service agencies.

Abruscato objected, saying the board should have given \$1,000 to the 214 Fight Back anti-drug program and \$6,500 to the Salvation Army, which they did not.

Rogers objected to a \$20,000 expenditure item for a community resource response center to be operated by OMNI Youth Services, saying it duplicates other agencies' efforts.

The center will provide a host of social services to help Wheeling and Prospect Heights residents become acclimated to the community.

"I'm saying there's a vast duplication of services," Rogers said.

Dennis F. Depcik, OMNI's associate director, said the center would put all those services in one place making it easier for village newcomers to find them.

The village board said it will

know more about property taxes after it receives its assessment from Cook County.

Previously officials said homeowners could end up seeing an increase in property taxes next year even though the property tax rate of \$1.145 per \$100 equalized assessed valuation may drop slightly.

Village officials took into account the possibility of losing the state income tax surcharge in planning the budget.

# Mayor race features familiar faces

14-15-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling voters will have two familiar faces to choose from for village president on election day.

Running in the April 20 general election are incumbent Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who is seeking an unprecedented fourth term, and challenger Judy Abruscato, a trustee on the village board.

Aside from being well-known in the village through years of civic involvements, both candidates are also fielding slates of candidates for the village board. Schultz is running on the Wheeling Progress Party ticket with incumbent Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman, Wheeling Park District commissioner Robert G. Todd, Zoning Board of Appeals member Wayne J. Wasinski and political newcomer Jeanne D. Selander, who is vying for the village clerk spot.

Abruscato is running on the Citizens For Wheeling Party slate with election first-timers including trustee hopefuls Cheryl Fitzpatrick, Sue Smedinghoff, a zoning board of appeals member, and clerk candidate Mike Kurgan. Slate-member Michael T. Lynch is making his second run for trustee having last sought the office two years ago.

There are no burning issues that

## WHEELING VILLAGE PRESIDENT

divide the different political camps.

The candidates are pretty much on the same page when it comes to backing such matters as the upcoming widening of Milwaukee Avenue, the development of the village's tax incremental finance district and the location of commuter station in Wheeling for the planned Wisconsin Central Railroad line.

Abruscato said she's running because competition is good for Wheeling. Her platform includes a call for attention to neighborhood issues, which include upgrading infrastructure such as lighting in the older subdivisions in the village, ensuring gang graffiti is kept off buildings and to keep garbage from piling up so Wheeling's appearance isn't marred.

She's also stressing that elected officials should be accessible to residents, and is calling for the village hall to be open on Saturdays.

Schultz is seeking re-election, and notes village improvements such as the planned commuter station, the professionalism of village government and Wheeling's responsible spending.

Additionally, she points to the

## Mayoral profile: Sheila H. Schultz



Age: 63

Hometown: Wheeling

**Who is she:** Incumbent Wheeling Village President; head of circulation for the Indian Trails Public Library

**Family:** Husband Robert, seven children and 10 grandchildren.

## Mayoral profile: Judy Abruscato



Age: 59

Hometown: Wheeling

**Who is she:** Challenger for Wheeling village president; a vice president of personal banking with 1st National Bank of Wheeling; member of the Wheeling Village board.

**Family:** Husband, Mario; son, Anthony, 29; daughter, Valerie, 31.

village's involvement on regional groups such as the Northwest Municipal Conference, which helps

Wheeling gain region-wide benefits such as Lake Michigan water.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD

# Wheeling candidates share views

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Like the village president candidates that head their tickets, Wheeling village board trustee hopefuls share the slate leaders' views and experiences.

The April 20 race includes eight candidates seeking three open trustee seats and the clerk's post on the Wheeling village board on the Citizens For Wheeling and Wheeling Progress Party tickets.

The Citizens For Wheeling slate is headed by current trustee Judy Abruscato, who is seeking the village president spot. That ticket includes political newcomers Cheryl Fitzpatrick, Sue Smedinghoff and Mike Kurgan, who wants to be village clerk.

Trustee candidate Michael T. Lynch previously sought the office in the April 1991 election.

The Wheeling Progress Party slate is led by incumbent Village President Sheila H. Schultz who is seeking re-election to the office she's held for three terms. The

## Wheeling Village Board

**Wayne J. Wisinski, 41,**  
96 W. Wayne Place. A 13-year Wheeling resident, Wisinski now sits on the village's zoning board of appeals.



**Michael T. Lynch, 39,**  
673 Longtree Drive. Living in Wheeling for nearly a decade, Lynch is making his second bid for the office of trustee.



**Robert G. Todd, 36,**  
231 Cindy Lane. A five-year Wheeling resident, Todd currently sits on the Wheeling Park District board of commissioners.



**Sue Smedinghoff, 36,**  
211 West Wayne Place. The five-year village resident is currently a member of the zoning board of appeals. She is making her initial attempt for an elected office in Wheeling.



**Cheryl Fitzpatrick, 39,**  
1025 Kenilworth Drive. A 19-year resident



**Elizabeth L. Hartman,**  
Declined to give age, 159 St. Armand Lane,



■ District 96's elementary and middle schools: toasted cheese sandwich, green beans, applesauce, milk.  
■ District 96 Twin Grove Junior High of Bond, cheese, milk.  
■ District 96's elementary and middle schools: turkey School District 214: turkey tetrazzini, nachos with chili and cheese, grilled ham and cheese sandwich, choice of vegetable, salads, fruits, desserts, milk.  
■ St. Peter Lutheran School, Armand Hotel, hamburger  
■ Armand Hotel, hamburger

■ District 96's elementary and middle schools: turkey School District 214: turkey tetrazzini, nachos with chili and cheese, grilled ham and cheese sandwich, choice of vegetable, salads, fruits, desserts, milk.  
■ St. Peter Lutheran School, Armand Hotel, hamburger  
■ Armand Hotel, hamburger

## BIRTHS

■ Brian A. Workman pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis and was sentenced to one year court supervision and fined \$75. Cases originating in Hoffman Estates:

# Resource center to focus on youth

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

A Wheeling community resource center, with a focus on Hispanic youth, may be all but an inevitability, according to its foremost opponent.

Retiring trustee William Rogers growled, "they'll get it." Monday, referring to \$125,000 worth of Community Development Block

grant funds Omni Youth Services is seeking for centers they plan for the area of Wolf and Dundee Roads in Wheeling, and the Piper Lane area in Prospect Heights. Both are areas with Hispanic concentrations. "There's a pool of money they want to give away."

Rogers feels the centers would be "just duplicating services" of other organizations, such as the Salvation

Army. Fellow trustee, Village President candidate and former Army worker Judy Abruscato agreed.

Rogers resented Wheeling including a contribution of \$20,000 to the Wheeling center. Prospect Heights put off its decision.

## More agencies

"I think it's just a thing to get more employment for

their own people ... unemployed social workers.

"Let's admit it. Spanish people aren't dumb. They know how to use a telephone. There's 50 agencies they can call. When does it stop?" Rogers feels after a few years, the federal funds will dry up, and Omni will come to Wheeling for infusions, "just like they did before."

(Continued on page 81)

# Focus is the choice for Wheeling voters

By Janan Hanna

For the last 12 years, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz has governed with a regional perspective, promoting the village as a prominent community in the northwest suburbs.

As a member of several regional planning groups, Schultz is working on efforts to bring the northwest suburbs a new garbage landfill, commuter rail line and comprehensive flood-control plan.

Her theory is that what is good for the northwest suburbs is good for Wheeling.

But her opponent, Judy Abruscato, says the focus should be more local, and she's taking a populist approach to the non-partisan mayoral race by taking her campaign to Wheeling's neighborhoods.

"I feel that people know I'm working for them," said Abruscato, a village trustee.

"For instance, a resident called me and said a street light was out," Abruscato said. "I made some calls, and in a day that problem was taken care of. I feel satisfaction when a resident calls me and I can help them with a

problem."

Abruscato, 58, is an assistant vice president of personal banking at the First National Bank of Wheeling. She has been a trustee for six years and is active in a number of social service organizations. She said she has focused on enforcing village ordinances while in office.

"It seems that the people that live in the village are concerned about their town," Abruscato said. "They're concerned about their parents, about the operation of the village. They're concerned

See Wheeling, pg. 4

# Wheeling

Continued from page 1

that we're keeping an eye on the budget. They need to know their elected officials."

Schultz's approach, meanwhile, resembles that of outgoing Elk Grove Village President Charles Zettek, who in 32 years as an elected official stressed regional issues and became known as the "dean" of the northwest suburbs.

She insisted that village officials have delivered quality services and kept taxes down over the last 12 years.

"I think you need to pay close attention to what's happening here, but you can't live in a vacuum," Schultz said. "You need to see where the village fits in the big picture. A lot of things are about ready to happen, and I'm in the best position to see them through."

One look at the résumés of the candidates highlights their extremely different political bents.

Schultz, 63, is head of circulation at the Indian Trails Public Library. She has served as the president of the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, and she currently heads the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and is vice president of the Illinois Municipal League.

It was under Schultz's tenure that Wheeling acquired Palwaukee Airport from a private owner in a partnership with neighboring Prospect Heights.

And Schultz has worked with

tics in the early 1970s as the campaign manager for the Wheeling Independent Party (WHIP), which won four village trustee seats in 1974 after several village officials were indicted for extortion.

She won a trustee seat in 1979, and was elected village president in 1981. The only election she's lost since was a bid for Cook County commissioner, running as a Democrat, in 1989 at the start of her third term as village president.

"If she had won, we would have been left without a village president," said Abruscato, a Republican. "I believe President Schultz has other goals on the horizon. I don't feel we should look for aspirations outside the village until our terms are up."

Schultz supporters, however, note that she's experienced, connected and better qualified than Abruscato to lead the village.

"So many of the things that affect the Village of Wheeling affect the whole region," said Trustee Lois Gaffke. "We have many state highways that criss-cross town, we have an airport that we're joint owners of, we have storm water problems that are regionwide. We have to address these issues. Sheila knows the process, and she knows how to get things done."

While firefighters and the village are far apart on some issues, and have been negotiating for the past three months, talks are continuing, representatives for both sides said. Talks with the public works employees seeking a pay hike

Barbara Kobishop, Wheeling crime prevention officer, and one of the two CCPA representatives for community service officers, declined comment on the upcoming labor talks with the village.

Jim Meyer, clinical director of Omni, said his organization would be asking Wheeling for an additional \$60,000 for current programs.

He said Omni has been mainly confined to counseling, but would now assist residents with services that might include job skills, computer training, ESL courses, public health referrals, immunization clinics, legal assistance, crisis walk-in intervention, and crime prevention, among others.

## No duplication

"It does seem to a lot of people that these are things that are already provided," said Meyer. "But they're not provided to the bi-lingual community."

Village President Sheila Schultz agreed, but said that community should include Eastern Europeans, who also need some service information translated at times.

Barb Kobishop, crime prevention officer of the Wheeling Police Department, hopes to see a similar kind of atmosphere as at a similar center in Rolling Meadows' largely-Hispanic East-Park Apartment complex. Omni sees the police playing an important role at the center.

"I was there for a visit," said Kobishop of a trip to Rolling Meadows. "There were a lot of kids there, for an after school program, making Easter baskets," she said. "There were police officers coming in and out, involved in another activity. There were kids out front playing basketball, and the whole thing was very relaxe-

d and friendly. The phone was ringing off the hook, and the feeling was very informal. There was another whole room ... where (Harper College teachers) were teaching ESL."

Police Chief Michael Haeger said Tuesday, "We plan on having our social worker

**« We plan on having our social worker involved, our crime prevention officer involved, at times a gang crime officer involved. »**

Michael Haeger

involved, our crime prevention officer involved, at times a gang crime officer involved. It just depends on the need at the time. We plan on working very closely together. We definitely want to have a strong involvement.

"It could be considered a form of community policing, an effort to potentially divert them from antisocial behavior, making them integral parts of that society."

"You never really know how much (crime) you prevent ... If you make their lives a little better" criminal activity could be forestalled.

Kobishop looks forward to working the facility herself, providing latchkey-kid, child-safety courses, neighborhood watch and other crime prevention services.

# Deadline today for pact as negotiations continue

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials and village employee groups will pass the deadline they had set for today to have either salary increases or new contracts in place as negotiations continue.

Today was the original deadline for Wheeling officials to have negotiated new contracts with the firefighters, communications operators and records clerks. Patrol officers and public works employees were to have new salary hikes in place by April 30.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said none of the deadlines, specified in the different agreements the village has with those groups, would be met and that all the groups were still negotiating. "The contracts that currently are in effect will continue on until we reach a settlement," Anderson said.

While firefighters and the village are far apart on some issues, and have been negotiating for the past three months, talks are continuing, representatives for both sides said. Talks with the public works employees seeking a pay hike

covering \$3 of their rank and file are now just starting as are similar negotiations with police. Patrol officers, whose three-year pact with the village expires in 1995, also are seeking a salary increase that would cover 45 officers.

Talks with the records clerks and communications operators — who handle emergency calls — for a new agreement to replace their expiring one-year contract were delayed by village officials. Wheeling officials are waiting to see if the police community service officers would join those groups and bargain as one unit.

The five community service officers, who handle responsibilities not done by sworn officers, recently decided to join the Combined County Police Association for negotiating their first-ever contract with the village. That union also represents Wheeling patrol officers.

Barbara Kobishop, Wheeling crime prevention officer, and one of the two CCPA representatives for community service officers, declined comment on the upcoming labor talks with the village.


  
**TEDI**
  
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 9X12 Ticketed \$14,000
   
 Was \$6500
   
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# Schultz rolls to fourth term

## Wheeling mayor turns back Abruscato challenge

4-21-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, the new dean of Northwest suburban mayors, captured an unprecedented fourth term Tuesday, easily turning back a challenge from Trustee Judy Abruscato.

"I think the election showed that the voters approved of what I thought was important for the village president to do," she said.

With 26 of 28 precincts reporting, the unofficial tallies showed

Schultz leading with 1,430 votes to Abruscato's 851 votes.

"It looks like Mrs. Schultz is village president again," Abruscato said.

With the retirement of Elk Grove Village President Charles Zettek this year, Schultz, 63, now becomes the longest-serving mayor in the Northwest suburbs with 12 years in office. She will have served for 16 years by the time she completes her new term.

"Being compared in any way to Chuck Zettek is an awesome responsibility. He had many more

years and served several terms longer than I. I hope to live up to that expectation as best I can," she said.

Schultz has used those years to increase her profile as a regional suburban leader, currently serving as north Cook County commissioner with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and acting previously as the president of the Northwest Municipal Conference. Last year, running as a Democrat, she lost a race for the Cook County Board.

In her last contested mayoral

election in 1985, Schultz tallied 1,250 votes vs. the 606 her nearest challenger received.

Abruscato, 59, has been a village trustee since 1991 and lost a bid for village clerk in 1981. She has two years left in her term on the village board. In 1987, Abruscato was named to the village's zoning board of appeals.

Schultz said that during her next term, she wants to develop ways to offer the same level of municipal services in light of the expected loss of Illinois income tax surcharge money.



Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz accepts a celebratory gift after she captured an unprecedented fourth term Tuesday.  
Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

### Northwest suburban mayoral contests



#### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS:

##### Mulder unseats Schroeder

Village Trustee Arlene Mulder captures the village presidency by defeating the interim president, another trustee and a newcomer.



#### ELK GROVE VILLAGE:

##### Gallitano takes over

Village Trustee Dennis J. Gallitano defeats two fellow trustees to become first new mayor in 22 years.



#### MOUNT PROSPECT:

##### Farley fends off foursome

Incumbent Village President Gerald L. "Skip" Farley bested two newcomers and a pair of trustees to win a second term.



#### BARRINGTON:

##### Hamelberg edges Forsberg

Village Trustee Ronald M. Hamelberg apparently outpolls incumbent Village President Theodore J. Forsberg.



#### HANOVER PARK:

##### Crawshaw gains third term

Incumbent Village President Sonya A. Crawshaw defeated former trustee Frank Dalla Valle to win third term.



#### PALATINE:

##### Mullins survives battle with Jones

Incumbent Village President Rita Mullins won a second term, beating Wendell Jones, the GOP-endorsed former village president.



#### DES PLAINES:

##### Sherwood defeats Albrecht

Retired businessman Edward "Ted" Sherwood outpolls Mayor D. Michael Albrecht and alderman.



#### LAKE BARRINGTON:

##### Hemphill unseats Smith

Village Trustee Barry Hemphill is elected, upsetting Village President Nancy K. Smith's bid for a second full term.



#### STREAMWOOD:

##### Roth survives challenge

Incumbent Billie D. Roth wins second term by defeating former deputy police chief and park board president.



#### WHEELING:

##### Schultz wins fourth term

Incumbent Village President Sheila H. Schultz won a fourth term by defeating Village Trustee Judy Abruscato.

**UNCONTESTED:** James A. Kempe in Barrington Hills; Catherine Melchert in Bartlett; James M. Peterson in Deer Park; Michael J. O'Malley in Hoffman Estates; Donna Thomas in Inverness; Lenore Simmons in Long Grove; and Warren Fuller in South Barrington.

Daily Herald Graphic



Wheeling Village president Sheila Schultz cast her vote Tuesday. Preliminary returns showed Schultz with a comfortable lead over challenger Judy Abruscato. For early results, turn to

PAGE 5  
4-22-93



# Schultz's party wins clean sweep

## Incumbent mayor gains fourth term

*Courtesy photo 4-22-93*

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

It looked like a clean sweep for the Wheeling Progress Party as 12-year Village President Sheila Schultz led her party to victories over all comers.

Schultz beat challenging Trustee Judy Abruscato by 1,427 to 861, in unofficial totals.

"It's not coattails," said Schultz Tuesday night. "Just good candidates who worked very hard."

"Everybody worked. No one was coasting."

### Clean race

Incumbent Elizabeth Hartmann, with 1,277 votes, Robert Todd with 1,255, and Wayne Wisinski, with 1,116, all won. Sue Smedinghoff, with 1,013, Cheryl Fitzpatrick, with 927 votes, and Mike Lynch, with 897 votes, lost.

"It's always bad when you don't win," said Abruscato. "But we had a good clean

race, and I'm happy and proud that I did the best I could."

"I've got two years left to go as a trustee, and I've got 29,300 people to serve. I'll always be there for them."

There was a lot of support for the losing party, like the 30-year-resident who, leaving her Whipple-tree Village polling place, said, "I want Judy Abruscato to get in right now. She's the only one who's done anything for about 15 years."

### Happy with effort

Another Abruscato supporter this one from the Arlington Club, said, "for some reason, this complex often puts somebody in or somebody out."

It didn't happen in the last park district recreation center referendum, and it didn't happen this time.

Of all Abruscato's Citizens for Wheeling Party candidates, Smedinghoff came the closest to winning.



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz leaves the Heritage Park community center election. Early returns showed her with a lead over her opponent, Judy Abruscato.

She trailed third-place Wayne Wisinski by 103 votes, unofficially.

"Whether I win or lose," she said early in the evening, "I'm pretty damn proud of my showing, the first time out. It had a lot to do with my ability to get out and meet the people," she said.

Trustee candidate Mike Lynch, who lost for the second time in two years, said, "the people have spoken. They want her (Schultz). I don't really think they know what they're doing. They don't realize their board is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars defending a racist police chief."

"They said they're going to open up the village on Saturday — lets see it. She hasn't done it in 12 years."

The Schultz clerk candidate that promised to personally open the village office Saturdays, Jeanne Selander, defeated Mike Kurgan soundly, 1,309 to 899.

# Wheeling awards contracts for summer road projects

4-20-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists in Wheeling soon should find it easier to get around the village, now that contracts have been awarded for a series of road improvement projects.

The Wheeling village board Monday unanimously agreed to award Palumbo Bros. Inc. of Hillside a \$627,221.50 contract to make improvements to more than 3.1 miles of village streets. The work is scheduled to start in the summer.

Wheeling neighborhoods targeted to receive most of the roadwork include the Tahoe Village subdivision on the west side of Wheeling and the Meadowbrook and Shadow Bend subdivisions on the east side of town.

Other areas targeted for the repairs include Mockingbird Lane on the northwest side of the village, part of Foster Avenue on the south side of the village and a section of Wheeling Road in the center of town.

Improvements planned include curb and gutter repairs, pavement marking, pothole

patching and related work.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said officials decided it was necessary to have such work done this year to maintain the quality of village streets. Anderson said village officials hope to avoid more costly repairs that would be required if the village were to delay the work.

Under the recently approved 1993-94 village budget, officials had allocated \$840,000 for the project, making it one of the largest capital expenditures in an otherwise conservative spending plan.

The village will pay for the project with funds earmarked for road and bridge repairs and Wheeling's share of state motor fuel tax revenue.

Palumbo was awarded the contract over three other firms vying for Wheeling's business. The company bid \$92,716.50, or 12.9 percent less than engineers estimated the project would cost.

Wheeling trustees Monday also hired Crystal Lake-based Baxter & Woodman Inc. as the project's engineers, at a cost of \$57,900.

# Buffalo Grove endorses Wheeling annexation plan

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove trustees moved to straighten the village boundaries by annexing two lots near the corner of Buffalo Grove and Lake-Cook roads and agreeing to let Wheeling annex a parcel east of Buffalo Grove Road near Aptakisic Road.

The two parcels that Buffalo Grove will annex are already in Wheeling. One of them is the lot just south of Lou Malnati's Pizzeria, which will become another parking lot for the restaurant after the annexation.

The other lot is northwest of the intersection of Buffalo Grove and Lake-Cook roads. It will require the village to maintain and patrol the intersection. That will mean Wheeling will have no frontage along Lake-Cook Road between Route 83 and Buffalo Grove Road.

As a concession, Buffalo Grove without objection agreed to let Wheeling annex the two acres near Aptakisic Road. Wheeling already annexed the property, but it wanted Buffalo Grove's blessing in order to

prevent a dispute.

Under an intergovernmental agreement, Wheeling would have to zone the property for single-family detached housing, single-family attached housing or office and research. But Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling said it would be difficult for Buffalo Grove to enforce the agreement.

"The board should understand that we're taking a leap of faith with the village of Wheeling on this," Balling said. About a year ago, the owners of Lou Malnati's bought the lot south of the restaurant for additional parking.

But Wheeling's zoning laws do not allow a free-standing parking lot without a business in the village, so the restaurant owners asked to bring the parking lot into Buffalo Grove.

The property on the northwest corner of Lake-Cook and Buffalo Grove roads, was included in the deal to help straighten the villages' borders.

The changes will take effect after the Wheeling village board votes on them May 3.

# Villages make land deal

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER  
*Countryside*

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling have finished cutting their celebrated land swap, and not unexpectedly have left the Wheeling Park District out of it.

"It's not the end of the world," sighed Wheeling Parks Superintendent Karop Bavougian. His district hoped to gain the .4 acre of land Buffalo Grove owns between the ninth green and the tenth tee of its Chevy Chase Country Club Golf Course, so it could finally fence in the links.

Wheeling officials saw little reason to push

"It's not the end of the world."

**Karop Bavougian  
Superintendent  
Wheeling Parks**

for its inclusion in the swaps of small land parcels, partly because they expected, perhaps rightly, that Buffalo Grove trustees would want their town reimbursed for the land.

## Unlikely to give it away

"It tends to be a useless little piece of property," said Trustee William Reid Tuesday. But he added his village would be unlikely to give it away anyway.

Bavougian said he will not recommend to his board they withhold a cheap lease or sale of land on Dundee Road in front of the aquatic and recreation centers that the village of Wheeling wants for a fountain, though that was the deal the Park District

wanted.

4-22-93  
The rest of the deal was passed by the Buffalo Grove board Monday night, and will probably be approved in Wheeling next month.

The land the Malnati family bought for a parking lot-office building south of its Buffalo Grove Road restaurant goes to Buffalo Grove, so it can be economically served with water and sewer. The house on the northwest corner of Buffalo Grove and Lake-Cook Road also goes into Buffalo Grove, along with the responsibility to pay for the crossing guard

"It tends to be a useless little piece of property"

**William Reid  
Trustee**

and handle all accidents on the corner. The Herff property, just south of the Malnati lot, stays in Wheeling, though that town had forcibly annexed it months ago while Buffalo Grove was in the process of annexing it voluntarily.

## Commercial development nixed

But an agreement between the two towns keeps it from being developed commercially, a bane of Buffalo Grove planning for the area, but welcomed by Wheeling, as evidenced by the new Wal-Mart and Sam's Warehouse a block east.

Earlier, Buffalo Grove whetted Wheeling's appetite for the deal by constructing a sidewalk across unincorporated territory on Dundee Road between the two towns, an amenity Wheeling had requested.

# National Louis considers Wheeling site for campus

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER  
*Countryside* 5-6-93

Wheeling may be getting its first college soon, moving into its largest office building. Whether it actually arrives may depend on exactly what's coming.

The Capitol Commerce Center, at Wolf and Palatine Roads, is in receivership. The New York bank that took possession has sold the stark grey and black-glass mid-rise central building to National Louis University for expansion. The sale is contingent on whether the Wheeling village board grants a variance to allow a new school in town.

A sticking point may be whether the university would declare itself non-profit, thus depriving local schools and governments of about a quarter-million dollars in property taxes. About an eighth of that now goes to the village.

Del Stoner, Louis senior vice-president for finance, said the university hasn't decided if it will or won't.

Wheeling plan commissioners, queried whether they'd rather have a school that might be a tax drain or a tax-paying client, said they'd rather have the taxpayer. But that was before the sale was made, before they knew which school it was, and when they were under the impression the building would be used for administration alone, not classrooms. They liked the idea of the status a university would bring, but they also wanted the dollars that students come with.

Stoner said most of the administration offices now at 4709 Golf Road in Skokie

would move to the new building, at 1000 Capitol Drive. He said there would be some classrooms, and eventually the school would plan to use the whole building.

First, he said he must negotiate with the few tenants in the building, including Joseph J. Freed and Associates, its former owner and principal tenant. Stoner said many of the tenants want to "negotiate out" because they signed their leases when the office rental market was higher than it is now.

But even if all tenants leave, Stoner isn't promising when the building would be full of classrooms. He said that eventually, the building would serve "the entire northwest quadrant" of prospective students.

He said Wheeling should expect lucrative traffic from frequent seminars and conferences, but not necessarily from Louis' typical crop of adult students.

"Why would they eat?" asked Stoner. "Our students go to school from six to ten (a.m.) and four to six in the evening. They maybe grab a bite at home on the way in."

Students might not spend too much time or money in Wheeling, because a Palatine Road expressway entrance is right at the site, drawing them to and from the school, perhaps encouraging them to avoid village streets and businesses.

He said about half Lewis' 16,000 students at several U.S. campuses, and a small Polish one, are in "adult degree-completion programs."

Louis' primary business is as a graduate teacher's college. Its headquarters is in Evanston, and the university has just bought the old Wheaton courthouse for another expansion project.



Bright lights from Checkers may illuminate the corner of Dundee and Wheeling Roads, under a

plan now before the village. This Checkers in Palatine is one of the chain's 200 restaurants.

Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

## Checkers makes its move, hopes to open in Wheeling

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

4-29-93

There may be a bright spot coming to Dundee and Wheeling Roads. Maybe a little too bright.

Checkers Hamburgers, one of the fastest-growing fast-food emporiums in America, is attempting to take over the Wheeling Brown's Chicken and Pasta, which languishes in near-obscurity in the shadow of the shuttered Martin Station, now crawling with demolition workers and oil-eating, bio-remediating microbes.

The Checker prototype is a small 50's-style building, covered with black, white and red tile, stainless steel and glass block, belted with a ring of neon and awash in fluorescence and incandescence. The local version, if eventually approved, would be at least a little less visually obvious.

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck told Checker folk last week there's no way he'll recommend their hamburger stand with its planned half-dozen, 30-foot light standards, even if the property isn't contiguous to any residences. He said 18 to 20 feet is enough.

### Crowning moves

But that was fine with the Checker petitioners, who are wasting little time trying to keep pace with entrenched fast-food competitors. In business for less than a decade, the Florida-based franchisee has 200 of the restaurants in operation, shining like a new-wave bathtubs throughout the land.

Chicago Double Drive-Through, which has held the rights to Chicago's north side and suburbs for three years, already has 13 stores up and running and four under construction. Bruce Albinak, one of the partners, said there's an additional 14 in the

approval process in the territory.

The Wheeling store would only cover 1,200 square feet, or about 3.6 percent of the corner lot at 625 W. Dundee. The double-lane drive-through restaurants are so small, they can go almost anywhere. That includes the Palatine corner of Rand and Dundee Roads, where Albinak admits his group "jammed" a restaurant into too small a space.

They can be that small partly because there's a little seating outside, and none inside. The company wants drive-by business, and nothing more.

### Eat and run

That drive-by business includes bicycle traffic, and for that reason, and to help insure approval, the group has offered to pay \$10,000 toward the \$80,000 Wheeling will owe if Illinois covers the rest of the funding for the village's first extended bike path. That path would go right through the north end of the Checkers' property, and link it with the Park District's new aquatic center.

The drive-by business also includes after-drinking hours. That was obvious after a sotto-voce conference between Albinak and Wheeling lawyer Alfred Stavros at last week's plan commission meeting. Albinak asked Stavros when Wheeling closed its taverns, and was told before 2 a.m. Chicago Double Drive-Through has requested a 2 a.m. closing Thursday through Saturday.

Albinak said later he intended the store to try to attract after-hours business, though it wasn't an important reason for late-night hours.

But, apparently, it's part of the group's policy. The Checkers at 3711 N. Western Avenue stays open until 3 a.m. Chicago taverns close at 2 a.m.



### A four-peat for Schultz

Wheeling village president Sheila Schultz gets comfortable in her seat on the village board Monday night. Schultz was sworn into office Monday, where she began her fourth term as the village's top elected official.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

## Wheeling's officials take office

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-24-93

Besides being sworn in Monday to her fourth-consecutive term as village president of Wheeling, Sheila H. Schultz became one of the longest-sitting leaders of a community in the Northwest suburbs.

With the retirement this year of Charles Zetek, who served as village president of Elk Grove Village for 22 years, Schultz is dean of area mayors. She will have headed Wheeling for an unprecedented 16 years by the time her term expires in 1997.

Winning the post by nearly a 2-to-1 margin over her closest challenger, Schultz lauded outgoing Village Clerk Patricia J. Drewes and trustees Joseph W. Ratajczak and William A. Rogers in her ac-

ceptance speech.

"These three people certainly encouraged the newly elected officials to want to serve on this board. They've made it look easy, and it isn't. ... It's also time to take a look at ourselves and the village and reprioritize and reaffirm what we're doing," she said.

Before an audience that included Wheeling Park District commissioners, police and family members, Schultz took her oath of office. She will be in office during the town's centennial year in 1994.

Also present was Kathy Ryg, Schultz's sister, who herself won an election recently and became village clerk of Vernon Hills.

In his closing remarks, Rogers — who didn't seek re-election — said Schultz was first elected to public office in the 1970s as a part of a reform party slate after cor-

ruption earlier in that decade saw some Wheeling officials receive federal indictments.

Joining Schultz to elected office were her running mates on the Wheeling Progress Party ticket — trustees Elizabeth L. Hartman, an incumbent; Robert G. Todd, recently a Wheeling Park District commissioner, and newcomer Wayne J. Wisinski. Clerk Jeanne Selander, also a newcomer and progress party member, also was sworn in.

Schultz has been involved in a number of regional agencies such as the Illinois Municipal League and Solid Waste Agency of Cook County. She and her slate campaigned on a platform calling for continued progress and growth in Wheeling.

Schultz was first elected village president in 1981.



Wheeling firefighters use power tools to cut "victim" Lt. Richard Theobald from a wrecked car during a demonstration at Saturday's open house.

## Police, fire hold open house

PHOTOS BY ROB DICKER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

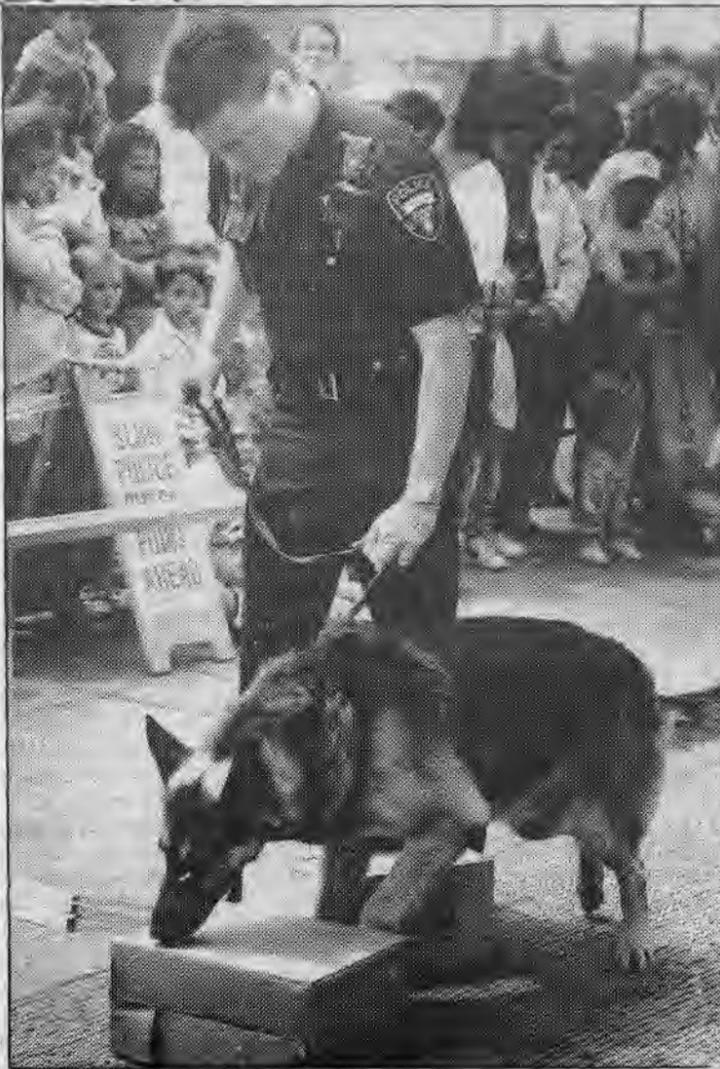
Three years ago, the Wheeling Fire department held an open house to show off skills and equipment, and teach fire prevention in the bargain. Last year, they were joined by the fire department. Saturday, those two crews, plus the health and operations and maintenance (public works) departments, welcomed throngs of Wheeling residents to 255 W. Dundee in a celebratory demonstration of their tax dollars at work.

Onlookers got a chance to see how police dog Laisiar Von Shudys sniffs out dope under the watchful eye of his partner, Bill Benson. They also got to see how televised sewer

inspection works, as well as a variety of fire department techniques, including sprinkler demonstrations, cutting a victim out of a crushed car, and the Flight for Life helicopter.

There was pro bono fat percentage testing, glaucoma/cataract screening and blood pressure checks from the health department for those with an eye toward a little free medical guidance.

And there was an opportunity for youngsters looking for the latest in boffo headgear, as Buffalo Grove's Michael Solovy, 11, sporting a SWAT team lid, and Stephan Rossi, 2½, wearing the latest in plastic fire chapeaux while squinting into the sun, as he and his mother Terri watch the helicopter touch down.



K-9 Officer Bill Benson leads his dog Laser through a demonstration of narcotics detection.



Michael Solovy, 11, of Buffalo Grove, straps on a SWAT Team helmet.



Sharing the road with the talking police car, Tony Marchetti, 2, Aric Goldfreed, 4, and Max Goldfreed, 6, receive bicycle safety tips.

Countryside 5-6-93

## DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

Car crash "victim" Lt. Richard Theobald is held still with a neck brace as Wheeling firefighters work to extricate him during a demonstration at Saturday's open house.

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## LOCAL REPORT

### Wheeling invites residents to peek inside government

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will get to see how their municipal government works at an open house extravaganza village officials are holding today at the administrative center at 255 W. Dundee Road.

The event, running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will include tours of the fire, police and operations and maintenance — public works — departments along with displays related to their functions.

"The event is to provide the resident the opportunity to see their various village departments, to see the equipment used by those departments and to get a better idea of where their tax dollars are going," Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said.

Police exhibits include overviews of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and a training demonstration by Laiser, the police dog, and visitors will get to tour the Northern Illinois Police Alarm Service truck outfitted with emergency equipment.

The fire department will demonstrate how they free an accident victim from a wrecked

vehicle. Fire officials also will demonstrate firefighting sprinklers.

Also, the village health department will sponsor a health fair being held in the council chambers of the municipal building.

The health fair will include 16 or 17 agencies doing health screenings for blood pressure, glaucoma, cholesterol, back ailments and a host of other physical checks, officials said.

Additionally, local concerns including Wheeling Township and Northwest Community Hospital, from Arlington Heights, will provide information to visitors on health, environmental and safety-related issues.

The Wheeling Park District will also have a small "Safety Town" bicycle safety course on the village municipal center grounds for the children. And puppet shows, movies and a chance to meet with the police and fire chiefs are planned for children as well.

The nationally known character McGruff, the "crime-fighting dog," and Sparky, "the fire prevention dog," will both be on hand to greet visitors to the daylong open house.

### Wheeling backs airport's resolution for larger planes

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board on Monday approved a resolution allowing some airplanes weighing more than 35 tons to use Palwaukee Municipal Airport, despite objections from neighbors who raised concerns about noise levels and safety.

With Trustee Judy Abruscato dissenting, Wheeling trustees backed a resolution from the Palwaukee Airport Commission allowing five larger-model airplanes not yet on the market to use the airport.

Airport officials said Palwaukee's corporate tenants sought the resolution to find out if aircraft they may purchase in the future would be allowed to use the airport.

"The corporations need to know if they can use these aircraft before they order them," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

However, about 20 neighbors raised concerns that the larger planes would be noisier and that the airport was too small for them.

"If I wanted to live next to O'Hare, I would have bought a

home in Chicago," said Mary Nallen, a resident of West Manchester Drive near the airport. "You're going to have to face the fact a plane is going to crash into a home or a school — are you ready for that?"

Airport officials said the planes the corporations are eyeing are quieter than the ones they now own. And the number of flights from the airport won't increase, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

"It is the intent to replace aircraft with these new generation aircraft," he said.

William A. Rogers, a former Wheeling trustee who still sits on the commission, urged rejection of the measure, saying the airport couldn't handle the larger planes.

"Some limits have to be placed on this airport because of its size and what it's supposed to do," Rogers said.

Wheeling owns the airport under an intergovernmental agreement with Prospect Heights. Prospect Heights officials have not yet discussed the measure, which must be approved by that city council to be enacted.

# Commission rejects used car lot

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

5-20-93

The Wheeling Plan Commission has a vision of the future of Milwaukee Avenue. It doesn't include any more used car dealerships.

## SEE EDITORIAL

Page 14

"We have a real commitment to see Milwaukee Avenue improve," said commissioner Ellen Butor, part of the 4-1 majority that voted to recommend the village council not grant a special use for a dealership at 502 N. Milwaukee. "There needs to be drastic, sweeping change on Milwaukee Avenue, and part of that is not to perpetuate this kind of thing," added Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold.

That's what Tom and Roxanne Malo found out last week when commissioners decided they wouldn't recommend approval of a special use permit for them to sell used cars on property they want to buy from Roxanne's father, longtime car dealer Frank Mauro.

Commissioners said it didn't matter if Tom Malo is a top-flight used car operator, who enjoyed success working for his father-in-law. Mauro has owned several new-car dealerships over the years, including a giant auto mall on Route 41 near Kenosha.

Roxanne Malo, a partner in Winnet-

ka's Village Green Realty, told commissioners she admired their efforts, but wanted to be an asset to the village, not a detriment. Commissioner Terry Steilen told her he believed her, but added, "Today, it's you. The next day, the next year, who is it if you decide to leave? Historically, used car dealers have had a more detrimental than positive impact. It's our responsibility to look out for the future."

After hearing promises to landscape the property any way the village requested, Commissioner Otis Hedlund said, "I don't think it's a matter of site improvement, but the kind of business."

"It'd be one less vacant lot," retorted the Realtor. "One less For Sale sign. One less property that needs improvement."

Commissioner Frank Proietti agreed. "I don't see anything wrong with it," he said. He differed from the commissioners, who felt new cars or even new motorcycle sales would be preferable to used cars. Used car lots have long been considered a blight on Milwaukee Avenue.

Roxanne Malo said the property, slightly less than two acres, is extraordinarily difficult to sell because of the hodgepodge of structures owned by Prospect Heights' George Wilson on its north end. There are several old buildings crammed into a couple acres there, housing a body shop and disc jockey service, among other unrelated

businesses. They are set off by an eclectic selection of old cars and trucks in various states of repair.

But by Monday, four days after the commission vote, she had found a possible solution. She was attempting to make a deal with the owner of the cookie factory to the south of the prospective used car dealership. Cookie Specialties Inc. is seeking to expand to Mauro's building, which comes within inches of his own. But the owner hasn't budgeted enough to buy it for several years. Monday, Malo was working on a deal for him to lease with an option to buy.

She said she would still much prefer selling used cars on the site her family has owned for a couple of decades. There wouldn't have been any question of the Malo's ability to do so if village staffers hadn't maintained the property was not used for the purpose, and was in fact vacant, for over a year. In Wheeling, car sales is one of those land uses that requires a special use permit for a new business, or one that has lain fallow for a year.

Malo said there were cars sold on the property in 1992, but she couldn't come up with any bills of sale marked with the address. She said the corporate headquarters was at her father's shuttered Mount Prospect Cadillac agency, and all the bills were so marked. Part of the building is currently being used for a car financing operation of Mauro's.

## Planning error marks Strong St.

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to relive it. George Santayana, 1863-1952.

Wheeling planning officials remember, and don't want to perpetuate what they see as past mistakes.

The Strong Street neighborhood was a veritable playground of planning errors for years, but current officials have steadily moved away from spot zoning that has held back the neighborhood.

Much of the damage has already been done, but officials went on record last week with their opposition to any new structures that would perpetuate high den-

sities in the neighborhood.

Over the last two decades, a procession of six-flats were built up and down Seventh Street, north and south of Strong. Plan Commissioners voted unanimously last week to recommend the village board prevent the erection of another. They did so even though it would rise on a vacant lot between two of the present squat structures.

### Apartment packs

In the mid-seventies, in what is now considered a questionable move, village officials approved many lots for the densely-packed apartment buildings. When (Continued on page 21)

the large number of single-family homeowners in the neighborhood, on 7th and elsewhere. These now include Picardy I and II, a few blocks north of Strong. In between, at Mayer and Wolf Roads, the commissioners, spurred by Village Planner Mark Janeck, recently twisted the arm of a developer who wanted to build townhouses. A new single-family development will go there instead.

Commissioners believe that even if they allowed nine necessary variances to Noonan's plan, he still couldn't have the 13 parking spaces he planned for the building. They found his layout didn't consider handicapped spaces or room for a garbage dumpster.

They also didn't accept his complaint that the neighborhood wasn't good enough to support more than \$650 rent for a 2-bedroom apartment. They felt he could make an acceptable profit on the building while staying close to village zoning limits of 10 units per acre for multiple-family density.

Eisterhold is loath to recommend approval for any residences in the village without garage space, not only because of the parking problem, but because of the junk suburbanites collect.

"I've had it up to here ... people want the barbecue grill, the bicycles, but there's no place to go with

## Wheeling on the brink of becoming antique?

By IRV LEAVITT

STAFF WRITER

5-13-93

The ranks of antique dealers in Wheeling will expand exponentially when 38 more converge on the village's south side next month.

Mount Prospect will soon wreck the building now housing the Antique Center of Illinois, and one of the oldest antique malls in the Midwest will pull up stakes and head for Wheeling.

Operators claim their heavily-advertised mall will draw other dealers and retail customers from all over the area to the Wolf Point Shopping Center, a sedate retail outpost at Wolf and Camp McDonald Roads.

"It can only improve the traffic," said Irwin Brill, who takes over the business from long-time owner Bea Coe when it moves from Mount Prospect to Wheeling around June 1.

### Getting the heave ho

Mount Prospect forced the mall to move when the village decided to rehab the key triangle of Northwest Highway, Central Avenue and Route 83. The mall comes nearly full circle, having originated in Prospect Heights eighteen years ago.

The 7,200 square-foot Wolf Point space had been coveted by two west suburban men as a home for their planned billiard hall, but they could not reach an agreement on rent, according to the shopping center owner.

The mall itself is in the rental business, parceling out space to independent dealers at \$1.95 a square foot. A dealer with the minimum booth size of 96 square feet offers his wares while paying a tariff of \$187 a month.

"Where can a person go, and for only a few hundred dollars, open up a business? It's the coming thing," said Brill. "This (mall) was one of the first in the business, and now they're springing up all over."

### Let's make a deal

The mall is split up into five or six sections daily, and dealers sell the items in their booth, as well as those in booths of fellow dealers. Dorothy Oudshoorn, who has sold in the mall about seven years, says she can depend on the other dealers to sell her items as readily as their own.

"It's great. You don't have to work all the time, and you have time to go out and buy," said Oudshoorn, adding the typical dealer works the mall five days a month.

Brill has sold space for several display cases to other people who will rarely come to the site at all. He took the mall concept a step further in the new location by renting out showcases to craftspeople and search services.

The display cases will show the work of those who repair crystal, music boxes, jewelry, rattan, clocks, lamps, brass and silver, as well as those who seek out matches for silverware and china sets.

### Low rent

Commission chairman Paul Eisterhold said he wasn't surprised by the feelings of other apartment building owners. "They don't perceive a problem because they don't admit there is one. They don't care. They just want to get the biggest buck for (rent) these properties that

# TIF put to the test

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

*Courtesy*  
The future of Milwaukee Avenue might be significantly altered if new development on Wheeling's doorstep proceeds, combined with planning envisioned by officials.

A new restaurant is seeking to build on a vacant lot three doors north of Don Roth's Restaurant, 61 N. Milwaukee Avenue. Staffers and commissioners like the idea of the two eateries, buying up the lots between them. It would afford them both additional parking, and the village a consistent land use on one corner of a crucial Wheeling intersection. The mini-Restaurant Row would be directly across the street from (Continued on page 21)

# Non-union village workers to get 3.5 percent pay hike

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have approved a 3.5 percent across-the-board salary increase for about 40 of the village's clerical, professional and supervisory employees.

The village board recently approved the salary hike that takes effect retroactive to May 1 for those groups of municipal employees who do not have union representation.

Under the new salary schedule, all the village workers from a starting finance clerk, who makes \$18,771 annually, to the deputy police and deputy fire chiefs, who could earn \$62,858 at the top of the pay scale, received increases.

Village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said Wheeling employees graduate to different levels along the pay scale based on the recommendations of their supervisors and Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

In February, Anderson himself was awarded a salary increase by trustees, hiking his

yearly pay from \$72,450 to \$78,000.

Department heads have their annual compensation set individually by the village manager and are not on the recently increased pay schedule, Fialkowski said.

Last year, village employees in those categories received about a 4 percent pay raise, Fialkowski said.

Those village employees received a pay increase quietly at a time when Wheeling officials are still negotiating with several other worker groups.

Currently, the village is holding talks with its firefighters for a new pact to replace the last four-year agreement, which expired April 30. Talks are also still under way with the village's patrol officers, public works employees, community service officers, record clerks and communications operators, who handle emergency calls.

Outside of the community service officers, those groups had an April 30 deadline in their contracts for receiving pay raises, which all of them and the village didn't meet.

# Wheeling agrees to swap land with Buffalo Grove

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved a land swap agreement with Buffalo Grove to straighten village boundaries, with the condition that Buffalo Grove trustees deny a land owner's request to annex to that village.

Wheeling trustees entered into an agreement with Buffalo Grove trustees that allows Buffalo Grove to annex the lot just south of Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at 85 S. Buffalo Grove Road.

Restaurateur Mark Malnati had sought to annex into Buffalo Grove so he can build a parking lot on the parcel not allowed under Wheeling's zoning ordinances.

"There's an advantage to Buffalo Grove, there's an advantage to Malnati's and some advantage to Wheeling," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The agreement also allows Buffalo Grove to annex a lot northwest of the intersection of Buffalo Grove and Lake-Cook roads. It requires Buffalo Grove maintain and patrol that intersection.

In return, Buffalo Grove will let Wheeling annex a two-acre

parcel at the northwest corner of Buffalo Grove and Aptakistic roads. Wheeling trustees approved the agreement with the condition that Buffalo Grove trustees formally deny a request for voluntary annexation made by Ronald Herff, executor of the estate owning a 1.7 acre parcel at the corner.

Under Buffalo Grove's comprehensive plan, that site is designated for multifamily housing, while Wheeling's plan calls for commercial development there. Wheeling Trustee Lois J. Gaffke said the condition should be added to the agreement seeking denial of the Herff request, to control development at that corner.

"I have a certain amount of trepidation about approving a boundary agreement with Buffalo Grove with such nebulous ideas about how the (Herff) property will be developed," she said.

Herff had said previously it would be easier to get sewer and water utilities to the parcel from Buffalo Grove. Anderson said the pact includes a clause allowing it to be changed later if both towns agree.

Buffalo Grove trustees had approved the boundary agreement last month.

the planned Crossroads retail development on the northwest corner of Dundee and Milwaukee.

The move could solve another problem, as well. Cole Taylor Bank, on Dundee Road southeast of Don Roth's, loses its access to Milwaukee with the incipient widening of the intersection. It could get a new lane to Route 21 in a three-way deal with the two restaurants.

"Let's go TIF!" Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eischerhold said enthusiastically, though perhaps a bit prema-

ture. There's plenty of money in the Tax increment Finance District coffers, since it's been used mainly just to buy up small parcels for the Crossroads. But the deal will first be proposed to the parties involved, encouraging them to handle it themselves. The lots in question are now occupied by a private home and the Drum Center musical instrument store. The owners of both would be encouraged and assisted in relocating within the village, according to Village Planner Mark Janek.

# Wheeling gives green light to Milwaukee Avenue work

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

the following spring, IDOT officials said.

The Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are also involved in the project.

Outside of agreeing to maintain the culvert once it is built, Wheeling is not responsible for other aspects of the project, according to the interagency agreement responsible for road improvements on that section of Milwaukee Avenue.

The second agreement Wheeling trustees entered into with multiple government agencies involves the installation of infrastructure to build new sanitary sewers under Milwaukee Avenue. The project would cost the village \$16,000 and would be paid for from Wheeling's 1994-95 budget.

The village has slated sections of Milwaukee Avenue for redevelopment as a part of its tax increment financing district.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said construction on both projects could start later this year.

Wheeling trustees Monday gave the go-ahead to two road projects for the village that will ease flooding and aid commercial development along Milwaukee Avenue.

The Wheeling Village Board voted to enter into an agreement with Cook County for construction of a box culvert under Milwaukee Avenue. The culvert will provide flood control that will take stormwater to the Des Plaines River.

The culvert, which is estimated to cost \$283,300, is to be paid for by the Illinois Division of Water Resources.

The county will build the culvert as a part of its construction of an overpass at the Lake-Cook Road/Milwaukee Avenue intersection.

That overpass is set to be placed at the end of a three-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue where the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to widen the road and install a median strip to improve safety. That work could start in September 1994 and be finished by

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Mayor proclaims workplace safety week

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed the week of June 6 to June 12 to be Safety In The Workplace Week in Wheeling.

With her proclamation Schultz urged village residents to join members of the Occupational Safety and Health Association Chicago North area office and the Northeastern Illinois Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers in their attempts to improve safety in the workplace.

### Trustees to reduce Class B liquor licenses

Wheeling trustees agreed to reduce the number of Class B liquor licenses in the village by one from 17 to 16.

The village board made the re-

duction on the recommendation from the village staff which noted that one restaurant with the class B licenses, the Tien Tsin Restaurant, is now closed.

### Board accepts sewer service for subdivision

The Wheeling village board tentatively accepted the sanitary sewer to serve Yi's Sixth Avenue subdivision.

The village had tested the sewer and determined it was installed according to village code provisions. The village will hold a \$1,162.04 surety maintenance bond for a year after the tentative acceptance.

### Trustees waive festival surety bond

Wheeling trustees agreed to again waive the \$1,000 surety bond normally required for festivals.

The church is conducting its annual Familyfest from June 30 through to July 5. The village has previously waived the surety bond requirement for the church. The village board also awarded a class G liquor license to the church for the event.

### Centennial Committee gets OK for tag day

Wheeling trustees agreed to allow the Wheeling Centennial Committee to hold a tag day May 22 to raise funds for the group. The village board also agreed to allow Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11303 to hold tag days May 28 and May 29.

### Village amends watering restrictions

Wheeling trustees amended village lawn watering restrictions allowing newly laid sod to be wa-

tered for a two week period.

Those watering for that period would have to obtain a special permit from the village's community development department. The permit would have to be displayed by the holder between the hours of 12 noon to 6p.m. while the watering was under way.

Wheeling trustees approved the amendment to allow the owners of newly constructed residences in the village to get their lawns started.

### Board approves zoning code changes

The Wheeling village board approved a host of revisions to the village zoning code that includes standardizing the front yard setbacks on business buildings and streamlined the approval process for minor changes to site plans for special use developments.

The zoning code changes also clarify some planning definitions.

# Tavern disputes charges

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Matty's Place was the place to drink after closing time, according to Wheeling officials, who brought the tavern up on charges last week. The proprietors of the year-old bar say it isn't so.

The Wheeling liquor commission, comprised of the village board, postponed a hearing on the one-year-old bar Monday after the tavern's attorney injured his back. The hearing was postponed until June 28.

Owners Matthew Wilstein and Kathleen Mark said Monday the only reason they're in trouble is because they had a meeting for employees after closing, and there were soft drinks on the bar.

"All (the police officer) saw were glasses, and the

glasses had coke in them," claimed Wilstein of the incident, which took place at 3:21 a.m. March 20, at the bar at 1750 W. Hintz Road.

The ordinance applying to Matty's prohibits sale or consumption on the premises of "an alcoholic liquor or beverage" after 2 a.m.

Village Prosecutor Steve Handler said he wouldn't comment on details of the case, "but hypothetically, if we looked into a bar at 3:30 in the morning and saw 16 people sitting at a table an hour and a half after closing time, it's unfair to demand of us to send all the glasses out to be analysed. We presume they are in violation of the law. We certainly do not agree in any way that all there were was soft drinks, or that they were all employees."

"This is not a situation

where (a police officer) just walked up to the door. They made more than one attempt."

Wilstein is also charged with interfering with inspection of the bar by attempting to block Sgt. Robert MacDonald from entering.

Wilstein said Monday he refused the officer entry over concern of a repeat of the Palatine Brown's Chicken murders. He said the police uniform didn't give him assurance, adding that he didn't feel comfortable enough to allow police in until an officer he recognized arrived.

There have been no previous complaints at the bar at 1750 W. Hintz Road. Handler said traditionally, first offenses of this nature draw fines instead of suspensions or revocations.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Wheeling to salute war dead with parade

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Those who gave their lives in defense of their country won't be forgotten in Wheeling Monday when civic groups will honor them with a Memorial Day parade and other ceremonies.

Events will start at 10 a.m. when the annual parade organized by the Phillip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66 of Wheeling will leave from the parking lot of the Kmart on Dundee and McHenry roads and proceed to the AMVETS post at 700 N. McHenry Road.

Participating in the parade will be a host of local groups that includes the Wheeling Police and Fire Departments, the AMVETS post color guard and post auxiliary; Veterans of Foreign War Post 11303 color guard from Wheeling; the color guard from the American Legion post in Morton Grove; color guards including the CeeBees, from Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago, the Fort Dearborn Highlanders bagpipe band.

Other organizations participating in the Memorial Day event include the U.S. Marine color guard from the Glenview Naval Airbase, the Eighth Cavalry Horseback unit, the Junior



ROTC unit and band from Wheeling High School and various Boy and Girl Scout troops along with village officials.

After the parade is completed, a memorial ceremony will be held at the AMVETS post featuring Marvin "Sieke" Hogcher, former Wheeling Police chief, as the guest speaker.

After the speech and the chaplain's words, the post color guard will fire a salute to the war dead and taps will be played. Frank Lipowski, past commander and financial officer of the post, said prior to the parade AMVETS officials are visiting area cemeteries and the day's ceremony will honor 159 local area residents who died in the line of duty.

# Wheeling leader joins human rights panel

By LAURA JANOTA  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As Cook County clamps down on discrimination in the suburbs, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz — among the best known of local leaders in the Northwest suburbs — will be there to assist.



Sheila Schultz

Schultz, who's been a proponent of fair-housing laws in Wheeling, is among 11 people named by Cook County Board President Richard Phelan to sit on the county's newly formed Commission on Human Rights.

Created by a countywide human rights ordinance that took effect May 21, the commission — all volunteers from different parts of Cook County —

will make rulings in cases where discrimination and sexual harassment against suburban employers, landlords and others has been alleged.

"I think it's important to deal with these issues on a county-wide basis, and that's what I'm looking forward to doing," said Schultz, 63.

Appointed to a two-year term, Schultz is an ally and supporter of Phelan. An unsuccessful Democratic candidate for Cook County Board in 1990, Schultz gave her support to and got support from Phelan during the campaign.

Schultz, the former president of both the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and the Northwest Municipal Conference, was the only current elected official chosen to sit on Phelan's panel. She also will be the only representative from the Northwest suburbs.

"She has high visibility. We

think she can be helpful in educating people about the ordinance," said Jennifer Vidis, the commission's executive director.

Schultz said she's uncertain what her duties and strategy will be in trying to combat discrimination in Cook County's suburbs since the commission hasn't met yet.

With a new law and requirements for the suburbs to follow, however, Schultz said it will be important for businesses as well as residents to feel comfortable with the county ordinance's provisions.

And Schultz said she hopes to be able to educate the region about it.

In Wheeling, Schultz and village trustees are developing a comprehensive fair housing and human rights ordinance.

"I have a lot to put in and a lot to learn," Schultz said.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Used-car dealership plans hit dead end in Wheeling

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday denied an auto dealer's proposal for a used-car dealership along Milwaukee Avenue, saying the business wouldn't be a benefit to the area.

The village board went along with a plan commission recommendation and denied a request by Thomas and Roxanne Malo of Northfield for a special-use variation under the municipal zoning code to operate their Autobarn used-car dealership at a 9,200-square-foot building they own at 502 N. Milwaukee Ave. that serves as an auto showroom.

Wheeling trustees denied the request because they said the venture wasn't necessary for the village and other businesses could be housed at that location. They also said there was no record of auto sales being handled at the Milwaukee Avenue location for a year, and the site served only as a holding lot for car sales arranged elsewhere.

"It was (an auto) brokerage parking lot, not a used-car

parking lot. And that's the issue. A six months non-use," said Michael J. Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development.

Roxanne Malo said there were no sales records because paperwork on the autos sold at the Wheeling showroom was recorded in Mount Prospect because the business was previously a subsidiary of a dealership formerly based in that village. Malo added she could produce sales records for the Wheeling site.

"There was a business that's been selling used cars through that building for 10 years. We do maintain that building was not vacant. We feel we do not need a special use," Malo said.

Before the vote, Malo told trustees she would file suit against the village if the special-use variation was denied.

Malo also said that while village officials early on said the request would be denied, she and her husband spent \$600,000 for the building and bought used-car inventory worth \$200,000 to sell believing they could win approval through the village's planning review.

# Bike path plan gets financial boost

the municipal center that Wheeling officials want to develop as the center of town. Other amenities planned for the area are commuter parking and a recreation center in the Wheeling Park District building next to its aquatic center. Officials in both communities have not yet heard from the Illinois Department of Conservation about a \$20,000 to \$35,000 grant that would be used to defray the other 20 percent of construction costs for the path.

Rotary Clubs in both villages may also raise funds for the path project.

Wheeling planning officials have said previously that the path is designed to connect with amenities in Wheeling and the Lake County bike trail system.

The path would be one of a number of conveniences planned for an area on West Dundee Road between Wickes Furniture Co. and

year. Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the path could be completed by sometime in 1994.

The path would start at the Wheeling Municipal Center and the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center site on Dundee Road, near where Wheeling officials want the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station built.

The path would run west along Dundee Road and then north up McHenry Road to a village well site. From the well site, the path — which would be 8 feet wide with concrete and asphalt surfaces —

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove officials recently won a state grant that should pave the way for construction of a bike trail that will connect the two villages and tie into area amenities.

The villages won \$420,000 in federal funds through the Chicago Area Transportation Study to fund 80 percent of the construction costs for a 2-mile-long bike path between the two towns.

Municipal officials hope to have plans for the path ready later this

# Plans for bike path coast ahead

6-8-93

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When the Buffalo Grove Rotary Club decided to try to improve the village's bicycle path system two years ago, it presented the village with a modest proposal.

The club planned to use about \$60,000 over five years to improve a mile and a half of bicycle path at the northwest corner of Aptakisic and Buffalo Grove roads. About half that money was supposed to come from the club itself, with the rest coming from private donations and grants.

Since then, the project has taken off beyond the club's wildest dreams.

Hundreds of trees and shrubs have been planted along the stretch of bike path that the club originally planned to improve, and the Rotary club has moved onto bigger and better things: extending the bicycle path system.

Currently, the group is working with the Wheeling Rotary Club and the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling villages and park districts to extend a bicycle path from Lake-Cook Road south and east to the new water park in Wheeling, near

the site where Wheeling plans to build a commuter rail station if the Wisconsin Central railroad becomes a commuter line.

The project would also fill in gaps in Buffalo Grove's bicycle paths between Lake-Cook Road and Buffalo Grove's planned train station on Busch Road.

The project would bring about 3,000 feet of new bicycle path to Buffalo Grove. Funding is coming from an Illinois Department of Conservation grant that will provide about \$167,000 for work in Buffalo Grove and \$259,000 for work in Wheeling.

Green said the two Rotary clubs were attracted to the project because it would bring the communities together in a cooperative project.

"We don't see the boundary line between two communities as a dividing line," Green said. "We see it rather as a line of commonality where we share the same interests."

With that project and other grants attracted by the Rotary-sponsored bicycle path enhancement and expansion project, about \$527,000 has been spent or is earmarked for the bike path project.

# Demolition 1st step in redevelopment

6-10-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are making progress on refurbishing a section of the village's tax increment financing district area targeted for a regional shopping center located by the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said work is proceeding on renovation of an area near the Sportmart Inc. store at 240 E. Dundee Road for the village's Crossroads Redevelopment project. Under that project, village officials plan to build a re-

gional shopping center on a 13-acre section of the 60-acre TIF district.

"All the property has been acquired. We've got proposals to demolish the buildings," Anderson said.

This week Wheeling trustees accepted a \$32,476 proposal from Des Plaines-based Albrecht Enterprises to demolish the remaining six buildings at four addresses along North Milwaukee Avenue in the TIF district. Wheeling police said the buildings were unattractive and a nuisance with break-ins frequently occurring in them.

Now that the demolition contract is in place, village officials could see the latest round of demolition completed within a month, Anderson said.

Wheeling officials had the first demolition work done in the TIF district in April when the old Dunkin' Donuts building at 294 E. Dundee Road was leveled.

Village officials are now in negotiation with a developer and hope to eventually develop the area as a retail shopping hub. Anderson said now that litigation, which delayed development of the area for several years, is completed, the village can proceed with the project.

Anderson said village officials are hoping work on the new shopping center could start as early as next year.

Along with the widening of 3 1/2 miles of Milwaukee Avenue through the heart of Wheeling and the placement of a commuter rail station on Dundee Road for the Wisconsin Central Rail Road, village officials point to development of the TIF district as another project that will stimulate local economic development.

Work on the commuter rail station could start in early 1996, Anderson said.

## LOCAL REPORT

### Construction work begins on relocating intersection

6-12-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Work has begun on an \$83.5 million Palwaukee Municipal Airport development project that includes the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection.

Trees will be cleared and structures demolished on land on the north side of Hintz Road near Wolf Road so the intersection can be relocated 570 feet west to create a Federal Aviation Administration-required safety zone between the intersection and the airport's longest runway. Currently, the intersection is 250 feet from the runway and motorists get a close-up view of arriving planes.

"The demolition and clearing will probably take three months," said Fred E. Stewart Jr., airport manager. "We're getting things ready to start construction."

While most of this summer's work will take place off of the roads, construction traffic might create minor delays for motorists, Stewart said.

The intersection work is ex-



pected to be completed by next year. The work also includes construction of two bridges at Wolf and Hintz roads over the Wheeling drainage ditch.

While the project is under way, Stewart said, work will take place during daylight hours, probably from about 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And while the project has been started, Stewart acknowledged there are still some hurdles to be cleared. Still unresolved is an agreement by airport officials and utilities companies over where utility lines will be relocated.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### City of Hope gets OK for fund-raiser

Wheeling trustees will allow the City of Hope non-profit organization to conduct tag days for fund-raising in the village Aug. 20 and 21.

The organization, which supports a host of medically related causes, has previously conducted such fund-raising activities in the village.

### Village to construct pump station, reservoir

The Wheeling village board approved a zoning board recommendation to grant a variation to the zoning code to the village so it can construct a pump station, water receiving reservoir and storage facilities at 95 E. Willow Road.

Located in an industrial area near the intersection of East Willow Road and Foster Avenue, the facility will include a standpipe that stores 3 million gallons of water.

### Restaurant gets OK on zoning change

Wheeling trustees approved a special use request and site plan for Falah Tabahi so he can add 21 outdoor seats to his Pita Inn Restaurant owns at 122 S. Elmhurst Road.

The restaurant would be open with the outdoor seating Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

The proposal previously won the backing of the village's community development department and the village plan commission.

## Checkers gets mixed review from Wheeling village panels

6-13-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials Monday indicated that they would not give the green light to a fast food restaurant as long as it includes red neon.

The Wheeling village board heard from representatives for the Dempster II Corp. who want to open a 1,200-square-foot Checkers Restaurant with drive-up lanes at 625 West Dundee Road where a Brown's Chicken and Pasta Restaurant now sits.

The company wants the building to have a 1950s-style exterior that includes black and white tile, stainless steel and two red neon tubes that surround the building. Dempster II Corp. agreed to concessions that included extensive landscaping around the building and contribute \$10,000 for a village bike path that cuts through a part of the 32,000-square-foot site.

"It enhances the corner (of Wheeling and Dundee Roads) 100 times from what's there now. This is going to be the show palace area for Check-

ers," said attorney Al Stavros for the corporation.

Village advisory panels split in their recommendations on the restaurant with the plan commission endorsing the project while the appearance commission called for trustees to nix the restaurant because of its exterior.

"We've been trying to keep the nostalgia of a small-town charm... This building does not belong in Wheeling. It will stick out like a sore thumb," appearance commission member Marilyn Minter said.

Bruce Albinak, Director of Real Estate for Chicago Double Drive-Thru, the area franchisee for the Florida-based restaurant chain, said the company would comply with Wheeling officials' requests and tone down the appearance of the building, but that neighboring businesses also had obtrusive exteriors.

"The landscaping is outstanding," Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said. "Looking at the building itself, I find the black, red scheme garish."

The village board may vote on the proposed restaurant sometime next month.

# Trash law would cover older housing

6-15-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato is calling for an ordinance to be enacted requiring owners of all multifamily housing complexes in the village to screen dumpsters so residents aren't exposed to garbage piling up.

Showing her fellow village board members photos a resident took of exposed dumpsters with large amounts of garbage from apartments on Wolf Road by Glendale Avenue, Abruscato called for a new ordinance covering all multi-

family dwellings.

"We might look into adopting an ordinance that will require enclosures ... so that the residents won't have to continue to look at these things," she said.

Abruscato, long an advocate of strict measures to ensure property owners keep their land clean, noted that newer apartment complexes in Wheeling have dumpster enclosures as specified under the village's ordinance.

However, older buildings in the village erected before the current ordinance was in place were not

required to have such screening, and passers-by can view mounting garbage.

She asked Village Manager Craig G. Anderson to look into having a new ordinance drafted to cover all of Wheeling's multifamily units.

Abruscato also wants the landlords to be required to have enough trash containers on hand to handle all the garbage tenants generate. And she would like disposal companies to make more frequent trash pickups at some buildings.

Mike Boyle, village health offi-

cer, said that while many photos of mounting garbage can give the impression of a problem, the situation is often alleviated when disposal companies make trash pickups.

"We want to eliminate the possibility of pest infestation," Boyle said. "There are rules to cover this."

Boyle added that resident complaints about mounting garbage at apartment buildings have been addressed by the village through verbal communications and letters sent to tenants and landlords.

# Police on the run for Special Olympics

6-14-93

By AMY McLAUGHLIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Joining 40,000 law enforcement personnel nationwide, police officers from Buffalo Grove, Hawthorn Woods and Wheeling donned their jogging shoes Sunday as they took part in an annual Special Olympics fund-raiser.

Officers from the three departments ran 2.2 miles on Milwaukee Avenue during the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

There are 15 legs to the Illinois run, which will continue throughout the week and will finish Friday evening in Normal with the lighting of the Special Olympics torch. The statewide Special Olympics events will be held June 19 and June 20 in Normal.

The Special Olympics is a series of sporting events for people with disabilities.

"It's just a way for law enforce-

ment officers to express their support to people who are disabled," said Buffalo Grove police Sgt. Steve Balinski, Special Olympics coordinator for Leg 8 of the run, which spans 36 miles on Route 21 from Gurnee to Lincolnwood.

About 20 Buffalo Grove and six Hawthorn Woods police officers passed the torch to seven Wheeling law enforcement officers after running 2.2 miles along Milwaukee Avenue (Route 21) from Aptakisic Road to Lake-Cook Road.

Police officers ask neighbors, friends and family for sponsors, and Balinski said he hopes to raise \$1,000 in his department for Special Olympics. But he said he plans to be able to donate more by next weekend after a Scotch doubles bowling fund-raiser set for 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Arlington Lanes, Kennicott Avenue and Dundee Road in Arlington Heights.

Just before taking off on his 2.2-mile jaunt, Wheeling police Offi-



A Wheeling police dog, Laser, joined his two-legged colleagues Sunday in a 2.2-mile run along Milwaukee Avenue for Special Olympics.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

cer Todd Wolff said "to raise money for the kids" is the reason he's participated in the torch run for

the last five years. Wheeling officers were joined by a police dog, Laser, a German shepherd.



Wheeling police dispatcher Lori Langford and canine officer Bill Benson share the torch as they participate Sunday in the torch run for Special Olympics.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

## Suburban police officers join forces for Special Olympics run

Police officers from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Hawthorn Woods joined forces, so to speak, Sunday to participate in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The Illinois run winds up Friday in Normal with the lighting

of the torch at the start of the two-day sporting event for those with disabilities.

"We do it to assist and raise funds for the Special Olympics ... plus, it's great exercise," said Buffalo Grove police Sgt. Stuart Parets.

See story on Page 4.

# Sportmart gets OK on addition

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

Courtesy 6-17-93

Attorneys for Sportmart and Wheeling have finished an agreement allowing the retailer to build an addition to its Dundee Road store. The village would get easement over Sportmart property that affords the decade-planned Crossroads shopping center a key access to Milwaukee Avenue.

If not for some unfinished paperwork, the pact would have been ready for Village Board approval at last week's special meeting. As it is, it should be in board members' packets for their regular confab next Monday.

The 65-page document would give the retailer permission for a 10,560 square-foot addition to the front of its 31,240 square-foot store, making it bigger than a typical supermarket. The addition was recommended by

the village planning commission more than 13 months ago. Sportmart officials pushed the village board to approve the plans so it could compete with Kmart's Sports Authority, which opened in Gurnee Mills last summer.

But the village didn't jump at an agreement then, and it's been stalled ever since. Village officials feel Sportmart got bogged down opening their new Vernon Hills store. Mitch Kahn, Sportmart vice president for real estate, said recently, the Wheeling location is "strategic, and very, very important to us."

Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said the shopping center has been "dead in the water" so many years his board has discussed other ideas for some of its 13.5 acres, including residences.

# Wheeling summits reveal dissension

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

6-17-93  
*Courtesy*

Various village officials, some of whom had never met, were drawn together in the last week by a renewed interest in the planning of Wheeling's future.

Thursday, for the first time in years, both Wheeling's village president and manager came to the same plan commission meeting. They participated in the process that might bring Tax Increment Financing funds to bear on parcels of land across Milwaukee Avenue from the village's planned Crossroads shopping center development, the perceived key to the redevelopment of the road.

Monday night, for perhaps the first time in a dozen years, members of both plan and appearance commissions attended a village board workshop meeting. They lent divergent opinions to the board, now considering a controversial hamburger stand at Dundee and Wheeling Roads.

The other project, on part of the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, has plan commissioners excited, but not necessarily everybody on the village staff.

"I don't think the community development department, all except (Village Planner) Mark Janeck, really wants to see things happen," com-

plained Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold. Eisterhold, his commission, and Janeck are intrigued by a new Chinese restaurant's efforts to buy the old Kiddie Kollege property, a vacant lot next door, and a rented house and the Drum Center next to that.

The house and the Drum Center land could be split between the new restaurant and Don Roth's, directly to the south. They would be used for parking for both restaurants. The Cole Taylor Bank, southeast of Don Roth's, could conceivably get the access to Milwaukee Avenue it will lose to Route 21 widening.

Eisterhold wants to see the old gas station on the corner, or what's left of it after the widening, converted to an oasis of green space at the doorstep of downtown.

Village President Sheila Schultz and Manager Craig Anderson lent moral support to commissioners, who see TIF money as an aid to purchase the land if the restaurateurs can't swing it alone.

"They're not really behind it," said Eisterhold of the Community Development Department. The 15-year commissioner sought a meeting between all property holders involved, but "no meeting in four weeks."

Klitzke, Wheeling director of community development, said Monday night because all the

owners aren't interested in selling, there is little reason to bring all parties together.

"If three property owners all want to do something, but if the guy in the middle doesn't want to do something, there's no way you can do anything," said Klitzke.

Monday, Eisterhold and several other commissioners expressed problems with their counterparts on the appearance committee. His board had recommended approval of Checkers Hamburgers for the Brown's Chicken Site, on conditions such as reduced lighting. The developers promised a \$10,000 contribution to the planned Wheeling-Buffalo Grove bike path, in hopes the village board would approve a 1,300 square-foot building in the center of 33,000 square feet of land, amid \$50,000 in landscaping, all surrounded by commercial properties.

But the appearance committee thought Checkers' bright black-and-white tile, stainless steel and neon made it not a "Wheeling building."

"We've tried to keep the nostalgia of a small town," said appearance commissioner Marilyn Minter. "This building does not belong in Wheeling. It will stick out like a sore thumb."

Plan commissioner Ellen Butor said later, "I would like to see a three-page spread on this Wheeling building. I would like to know what it is."



Officer McGruff shakes paw with 7-year-old Nick Rotizza, one of the children who plays in the Meadowbrook tot lot in Wheeling. In the background, children on the "Kidswatch" program talk with Officer Barbara Kobishop.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tunge

## Kidswatch gives children an eye for safety

6-23-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Northwest suburban children think they're not too young to keep a watchful eye on their neighborhood park.

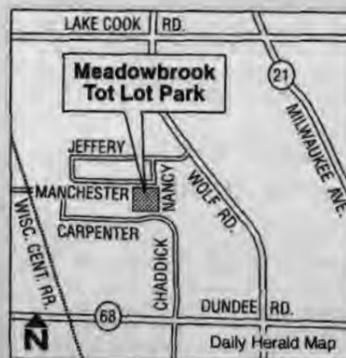
The children, 10 and 11 years old, want to make sure the Wheeling play lot and the kids who play there remain safe from strangers and vandals who frequent the industrial park across the street.

"Because there are a lot of factories by the park, we're just mainly afraid somebody could come by and take the children," said Teresa Drewes, the 11-year-old who has organized her

friends into the first Northwest suburban "Kidswatch."

The children of "Kidswatch," as they have been dubbed by the Wheeling Police Department, are learning what to do when they see vandals or strangers in the Meadowbrook Tot Lot on Nancy Lane in the Meadowbrook West subdivision. They are not there to stop criminals in the act, but instead are getting lessons on when to call police, what to do if they are approached by strangers and related matters, said crime prevention officer Barbara J. Kobishop.

"It's the first Kidswatch program in the area and we need kids to get involved," she said.



If they encounter strangers or criminal activity at the park, the children are told to tell a responsible adult or police, Kobishop said. Unlike some adult watch

groups, the children will not patrol the area or become directly involved in any incidents occurring there.

The children's watch will take place when they're at the park playing during the day, and there won't be any evening surveillance, Kobishop said.

The five-acre tot lot hasn't had a spate of serious crime, but gang symbols mar some of its play equipment, Drewes said.

About 20 children, parents, and Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who lives in the neighborhood, attended the first meeting of Kidswatch, held at the

See KIDS on Page 2

park recently.

Eileen M. Roticza, 9, said she found the meeting rewarding and will join the watch group.

"I thought it was great. I learned you watch for suspicious things, and there's been some suspicious things by our park," she said. "I felt happy because I was learning more stuff than I knew before."



Officer McGruff shakes paw with 7-year-old Nick Rotizza, one of the children who plays in the Meadowbrook tot lot in Wheeling. In the background, children on the "Kidwatch" program talk with Officer Barbara Kobishop. Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

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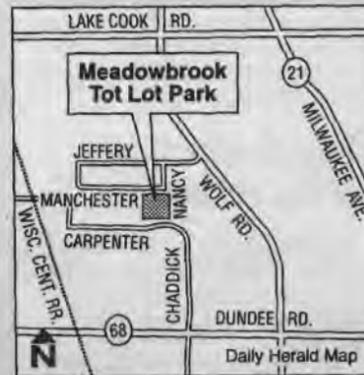
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Patricia J. Drewes, Teresa's mother and the former village clerk, said news stories about students bringing guns to school and a recent vandalism incident alerted her to the need to make children aware of how to react to illegal activities.

"One Saturday afternoon there were a bunch of older kids at the park with a baseball bat hitting trees and equipment. It just kind of bothered me," she said. "Somebody besides the parents has to impress on the kids what to look for and to tell a responsible adult."

Karop T. Bavougian, Wheeling Park District director of parks and recreation, said systemwide vandalism is low and he isn't aware of other park watch groups. Even with schools on vacation, he said vandalism usually remains low in the summer.

# Wheeling board sets anchor on shopping center plans

6-29-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday took a big step toward boosting the village's economy by approving an agreement for development of a shopping center and allowing its anchor tenant to expand.

The village board unanimously approved plans by Sportmart Inc. to expand its store at 240 E. Dundee Road from 31,240 square feet to 42,104 square feet.

The trustees also approved an agreement for that store to be developed as a part of the Crossroads Redevelopment located on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"Sportmart will develop a store that will fit into that (architectural) scheme so we have one flowing design for the center," village attorney James A. Rhodes said.

Sportmart Inc. will develop its store in cooperation with the developer for the rest of the 13-acre shopping center that lies

within the village's 60-acre tax increment finance district.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that an agreement with Mid-States Bradford Inc. of Oak Brook Terrace to develop the rest of the center could be in place later this year.

Under the redevelopment plan for the area, village officials want to see a regional shopping center built to include space for anchor stores, such as the Sportmart, along with some smaller shops.

Construction on the center could begin next year, village officials have said.

Along with the widening of 3½ miles of Milwaukee Avenue through the heart of Wheeling and the placement of a commuter rail station on Dundee Road for the Wisconsin Central Railroad, Wheeling officials point to the TIF district as another project that will stimulate local economic development.

After the project was delayed for several years by litigation, demolition recently began on abandoned buildings within the district.

# Wheeling gives Checkers OK, with modifications

6-29-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday gave the green light to plans for a new fast food restaurant in the village after the developer agreed to tone down the building's appearance.

In a 5-1 vote, with Trustee Elizabeth Hartman dissenting, the Wheeling village board approved plans for a 1,150-square-foot Checkers Restaurant with drive-up lanes at 625 W. Dundee Road. Dempster II Corp. will be the restaurant on the site of a Brown's Chicken and Pasta Restaurant, which will be closing.

The trustees backed the plans after the company agreed to make a number of changes to the building including reducing the wattage of outside lights, to use duller, less shiny building materials and to shield some of the red neon around the roof of the building to reduce its glare.

Noting that the company has agreed not to include multiple flags at its Wheeling location as it does at other Northwest suburban sites convinced Trustee Lois J. Gaffke to approve the

plans. "As long as it isn't cluttered with flags... I didn't find the building unappealing," she said.

Earlier this month, some village officials said they felt the restaurant, which included a brighter exterior with red neon lights and stainless steel, was too bright for the village.

The Wheeling plan commission had backed the Checkers plan while the appearance commission recommended trustees nix the restaurant because of its exterior.

Company representatives reiterated the 32,000-square-foot site would be landscaped, and that they would donate \$10,000 for village bike path that cuts through a part of their property.

"The whole concept of this site plan is curb appeal," said attorney Al Stavros for the corporation.

The company must return to the appearance commission for a final review of the restaurant's exterior.

After all approvals, the restaurant could be built in about four months, said officials.

# 4 buildings marked for wrecking ball

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

6-24-93

Four vacated buildings located in the heart of the area targeted for a Wheeling downtown redevelopment plan could face the wrecking ball as early as next week to pave way for the expansion of the Crossroads shopping center.

Pending demolition permits expected from the Cook County Health Department, Albrecht Enterprises, Inc. of Des Plaines will start tearing down by Tuesday the buildings located on Milwaukee Avenue, several hundred yards north of Dundee Road. The buildings include the former Tien Tsin Chinese restaurant, a floral shop, and two former residences with a garage.

The village has completed condemnation proceedings to acquire the structures and parcels at a total of \$909,000, not including \$262,000 for the already demolished Dunkin Doughnut building.

Demolition of the four buildings will make room for the expansion of the shopping center under a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district.

(Continued on page 13)



Bill Oakes/Pioneer Press

These buildings north of Dundee Road and west of Milwaukee Avenue are earmarked for demolition to make room for

expansion of the Crossroads shopping center. It's another step in the village's plans for downtown.

A contract for the demolition was awarded at a cost of roughly \$32,000. The buildings were boarded up in preparation, at a cost of about \$2,000, according to Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Wheeling Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold had criticized the village for not acting fast enough to demolish the buildings soon after acquiring titles on them, which left them boarded up for a long time.

"The village probably

knew when they were going to get possession of the titles. It would have been nice if the contracts for the demolition had been awarded at the same time," Eisterhold said.

The situation poses security problems for police who must keep an eye on the building, and has already become an eyesore, he charged. "You don't want somebody to get into an abandoned or an empty building. From an aesthetics standpoint, people don't like to see boarded up buildings.

Businesses don't like seeing them."

But Anderson defended the delay in tearing down the buildings. "We pretty much had to wait until... we closed on the deal" he said.

The news about the demolition is a delight to some residents. "I'm glad they are coming down. They are old buildings. Who knows if they are safe anymore," said Morris Gordon, 74, a resident of nearby Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St.

# After-hours violation costs Matty's Place \$275

6-30-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials fined the owners of a local bar \$275 for an after-hours drinking incident and for trying to block a police officer's access to the bar to investigate, saying future violations could result in harsher penalties.

Kathleen M. Mark and Matthew Wilstein, the owners of Matty's Place, 1750 W. Hintz Road, this week admitted guilt and waived their right to a hearing. They accepted the fine levied by Wheeling

trustees and apologized for the March 20 incident.

Wheeling officials said Police Sgt. Robert McDonald observed people drinking in the bar at 3:21 a.m., past the 2 a.m. closing time specified under village ordinances. McDonald told patrons at the bar to leave and then waited outside for them to comply with his request.

When McDonald saw the patrons had not left, he returned to the bar where Wilstein tried to block his entrance to the bar until McDonald issued a warning about

the penalties for obstructing a police officer, according to officials.

"This (fine) now establishes a clear warning and clear precedence that if they don't comply with the ordinance, that the penalties could be harsher," Wheeling prosecutor Steven Handler said.

Mark and Wilstein accepted the fine under a plea agreement worked out between Ricky Ament, their attorney, and Handler. Ament noted that while his clients admitted liquor was served after hours, they were not selling it.

Handler said he did not seek a

higher fine because no minors were involved in the incident. Wheeling bar owners charged with serving minors have received \$500 fines.

And while it was the first ordinance violation the owners were cited for, Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato called for a stiffer fine to send a message that such incidents won't be tolerated in the village.

"Just because a minor wasn't involved does not make it a minor offense. It's a major violation of our liquor laws," said Abruscato.

# State EPA will help Palwaukee clean up tires in former junkyard

7-1-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will help Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials clear old tires from a 1.8 acre former junkyard the airport acquired to expand its safety zone.

The IEPA has notified airport officials it will send one of its two contractors responsible for cleaning up sites throughout the state to Palwaukee within the next 30 to 90 days to help remove tires not attached to old axles or rims.

The parcel is just southwest of the Hintz and Wolf Road intersection Palwaukee officials are relocating 570 feet west — away from the airport's longest runway.

The work is being done as part of a \$83.5 million redevelopment

project to bring the airport up to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

"Those tires were buried. The tires above the ground have already been remediated," said Michael F. Zonsius, the airport's assistant manager for finance and administration.

Triple T. Trash Inc., the cleanup contractor the airport hired earlier this year, is expected to resume work on the site this week.

Airport officials so far have spent \$91,750 on the contractor and estimate the expense to clear the parcel will total well into six figures.

While IEPA officials are uncertain when its contractor would start clearing the site, Tap Hefley, who works in the agency's old tire

program, said sites that are a public health hazard receive priority on the cleanup schedule.

The tire pile is regularly sprayed by the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District to control breeding, including the Asian Tiger mosquito, which carries 26 different viruses.

Fuel-contaminated soil on the site could be removed when airport officials start construction on the parcel, said airport manager Fred E. Stewart Jr.

The airport acquired the property, which once was a landfill, from Frank R. Chupich after several years of condemnation proceedings that ended last year.

The airport is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement.

# Country side Tavern fined for late closing

7-8-93

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't that Matty's Place remained open past 2 a.m. on March 20 that so irked Wheeling officials.

They were most angered by the owners' refusal to allow a police officer in to investigate whether the tavern was serving alcohol past the closing time.

Last week, the Wheeling Liquor Commission, comprised of the mayor and trustees, slapped Matty's Place owners, Matthew Wilstein and Kathleen Mark, with a \$275 fine and promised them tougher penalties for any subsequent violations. The vote was 5-1.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, the lone dissenter, said the fine wasn't harsh enough to get the message across. She had suggested \$500.

"I think that's a very moderate fine," she said of the \$275 fine recommended by Village Prosecutor Steve

Handler. "In my eyes, in my opinion, I think the offense that transpired is a serious problem.

"I think, because of how hard we work in order not to have these violations, we need to take a hard look so that we do not have re-occurrences from other establishments," Abruscato added.

On the other hand, trustee Lois Gaffke said Matty's was not serving alcohol to minors, which would be a more serious offense. She said the lower fine should be a sufficient deterrent.

"I feel that just because a minor was not involved does not make this a minor offense. . . . An officer was denied entrance," Abruscato said in disagreement.

In the past, a violator of the local liquor ordinance was fined up to \$500 for selling alcohol to a minor, according to Handler. Subsequent offenses can result

in suspension or revocation of a license.

According to Wheeling police, the bar at 1750 W. Hintz Lane was still open at 3:20 a.m. March 20 when they arrived on the scene. At first, police were not permitted to enter the pub. They were allowed in around 3:30 a.m., and found "more than several people" inside, Handler said.

Police weren't sure all those inside were pub employees. "But they did claim they were employees," Handler said.

In a signed letter, Wilstein and Mark confirmed that, "while we were not open to the public or charging for drinks, including soft drinks, we did have people in the establishment and we were serving beer in violation of the ordinance."

Their lawyer, Ricky Ament, told the liquor commissioners that not allowing police in was the pub owners' only offense.

# Wheeling firm seeks tax break to finance building addition

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the third time this year, Wheeling trustees Tuesday are considering recommending giving a local business a break on its share of Cook County property taxes.

The Wheeling village board eyed a request by Bjorn M. Hestrad, president and treasurer of Tool King Inc., to recommend the county board pass the exemption,

which would allow the company at 275 Larkin Drive in the Wheeling Center for Industry park to reduce its share of county property taxes for eight years.

The company would use its savings to finance construction of a 15,000-square-foot addition to its 24,778-square-foot building.

Officials did not estimate the amount of the requested tax break.

"We've enjoyed being in the village of Wheeling. I think we're

doing a good job. When we arrived in 1984, we had eight employees. In 1988, when we expanded, we had 28 employees. . . . We hope to be in Wheeling for many, many years," Hestrad said.

Wheeling trustees backed a county property tax break to Tool King in 1988, which the company used to build a 12,645-square-foot addition valued at \$875,000. With that addition, the manufacturer of steel coils and steel strips expanded its work force by 20 employees.

Hestrad said his business probably would add 30 or 40 employees over the next several years. In 1992, the company had annual sales of \$8.5 million, and business is ahead of projections, he said.

Wheeling village manager Craig G. Anderson said that if the trustees didn't grant the company's request, Tool King would consider relocating to Lake County.

Wheeling trustees support such requests by local businesses as incentives to get them to move to the

village or to keep them from leaving. In May, the village board backed such a waiver for Saw Machine Works.

Last March, a similar proposal by A&M Tool Co., for a \$300,000 expansion that added four jobs, won the trustees approval.

Excluding Hestrad's proposal, since 1986, Wheeling trustees approved tax breaks that resulted in 629 jobs being created and industrial construction valued at \$40 million in the village.

# Developer's building plan nixed by Wheeling trustees

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday denied a developer's request to build a six-unit apartment building on a 1/3-acre parcel on the north end of the village, saying the development is too large for the site.

The Wheeling village board voted unanimously to reject the proposal by William F. Noonan of Prospect Heights to build a three-story, 7,300 square-foot apartment building on a vacant parcel at 288 7th Street, surrounded by similar multifamily housing buildings. Noonan's plan also included 12 parking spaces for the tenants.

Wheeling officials said that while similar buildings were near Noonan's parcel, they were located there as the result of a 1975 court decision arising from litigation between the village and a developer.

"Just because something was built there in the past does not mean we want it built there in the future," said Trustee Lois J. Gaffke.

Wheeling trustees agreed with recommendations from

the village planning staff who said the proposed building put too many units within too small of an area, that a smaller four-unit building would better fit the site. They also said there was not enough room for adequate parking on the parcel for the larger building.

"A four-unit building is not economical for me to own," Noonan said.

Testifying on Noonan's behalf was consulting engineer Peter F. Olesen, who told trustees that in a parking survey of the area, he discovered many of the spaces at nearby apartment buildings were vacant.

"None of them was filled to capacity. My findings were that there is not a parking problem in this area," Olesen said.

Leaving the door open for Noonan to return to Wheeling officials with plans for a smaller building, the village board passed a resolution approving zoning variances for lot size and recreational vehicle parking requirements.

That measure also rejected Noonan's requests for density and general parking variances on the property.

# Village approves Checkers

By CYRIL IDE  
STAFF WRITER

After asking restaurant owners to make the Checkers Hamburgers' fight in more with their concept of a "Wheeling building," trustees approved the fast-food diner on Dundee Road.

The village board voted 5-1 to approve plans for a 1,150-square-foot Checkers Hamburgers to be constructed at the site of the former Brown's Chicken and Pasta at 625 W. Dundee Road.

Bruce Albinak, director of real estate for Chicago Double Drive-Through group that will own the Checkers facility, said groundbreaking could begin in 30 days with the restaurant open within three months.

Albinak said the village's "very demanding" process will result in a model restaurant.

"It's going to be our showpiece, the one that we'll go to other villages with," Albinak said of the Wheeling facility.

Checkers officials had to compromise on the original design of their building after the village appearance committee objected to a 30-foot light pole, an exterior with neon lighting and stainless steel, and the flying checkers flags.

The commission had argued that Checkers' external appearance was just not a "Wheeling building."

Instead of shiny stainless steel, the building will feature the dull-brushed version with less lamination.

As part of the deal with the village, Checkers owners will donate \$10,000 to the proposed Wheeling-Buffalo Grove bike path.

Albinak said he gave up consideration of a site near the intersection of Elmhurst and Hintz roads after he was told by village staff that approval for that would be difficult because of its proximity to residences.

# Former club owner proposes teen juice bar in Wheeling

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Rolling Meadows-based entrepreneur is proposing to build a teen dance club in Wheeling that would be one of the few such entertainment venues targeted specifically to Northwest suburban adolescents.

Jeff Fisher, 30, is proposing to open a club called The Hype in a 10,000-square-foot space in the Wolf Point Shopping Center at Camp McDonald and Wolf roads

near an industrial area. Fisher said the club would be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for youths 15 to 20 years old.

"People have tried (to open teen clubs), but the difference is I have a proven track record," said Fisher, who for three years owned the teen club Lazars in Rockford that he recently sold.

The Wheeling club, he said, would have parking lot security provided by off-duty Wheeling police officers, include its own secur-

ity personnel inside who would use metal detectors, and a dress code will be implemented to keep out youths wearing street gang-colored clothing.

Curfews would be enforced, and teens wouldn't be allowed to re-enter the club after leaving, he said.

For an undetermined cover charge, youths could enjoy amenities including a large dance floor and non-alcohol juice bar, Fisher said.

Fisher added he would work

with the local Students Against Drunk Driving chapter to develop programs at the club.

Recently, the Wheeling plan commission informally backed the club.

Fisher has a formal hearing before that panel Aug. 12.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the club's security will be the top concern of the village board.

"I think one of the things the board would look at is what kind of

controls there are, how it would be run. I would look at it too as to what it would offer that couldn't be offered elsewhere to young people," she said.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger declined to discuss police concerns about the club but said other local businesses have security provided by the department.

Besides Toto's in Schaumburg and the Discover Teen Dance Center in Kane County, few area nightclubs serve teens.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Police hear safety concerns at village apartment complex

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of the Chelsea Cove Condominium complex Monday asked for stepped-up police patrols telling Wheeling village officials that traffic and personal safety were their top concerns.

At a village board meeting held at the subdivision's clubhouse at 300 Denoyer Trail, residents said they fear for their personal safety because youths from nearby multi-family housing developments were entering their neighborhood.

"We need more patrols; we have kids afraid to come here because of people from across the street intimidating them," said Cecilia Romero, a Chelsea Cove resident.

Dan Artman, president of the homeowners association, said a recent incident at the complex clubhouse — a fight that erupted between neighborhood youths and outsiders — prompted residents to remove the basketball hoops.

Residents said a lack of basketball courts at Childerly Park at 506 McHenry Road across the street from the complex at-

tracted area youths to their private court.

Wheeling officials said the police would look into increasing neighborhood patrols.

Wheeling Park District officials have targeted the 13-acre park for renovation.

Aside from their personal safety concerns, the residents also said that traffic safety has become a priority with them because patrons of nearby businesses were parking on their streets, and others were speeding through the subdivision, which has a 20 mph speed limit.

"The safety issue is a focal point with us. . . . We have to slow the traffic down, it's getting worse," said Chelsea Cove resident Tom Hansen.

In response to a suggestion to erect a stop sign, Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village would review the matter but questioned whether a sign on Denoyer Trail would slow traffic down.

"Stop signs are not designed to be speed control devices."

Wheeling trustees held the meeting at Chelsea Cove as a part of their annual effort to visit village neighborhoods.

# Northwest Talk

Tribune 7-11-93

**On the road again:** The Pavilion-Aires, the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center's chorus, were singing up a sweet blend of country and gospel tunes and dancing a little "Tennessee Waltz" as one of the featured entertainments at Senior Celebration Day hosted by Randhurst Shopping Center this spring. For the past six years, the group has been appearing at shopping malls, schools, nursing homes and community centers throughout the Chicago area.

"If they ask us, we'll go anywhere," said choral director Adelle Becker of Wheeling. A semi-retired bank officer who once studied voice and performed at private events for 30 years, Becker said that bringing pleasure to the seniors—meaning, mostly, the singers themselves—is the purpose of the group. She considers music a gift, the best part of which is that "you can give it to others."

It takes Becker about four months to put a show together, choosing the theme, selecting tunes, organizing rehearsals and mediating the differing points of view among the 35 members of the chorus.

"You have to be a bit of a dictator," Becker said. "I always tell them, 'If it fails, I'll take the blame. If it's a success, you get the applause.'"

For the Randhurst show, the chorus donned kerchiefs and cowboy boots. Some switched to red choir robes for the soul-stirring hymn "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Wheeling's Nina DeSpigno, one of the soloists, performed the Patsy Cline standard Ross Perot liked so much, "Crazy."

"Being in the group means a great deal to me," DeSpigno said. "It's made my life complete." At the end of the performance, Becker issued this invitation: "If you love singing, we meet at 1:30 Tuesday afternoons at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center."

For more information on the group, call Nancy Janssen, Pavilion director, at 708-459-2670.

Marsha Portnoy

# Tax break could be tool for jobs

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

A Cook County tax-incentive program started in Wheeling seven years ago could add 40 new jobs to the 830 officials attribute to the program under a proposal by Tool King, Inc.

Wheeling trustees are expected to vote Monday on the company's petition for the county's designation for a property tax incentive that would help it expand its steel manufacturing plant at 275 Larkin Drive.

The company plans to use the savings on its property taxes to add 15,000 square feet of space and to increase its workforce by five employees immediately after the expansion. The company would eventually add as many as 35 employees within three to five years after that.

Trustees will vote on recommending to county officials to approve the exemption for Tool King, located in a Wheeling industrial park. No estimate is available on the tax break the company is seeking, but Bjorn Hestad, co-owner of the firm, said the proposed addition would cost an estimated \$600,000.

Tool King received a tax break in 1988 which the company used to build a 12,645-square-foot addition at a cost of nearly \$600,000. The company expanded its workforce by 20 employees,



Danielle Fron/Pioneer Press

If Wheeling-based Tool King Inc. wins a tax incentive package from the county, the man-

ufacturer plans to expand its warehouse and add up to 35 new jobs.

to the current 49, after that addition.

"We like it here in Wheeling. It's one of the best places to have a business," said Hestad, a Northfield resident who co-owns the company with his son, Peter.

The Class 6 tax designa-

tion helps business owners in constructing additions to existing buildings or in revitalizing structures over than 35 years old in blighted areas. The village has backed the incentives for 30 companies so far, for a total tax relief of \$40.6 million, said Robert Fialkowski,

Wheeling finance director.

An average of two or three applications are received a year, he said.

Two companies in Wheeling, A&M Tool Co. and Sauk Machine Works, have been granted approval for the tax breaks already this year, Fialkowski said.

## Village cracks down on garbage

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling's latest crackdown on multi-family apartment buildings with overflowing dumpsters has resulted in a \$500 fine against the owner of a building on Wolf Road.

A Cook County District 3 Circuit Court judge last week levied the maximum fine, plus a court fee of \$25, against Zbigniew Lutkosky after the owner of the apartment building at 130 Wolf Road failed to show up at a housing court hearing, said Wheeling Village Prosecutor Steve Handler.

The building owner had been cited for failure to provide sufficient size

and number of garbage containers for the apartment complex, said Mike Boyle, village health officer.

Lutkosky could not be reached this week for comment.

### Highest fine

The \$500 fine was the highest to be imposed so far since the village started a crackdown targeting multi-family dwelling units last month, following complaints by neighbors of three buildings on Wolf Road by Glendale Avenue.

Two other citations have been issued against building owners for overflowing or unscreened dumpsters

on Wolf Road over the past month, Boyle said.

The complaints prompted trustee Judy Abruscato to call recently for an ordinance requiring all multi-family housing units to have enclosed dumpsters.

"It seems that we have gotten a lot of complaints in that area," Boyle said.

The village community development department is currently reviewing the local ordinance relating to garbage in commercial buildings and is expected to make a recommendation to the board of trustees soon.

Since February, Boyle has sent three mailings to owners of commercial buildings in the Wolf Road area.

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Tahoe Village residents quiz Wheeling trustees

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Dolly Herald Staff Writer

Economic development was the topic residents of the Tahoe Village subdivision spent the most time on with Wheeling trustees during a meeting Monday.

At the village board meeting, held at the subdivision's clubhouse, residents questioned trustees about how economic development projects would affect the village's tax increment finance district and about improvements at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"Have you taken an attack attitude to bring businesses into Wheeling... and make new jobs, or have you sat back?" asked resident August Hansen.

In response, Wheeling officials said trustees supported many Cook County property tax exemption proposals local companies have made that resulted in creation of more than 800 jobs in the village over the last several years.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson also updated

residents on negotiations with Mid-States Bradford Inc. of Oak Brook Terrace to develop a regional shopping center on the village's 60-acre TIF district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

"There are several major retailers, who I can't name, who are interested in that corner," said Anderson.

He also said that Wheeling trustees could be voting on an agreement with Mid-States Bradford this month to develop the center.

Wheeling officials also reiterated that the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads was being done to expand the safety zone between those roads and Palwaukee Municipal Airport's longest runway.

A part of an \$83.5 million renovation project to bring the airport up to federal standards, the work will be completed in 1995.

Residents sought more enforcement by police of parking restrictions and complained their cable television service was poor.

# Departments train officers to handle rail emergencies

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Area police officers Wednesday spent part of their day learning things about trains they hope they'll never have to use.

Law enforcement officials from police departments including Aurora, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Elgin, Fox Lake, Naperville and Palatine had the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of a locomotive and coach railroad car provided by Metra, the suburban rail agency.

The training exercise, hosted by Wheeling police, was a part of the Operation Lifesaver course on investigating rail crossing accidents jointly held by the Wisconsin Central Railroad and Norfolk Southern Corp.

"We want local public safety personnel to be able to get into the trains.

"They are always the first responders in an emergency,"

Operation Lifesaver is a public education program designed to reduce the number of crashes, deaths and injuries at railway crossings.

The education efforts seem to be working. In 1992, there were 263 train accidents in Illinois, a 48-year low, that resulted in 44 fatalities.

In 1991, there were 291 train accidents.

This year, through June, there have been 18 train accident fatalities in the state, said Judy Howe, a railroad safety specialist with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Wheeling Police officials said the three-day exercise, in part, was preparation for their department and others along the 53-mile route of the Wisconsin Central Railroad for when it becomes a commuter line by 1996.



Local police officers learn about the hazardous materials tank cars can carry as a part of the Operation Lifesaver training exercise. Daily Herald Photo/Vince Pileri



Using rail cars provided by Metra, the Wheeling Police Department hosts Operation Lifesaver, an exercise teaching area police how to investigate rail crossing accidents. Daily Herald Photo/Vince Pileri



Northwest Journal  
Christine Winter

Tribune 7-12-93

# Wheeling group likes diversity

Sometimes the folks who live in Wheeling get the feeling that surrounding suburbs look down on them because there's more ethnic diversity in their community than in many other northwest suburbs.

That's one of the reasons Kamal Zaretsky started the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force.

"We want to turn around the perception that different is negative," said Zaretsky, who describes herself as a "regular housewife," who started the grass-roots task force in her living room last year.

Zaretsky, who has biracial children in the Wheeling schools, had recognized the tension in the community for some time. She noted that Wheeling is 80 percent white and 20 percent people of color, with 15 different languages in use.

"The last straw was when I ran into a junior high student who had just moved here and I asked her how she liked her new school," Zaretsky said. "She answered that there were too many Mexicans running around speaking Spanish and too many Jamaicans. Instead of thinking, 'Isn't this neat, there are all these people from different backgrounds,' she was complaining. That said to me, 'There's a problem here.'"

Zaretsky started talking up her ideas for a group to promote racial and ethnic unity shortly before the first Rodney King verdict in Los Angeles. Nobody paid a lot of attention to her.

"I think they thought I was some kind of Polyanna person or a radical trying to recreate the 1960s," she said.

But then the riots broke out in Los Angeles, and suddenly there was a dramatic increase in interest.

"We've gotten a lot of positive support from village leaders," she said, adding that Wheeling's village president and a trustee are on the task force and the Police Department's crime prevention unit has been very helpful.

Zaretsky's first event was an ethnic-unity picnic last summer, which attracted about 150 people, mostly Caucasians.

A multicultural unity seminar in May at the Indian Trails Public Library in Wheeling was less successful, with only 18 attending. But Zaretsky isn't discouraged; she looks on it as a good start.

With more time to plan, she is hoping to attract about 200 to this year's picnic, scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m. July 25 at Heritage Park. Local ethnic restaurants will provide the food, a Peruvian band will play, and picnickers will be encouraged to wear their native garb.

Fliers are being distributed in English and Spanish, and Zaretsky, who admits the diversity in languages can be a problem, is trying to make use of friends to spread the word in other languages, like Hindi.

Along with the picnic, the task force, which includes about 20 dues-paying members and 60 more on its mailing list, will hold an art contest for junior high and high school kids.

"We want our young artists to consider the great diversity here and think about its beauty," Zaretsky said. Two eight-week scholarships to the DeFrancesco Art School in Wheeling will be awarded.

# Wheeling OKs plan for church expansion

8-3-93

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved plans of a church to construct an addition to its main building over objections from some neighbors.

With Trustee Judy Abruscato abstaining, Wheeling village board unanimously approved plans by Our Savior Evangelical Free Church, 300 Schoenbeck Road, to construct a \$1 million, 7,100-square-foot addition. The plans include construction of a 54-foot tall tower with a crucifix visible at its peak.

The plans also include enlarging the parking lot from 96 spaces to 184 spaces.

Responding to resident complaints, church officials said other churches in Wheeling had towers about the same height and that the cross wouldn't affect nearby houses.

Residents complained the cross was aesthetically unappealing and would hurt their property values.

"We feel we have covered that base very well and should have no negative impact on neighbors (with the cross)," said David F. Schultz, architect for the project who is not related to Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Aside from the cross, some neighbors complained the expanded parking would cause headlights from vehicles arriving for night services to be cast into their living rooms, and the expansion would aggravate neighborhood flooding problems.

"As this is proposed now, I see it going entirely in the wrong direction," said Dave Darris, a church neighbor living on Anthony Road.

As a condition of approval, church officials agreed to control night parking.

Wheeling officials also said the building expansion includes drainage upgrades as well.

Wheeling recommending panels had mixed reactions to the proposal. The plan commission endorsed it, while the appearance commission opposed the tower and the zoning board did not make a recommendation.

The proposed tower would be 24 feet taller than allowed without a variance.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Michael DeFrancesco stands by one of his painting accentuating diversity. The DeFrancesco Art School will be offering scholarships to the winners of an art contest during the Unity Task Force picnic.

## Unity picnic celebrates diversity

By CYRIL IBE

STAFF WRITER

Art, music and food can be quite revealing about a people and their culture.

That's why the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force is incorporating all three ingredients for the second annual Multicultural Unity Picnic, slated for 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road. "Celebrate the Diversity of Wheeling" is the theme of this year's picnic.

Combining art, music and food is all part of the task force's effort to building racial, ethnic and religious bridges among the town's diverse population of almost 30,000 and 15 different languages.

"I think music and art generally are a wonderful vehicle for people to express their cultural background and to share their cultures with other people," said task force founder Kamal Zaretsky.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz agreed that food, music and art are among the "unique things that we give one another."

And Task Force members like Schultz and Zaretsky hope the sharing of various ethnic foods to be served at the picnic will complement art and music in fostering harmony among Wheeling residents. The picnic flyer printed in both English and Spanish invites residents and others to "Bring your own food or share some of ours." Wa-Pa-ghetti's Pizza, El Famous Burrito, Pita Inn and Vivian Lee's restaurant will donate food for the picnic.

Music will be supplied by El Viento Conta, a Peruvian band from the Chicago area, and Klezzical Jazz band from Wheeling. Plans are under way to bring a rap musical group.

A summer art contest open to junior high and high school students is being sponsored by the task force to "encourage students to reflect upon the beauty of our cultural diverse communities

and to portray and celebrate this diversity in the form of two dimensional art," according to a statement by the task force. Art works should be submitted by today to the First National Bank of Wheeling, 125 McHenry Road. First-place winners in various categories will be announced at the picnic and will be awarded eight-week scholarships to the DeFrancesco Art School.

The art contest is one of the creative ways the task force is hoping to attract more Wheeling residents to the picnic. An estimated 100 to 150 people attended last year. "There is so much beauty in each culture that we have here in Wheeling. Every culture that we have is unique," said Zaretsky. "And whenever we are able to share that uniqueness, it just adds to and enhances our lives."

Added David Rivera, the Hispanic member of the Unity Task Force: "It's just a good feeling when people of different cultures get together and get along," he said.

## Wheeling joins Night Out campaign

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the fourth consecutive year Wheeling residents will celebrate control over their own streets as a part of a national crime prevention program.

Today Wheeling residents will once again participate in the national Night Out campaign to demonstrate residents - not criminals - own the local streets.

"The whole purpose of it is we're taking back our neighborhoods and not letting crime or drugs take over," said Wheeling Police Department crime prevention officer

Barbara G. Kobishop.

That evening, residents, business owners and others are being encouraged to leave their porch lights on from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and to spend time outdoors getting to know their neighbors.

Also, parties will be held in some Wheeling neighborhoods with active neighborhood watch programs including the Dunhurst East, Malibu, Whippletree Village and Tahoe Village subdivisions, said Kobishop.

The largest celebration, she said, will be held in Tahoe Village subdivision. That event running

from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. will include visits by Wheeling police and fire officials, an appreciation award ceremony, a police squad car residents can examine up close and an appearance by Laiser the police dog.

Always a hit with children, Laiser is trained to track people and sniff out drugs.

Law enforcement activities such as what happens during an arrest may also be demonstrated to residents, she said.

Additionally, police and fire de-

partment officials will be making speeches at the subdivision's clubhouse on Tahoe Circle Drive. A raffle will also be held for party goers.

The annual crime prevention celebration is being sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, a national public safety organization. The event nationwide is in its 10th year and is celebrated by 25 million people, said Kobishop.

Other nearby communities are holding similar celebrations of Night Out as well.

# Wheeling Township picnic to promote ethnic harmony

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buoyed by the success of last year's event, the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force is holding its second annual unity picnic Sunday at Heritage Park in Wheeling.

The residents group that promotes ethnic harmony is looking for a large crowd to attend the event this year, which is running

from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the park at 222 S. Wolf Road.

"We got close to 150 last year, this year I'm hoping for about 200.

The purpose of the picnic is to get people to share their cultural background with each other and to celebrate the beauty of that diversity," said Kamal Zaretsky, president of the organization.

This year's picnic will include at least two musical groups, El Viento Canta, a Peruvian band, and Klezzical Jazz, a Jewish folk music duo. Zaretsky said event organizers are also trying to line up a teen rap group for the picnic.

Different from last year's event, artwork exhibited at the picnic will come from the contestants in the task force's first art contest.

The theme of that contest was "Celebrate the Cultural Diversity of Wheeling Township."

It was open to students throughout the township in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23 and Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

Also available at the picnic will be food from local restaurants in-

cluding The Pita Inn, El Famous Burrito, Vivian Lee's and Wa-Pa-Ghetti's.

Zaretsky said she wanted attendance at the picnic to grow gradually to where it would be a popular event with area residents. She said it would be a family-oriented outing.

Local officials expected to attend include Wheeling Village

President Sheila H. Schultz.

Wheeling officials have been paying closer attention to ethnic harmony in the village and have formed an ad hoc residents group to make recommendations on the community's first human relations ordinance.

That ordinance could cover housing and other areas, said Schultz.

## SUITING UP

Dick Wyda of the Wheeling Fire Department gears up for a dip in the murky waters of Lake Arlington during simulated diving rescue exercises Saturday. Another picture on

PAGE 7

7-22-93  
Country Club



### In the drink

Divers from the Buffalo Grove Fire Department practice safety measures in Lake Arlington Saturday. More than 20 area departments, including Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Lake

Zurich, Hoffman Estates, and Vernon Hills, took part in the simulated diving rescue exercises. Among other things, the divers practiced techniques for rescuing drowning swimmers.

Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

# Higher assessments wipe out tax rate drop for homeowners

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Tax rates may be dropping for most taxing bodies connected to Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, but higher assessments will mean higher property taxes in many cases.

Cook County tax rates were released Thursday, and tax bills will be mailed to homeowners shortly. Payment is due Sept. 1.

Here's what taxpayers will find: The owner of an average \$215,000 home in Buffalo Grove, for instance, will pay \$3,297 in taxes, less than a 1 percent increase from last year. In that case, assessment increases that average 4.7 percent are offset by 6.58 percent lower tax rates.

In Wheeling, however, homeowners generally pay less taxes than their Buffalo Grove neighbors, but their increase from last year is more dramatic. A house with a selling price of \$146,000 will generate a bill of \$2,168 this year, a full \$385 higher than last year. Even though tax rates dropped 4 percent, assessment increases were in the 19 percent range, prompting the higher bills.

Tax rates this year also were affected by a freeze on real estate assessments that used local governments' 1991 assessed valuations to calculate how much they can receive in property taxes and the 1992 assessed valuations to determine the rates.

"Ultimately it winds up as a rate limit on what they (government units) can get," said Dave Druker, spokesperson for the Cook County Assessor Thomas Hynes.

Cook County's 13 percent tax rate increase, which flies in the face of county board Chairman Richard Phelan's pledge not to increase the tax rate while in office, should be blamed on Gov. Jim Edgar and Republicans in the General Assembly, said Cook County Finance Director Woods Bowman.

The state would not collect the county's 0.75 percent sales tax on big-ticket items sold outside Cook County's borders, Bowman said. Because the sales tax wasn't collected, Cook County canceled a property tax abatement that had been planned, and instead collected an additional \$50 million in property taxes, Bowman said.

Other taxing districts managed to hold their bills relatively steady. Any increases will pay for salaries, insurance and pension plans.

That's the case with Northwest Suburban High School District 214, where the levy — the total amount of property tax money requested by the district — increased only 2.1 percent this year, and the tax rate dropped 7.83 percent.

"We have been holding the line on spending and our assessed valuation has increased somewhat," Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board member David Wiltse said.

Although Wiltse said he was surprised that the tax rate dropped slightly, he has noticed new development springing up around Hintz and Wheeling roads in Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Wiltse said about 87 percent of the six-high school district's budget goes toward salaries and benefits. And district officials have been making a concerted effort to keep salary increases modest, he

## Buffalo Grove and Wheeling tax rates

(Per \$100 assessed valuation — Cook County portion)

	1992	1991	%
Cook County .....	\$ 1.176	\$ 1.040	+13.08
Forest Preserve .....	.063	.064	-1.56
Suburban TB Sanitarium District .....	.008	.008	0
Metro Water Rcl. Dist. ....	.470	.482	-2.49
NW Mosquito Abatement District .....	.009	.008	+12.50
Wheeling Township (all funds) ...	.084	.076	+10.50
School District 21 .....	2.813	2.972	-5.35
High School District 214 .....	1.989	2.158	-7.83
Harper College .....	.261	.291	-10.31
Village of Buffalo Grove .....	.907	1.161	-21.88
Village of Wheeling .....	1.031	1.145	-9.96
Buffalo Grove Park District .....	.570	.636	-10.38
Wheeling Park District .....	.522	.486	+7.41
River Trails Park District .....	.473	.469	+0.85
Indian Trails Library District .....	.251	.288	-12.85
Wheeling Twp. Rural Fire Dist. ....	.387	.423	-8.51
Forest River Fire Protection .....	—	.300	-100.00

<b>Buffalo Grove total</b> (in Dist. 21) .....	8.601	9.207	-6.58
<b>Typical tax bill</b> .....	\$3,297	\$3,285	+37

\*Based on an average selling price of \$215,000 (market value of \$122,363 in 1991, \$128,119 in 1992) and assessed at 16 percent with a \$4,500 homeowner's exemption.

<b>Wheeling total</b> (in Dist. 21, Library) .....	8.677	9.041	-4.03
<b>Typical tax bill</b> .....	\$2,168	\$1,783	+21.6

\*Based on an average selling price of \$146,000 (market value of \$73,756 in 1991 and \$88,188 in 1992) and assessed at 16 percent with a \$4,500 homeowner's exemption.

\*Includes a relative increase in the assessed valuation

said. "We've tried to hold those costs," he said. "That has a direct impact on how much our budget grows each year."

## Wheeling

Homeowners can expect their taxes paid directly to the village of Wheeling to be a little more, despite a tax rate that dropped almost 10 percent, from \$1.14 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

That trend continues with the local elementary school districts, with rates for Wheeling Elementary District 21 dropping 5.35 percent and Prospect Heights Elementary District 23 dropping almost 15 percent, from \$4 to \$3.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

That doesn't mean the growing district is spending any less money, okne official said. "The tax base is increasing. We're getting the same dollars, but because of that, the rate is going down," said District 23 Business Manager Rick Ewanio.

Homeowners will get a double hit from the Wheeling Park District, where a tax rate that increases from 48.6 cents to 52.2 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation will be applied to the new, higher property values.

Finance Superintendent Thomas Busby called the rate hike "good news," because it included the 10 cents from the tax increase referendum voters passed in November that allowed the park district to borrow \$4.9 million to fund construction of a nearly \$5 million, 56,000-square-foot recreation center next to the recently constructed aquatic center at 327 W. Dundee Road. "Obviously, we've held the line on our other funds," Busby said.

## Buffalo Grove

Buffalo Grove homeowners in Cook County actually are in for a break from the village, whose line

item on tax bills will go down. The village's tax rate dropped more than 20 percent, from \$1.161 to 90.7 percent — partly because there was an 18 percent increase in the property values in the Cook County portion of the village.

Some of the increase in property value happened because of new development, but most of it is due to the triennial reassessment, he said. Even with increased property values, the village portion of the tax bill will drop because the village's actual levy — the amount requested by the village — went down.

Another reason for drastic rate cut is the reapportionment of tax burden between the Cook and Lake County sections of the village. This year, the commission that determines the relative tax burdens reduced Cook County's share of the village's property tax levy from 29.9 percent to 26.75 percent.

# Wheeling OKs company's application for tax break

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the third time this year, Wheeling trustees have approved a local company's application to Cook County officials for a break on its county property taxes.

The Wheeling village board recently approved the application by Bjorn M. Hestad, president and

treasurer of Tool King Inc., 275 Larkin Drive, to county officials for a reduction of the company's property taxes. Approval by the village is necessary before the county will consider the company's request.

With the exemption, the company will use its savings to finance a 15,000-square-foot addition to its 24,778-square-foot building in the

Wheeling Center for Industry industrial park. Along with making the building addition, valued at \$300,000, the company will add five jobs.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson reiterated the company's stand that if its application for the county tax break wasn't approved by the trustees, Tool King would relocate to Lake

County. Previously, Wheeling trustees backed a county tax break for Tool King in 1988, which the company used to build a \$575,000, 12,645-square-foot addition to its building. With that addition, the manufacturer of steel coils and steel strips expanded its work force by 20 employees.

Hestad had said his business

probably would add 30 or 40 employees over the next several years. In 1992, the company had annual sales of \$8.5 million.

Hestad said that, currently, his business is ahead of projections.

Wheeling trustees support such requests for companies seeking county property tax exemptions as an incentive to get them to move to the village or to keep them from

leaving. Last March, a similar proposal by A&M Tool Co. for a \$300,000 expansion that added four jobs won the trustees' approval.

Since 1986, Wheeling trustees have approved tax break applications resulting in creation of 834 jobs and industrial construction valued at \$40.9 million in the village.

# Officials wary of plans for nightspot for teens

Tribune 8-5-93

■ **Wheeling:** A Rolling Meadows businessman wants to establish a teen dance club in Wheeling and plans to submit details of his plan to the village by the end of the month.

The club, which would be called The Hype, is being proposed by Jeff Fisher. The club would be at the Wolf Point Shopping Center at Camp McDonald and Wolf Roads. It would operate from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays through Sundays for people ages 15 to 20.

The dance club would contain about 11,000 square feet and include a light and sound show, a non-alcoholic juice bar and a deejay, Fisher said.

"The club is second to none," he said. "Instead of going to parties, the kids can be in a safe and supervised environment."

But security at the club is a primary concern of the Police Department.

The proposed location is "an ideal place for problems" because of gang activity in the area, said Police Chief Michael Haeger. He said such clubs tend to be a magnet for social problems.

"We're not an opponent of [the proposed club]," Haeger said, "but we are raising the flag that there may be problems."

Other village officials have expressed concern over how thorough the club's security would be.

"The prime concern is what kinds of controls there will be," said Village President Sheila Schultz. The village also has to assess if the club would be "the best kind of recreational activity for the young people," she said.

Fisher said he plans to work with the village to meet security specifications and avert gang problems.

He said bouncers with metal detectors would check jackets and purses for weapons.

Haeger said off-duty police officers would be hired to patrol the area around the club.

*Katie Morrison*