



Village  
News Articles  
Aug 5, 1993 - Jan 16, 1997

# Planners back university proposal

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-13-93

National-Louis University officials cleared another hurdle in their quest to win approval from Wheeling officials to build a campus in the village by receiving the support of the plan commission.

The commission Thursday unanimously endorsed a proposal by the private university — which has campuses in Chicago, Evanston and Wheaton — to establish a fourth area campus in a 86,782-square-foot office building on nine acres at 1000 Capitol Drive, at the northwest corner of Palatine and Wolf roads.

"The village feels having a university in town could be a benefit to the village's image," said

Wheeling planner Mark Janek. University officials plan to purchase the three-story office building and construct 14 to 19 classrooms, a library and a computer lab. The university will also expand the parking lot by 98 spaces to give it 352 parking spots.

The university will start offering classes at the Wheeling campus by fall 1994 and could serve 1,500 students by 1995.

University officials the Wheeling campus will offer undergraduate and graduate degree courses in management, graduate education courses, and undergraduate courses in health leadership and health services under its college of arts and sciences.

Some plan commissioners said because the village would lose up to \$300,000 in property taxes with the university here, the school should offer tuition discounts to residents. But Glenn Heck, provost emeritus, said college accreditation organizations prohibit such discounts.

He also noted that the campus, which would serve mainly adult students, would be empty during the day and could be used as a convention center by civic groups and other organizations seeking continuing training or other non-credit training.

University officials said administrators in Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 support the project.

Wheeling trustees will review the university's proposal Aug. 23.

## War planes a direct hit with crowds

8-5-93

Crowds lined portions of Palatine and Hintz roads Wednesday to get a glimpse of two World War II fighter planes being exhibited at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

The B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine-O-Nine" and B-24 Liberator, both in good working order, were almost as popular with spectators as they were with pilots flying hazardous missions 50 years ago.

The planes will be available for tours by the public at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant at the airport today and Friday.

See story on Page 4.



A vintage B-17 World War II bomber passes overhead at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Daily Herald Photo/Joel Lawrence

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While they are 50 years old, the World War II fighter planes on display at Palwaukee Municipal Airport are as popular as ever.

Arriving at the airport Wednesday, the B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine-O-Nine" and B-24 Liberator were a hit with scores of interested spectators who lined portions of nearby roads to get a glimpse of the aerial warhorses.

"There was general interest. I've seen people lined up on Palatine and Hintz roads about 1:30 p.m. They were starting to line up on the shoulders," said Michael F. Zonsius, the airport's assistant manager for finance and administration.

The planes are on display through the cooperation of the Prospect Heights Convention and

Visitors Bureau, airport officials and the College Foundation, a Stow, Mass., organization that restores historic planes.

The Nine-O-Nine was assigned to combat duty in February 1944, and by April 1945, had made 18 trips to Berlin, where it dropped 562,000 pounds of bombs and flew 1,129 hours.

The B-24s were involved in more aerial bombings and flew more missions than any other combat aircraft of the day, said foundation officials.

The foundation last had the aircraft at the airport in 1990, but they did not draw the same response from the public the current exhibit enjoys because they were shown separately.

The airport is at Milwaukee Avenue immediately north of Palatine Road. For further information on the exhibit, call 1-800-955-7259.

## Church plans expansion to meet growing needs

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

CountrySide

8-12-93

When Jane and John Elish began attending Our Savior Evangelical Free Church in Wheeling more than two decades ago, they were among the fewer than 30 members who sometimes held choir practices in the Elishes' home and services in local schools.

Today, the Wheeling couple in their seventies are among 160 families who belong to the local congregation where the average Sunday attendance is 300 members. The two-level church building at 300 S. Schoenbeck Road is already bulging at the seams, as the congregation has outgrown the 175-seat sanctuary, 96 parking spaces and 11 Sunday School classrooms in the basement.

To alleviate the space crunch, church officials are embarking on a \$1.7 million expansion of the building, the second addition to the facility since built in 1971. The expansion calls for adding 7,100 square feet of space to the east wing of the facility, creating a bigger sanctuary that can sit up to 470 people, a 48-foot high by 30-foot wide tower with a 6-foot cross on top, more classrooms, and 104 extra parking spaces. The effort is dubbed "Building For Our Growing Family."

"We have grown in numbers of people attending (church), and we've also grown in the kinds of ministry that we are providing for people," said Jerry Foote, one of four full-time pastors for the church. "The building is a tool to use in providing those services to people. It's not an end in itself."

Membership of Our Savior's has grown rapidly as long-timers like the Elishes, who joined the congregation about 30 years ago, remain in the village and new members join them.

"In terms of the numbers in our growth, probably the biggest thing is transfer growth, people moving into the area," said Foote, who's been pastor at Our Saviour's for 12 years. "But we also have had conversion growth."

Foote said the building addition will enhance the spiritual well-being of Our Saviour's members and allow the congregation

to offer more youth programs and activities. "We are trying to do things that will make more room for people. And we have found that people are willing to come (to church) when there is room," he said.

However, Foote acknowledged some concerns about whether the increased size would diminish the intimacy of the congregation. "We are hoping that the building itself will not change our ministries," he said. "We want a building that will help us continue to do what we are doing."

The congregation has raised about \$300,000 through personal donations and various fundraising activities. Another \$400,000 has been committed as pledges from members. Construction on the addition is expected to start when the congregation has received a total of \$440,000 in cash with the same amount in commitments.

Village trustees voted last week to approve the building plan. Construction is slated to begin by spring next year.

### A world of good

"I think (the building) would help the community by its outreach with the children's programs and the other services that we have. I think it will do a world of good in the area," said Jane Elish, who attended as a visitor for 25 years before officially joining the congregation just five years ago.

She added, "It is the friendliest church I have ever attended."

Though he has been attending the church for the same length of time as his wife without yet becoming a member, John Elish relishes the fellowship that exists among members.

"It is a very congenial congregation. You can talk to people. There is no back-biting. I treat people everywhere as I myself would like to be treated and they treat me the same way," he said.

Prospect Heights residents Mel and Millie Lace have been members of the church since 1959, and Mel has been the organist for the church for several years. "I consider myself fortunate in being able to use the small talent I have as an organist."

## Financial team wins government award

8-10-93

Herald

Congratulations to Robert Fialkowski, director of finance for the Village of Wheeling. Robert recently led his staff members and himself to the receipt of an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement.

The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. It was given by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada in recognition of the work which Robert and the Finance Department did on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling





A B-17 "Flying Fortress" releases a trail of smoke as it flies over Palwaukee Municipal Airport for scores of interested onlookers.

8-12-93 Daily Herald Photos/Joe Lawnard

## Planes bring back memories for veterans

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Fifty years ago, Jerry Ivce at times had a 50-50 chance of coming back alive.

Ivce, now 74, was a bomber pilot in World War II with the 491st Bomb Group of the U.S. Eighth Air Force unit based in England. Ivce flew 18 missions in a B-24 Liberator plane often as a part of air raids that included 1,000 planes.

Ivce was shot down by German fire during his 16th mission March 24, 1945, but was fortunate enough to land in Brussels, Belgium with a small fire onboard and two wounded crew members.

"It was really something. Those of us who got back were lucky. We, the crews, were very expendable," Ivce said.

Recently, a B-24, the last existing one that can still fly, commanded more friendly attention from scores of visitors who came



More than 3,000 people toured the B-24 Liberator and B-17 "Nine-O-Nine" recently at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

to Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling to tour the plane along with a B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine-O-Nine" being displayed at the 94th Aero Squadron Res-

taurant there.

Brought to the airport through the cooperation of the Prospect Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau, airport officials and the

Collings Foundation, a Stow, Mass., organization that restores historic planes, the planes were a hit with visitors.

During the three days the planes were on display, more than 3,000 visitors came by to tour them. The excitement first started when the planes flew into the airport from an air show at Oshkosh, Wis.

Airport officials said spectators lined Palatine and Hintz roads to get a view of the aerial warhorses when they arrived.

"We received a couple of hundred calls. We had four lines going. Scores of veterans were taking tours," Don K. Miller, executive director of the Prospect Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau said earlier this month when the planes were on display.

The event, said Miller, was one of the most successful the bureau

## Airport bridge work to begin soon

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Airport officials said work on the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection is progressing, and the construction of bridges for the roads could begin soon.

Michael F. Zonsius, the airport's assistant manager for finance and administration, said work on relocating the intersection 575 feet west of its current location (250 feet from the airport's longest runway) is going well. The project will also include the construction

of two new bridges on the roads, with the Hintz Road bridge being built first.

"The bridges are being relocated 200 feet from their present position to accommodate the relocated Wolf and Hintz roads," said Zonsius.

The relocation is being done as a part of the \$83.5 million capital development project to extend the safety zone between the intersection and runway and bring the airport up to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

The airport is owned by the vil-

lage of Wheeling and city of Prospect Heights, which operate it under an intergovernmental agreement.

Zonsius said while the bridge construction project is under way there will be no obstructions for motorists.

Work on the Hintz Road portion of the project will take place this year and next year, with the construction for Wolf Road beginning next year and the following building season.

By 1995, said Zonsius, those passing through the area will notice that the intersection has been

moved.

Also related to the intersection move, a contractor will soon be working to quickly remove scores of old tires from a 1.79 acre parcel that formerly was a junkyard located on the south side of Hintz Road.

Other parts of the project include moving, for safety reasons, a drainage ditch running through the airport.

Traffic signals will be placed at the intersection when the project is completed, said airport officials.

# Florida-based steakhouse gets backing of plans unit

8-16-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling plan commission is backing the efforts of a Fort Meyers, Fla.-based steakhouse chain to open a unit in the village.

The plan commission recently unanimously endorsed a proposal by Ernest Horvath and John Schmitt to open a 10,000-square-foot Ned Kelly's Steakhouse restaurant on a now vacant 2½ acre parcel on the northwest corner of Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue.

The restaurant would be located in the tax increment finance district the village has targeted for redevelopment. Wheeling planners said the restaurant fits the profile of the kinds of businesses they would like to see locate in the more than 60 acre area that includes Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road at its center.

The developers are planning a 300- facility that would include a bar and lounge area taking 24 seats, with the remaining seating left for diners.

The developers are also planning to install a 130-space park-

ing lot with three access driveways, two on to Manchester and one leading to Milwaukee Avenue.

The restaurant would feature steaks, chicken and seafood dishes ranging from \$7 to \$15 a meal. The restaurant would be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. Friday and Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Company officials said 50 or 60 people will be employed at the restaurant, with a maximum of 30 working per shift. The restaurant could be open in a year, said company officials.

The site itself is now surrounded by other commercial properties, vacant land and a residential area.

In Illinois, the company has units in areas including Urbana and Bloomington.

Wheeling officials noted that the site targeted for the restaurant has been vacant for years, and it fit in with the new development planned for the area. Village officials are working to have a regional shopping center built in the TIF district.

Wheeling trustees will review the company's proposal Sept. 7.

# Wheeling rejects proposal for offices on small plot

8-17-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees denied a proposal to build an office building on Milwaukee Avenue, saying the lot for the project wasn't large enough.

With Trustees Judy Abrusca and Elizabeth L. Hartman absent, the Wheeling village board Monday unanimously denied a proposal by Jovo and Radmilla Lunje to build a 1,000-square-foot office building on less than an acre of land at 240 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The plan, which included two 450-square-foot offices in one building, is located in the village's tax increment finance district where a regional shopping center and other new developments will be located.

"This is a very difficult site to develop, and this is not the best overall use for Milwaukee Avenue," said Michael Klitzke, director of community development.

While village officials noted the site does comply with the zoning code, they said the proposed five-space parking lot was not enough to serve people

working at the building planned for the property. They also said the site should be combined with neighboring properties for development purposes.

Zoran Bogdanovic, architect for the Lunics, said the plan met the village's standards and that they were providing one more parking space than the zoning code required.

"We are providing more than the minimal satisfying criteria. I do not see one article (of the zoning code) that says we cannot build," he said.

The Lunics indicated by letter that if they were not allowed to build the office building, they would sue the village. Bogdanovic said if they couldn't build, the village should purchase the land and sell it to someone else.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the site was "postage stamp" size and while the property met minimum zoning code standards, the trustees had final say over development in town.

"It's up to this board to determine if this site plan meets the scheme of development for the whole area," Rhodes said.

# Council pans TCI rate hike plan

8-24-93

By TOM MCPHERON  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Cable bills for some Northwest suburban customers may be going up Sept. 1, but the Northwest Municipal Cable Council announced its plan to object to a planned increase in the charge for expanded basic service.

TCI of Illinois plans to raise rates by \$1.34 to \$20.54 for the expanded cable package, said operations manager Kristine Grill. The monthly charge for basic cable service, which includes only the broadcast channels, will decrease

slightly from \$10 to \$9.88. TCI serves customers in Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg, Streamwood and Wheeling.

TCI customers who use converter boxes and remotes may see a decrease in bills. Charges for a standard converter will decrease from \$1.90 to 85 cents. An addressable converter will cost \$1.37 month, down from \$4.76 and the charge for a remote will fall from \$4.75 to 13 cents, Grill said.

The rate changes are based on the formulas established by the

FCC, Grill said.

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council resolved at a meeting this week to file seven separate letters of protest against the expanded basic rate hike with the FCC, one from each municipality represented by the council.

Federal legislation last year put a freeze on rate increases until November to give municipalities and local cable councils the opportunity to become certified by the Federal Communications Commission to regulate rates for basic cable packages. The FCC regulates the charges of the expanded packages

that include the cable channels.

"At this point, we don't have the information to assess whether those rates would have fallen within the benchmark rates or not," council Executive Director Carole Stannard said. "So at this point our objection is that the increase is taking place during a rate freeze."

TCI believes it is complying with the FCC freeze because even the higher expanded basic charge falls within the benchmark established by the FCC, said Kelvin Fee, TCI state manager.

# Wheeling set to levy sales tax, real estate transfer tax

8-24-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday indicated they were ready to institute the village's first sales tax and real estate property transfer tax.

The village board is close to placing a tax on retail sales that is equal to 0.25 percent of the purchase price for most goods or services in Wheeling, partially to keep up with rising expenses and to hold down property taxes.

Village officials noted neighboring communities such as Mount Prospect had such a tax.

"I think it's great. It will give us an opportunity to draw revenue from someone other than our residents," said Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr.

Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said under the new tax restaurant meals, liquor and general merchandise would be included, while groceries, motor vehicles and drugs are exempt. He estimated the village could generate \$600,000 to \$700,000 in sales tax revenue annually with state officials responsible for collecting

the new charge.

In return, the village would abolish both the annual \$20 vehicle sticker fees it charges residents and \$30, or higher, fees for commercial vehicles. The village collects about \$410,000 annually from sticker fees.

The village board is also considering a real estate transfer tax of \$3 per \$1,000 of a property's sale price. Fialkowski estimated the village could collect that tax on 500 or 600 property transactions annually.

Fialkowski said both taxes could help the village reduce its debt and seek lower tax levies.

"The long-term prognosis for the property tax levy is down," he said.

Wheeling officials first discussed such taxes in February when they were faced with the loss of the state income tax surcharge. And while that threat has passed, village officials discussed the sales tax again because of the Oct. 1 state deadline for having it in place.

Wheeling trustees will vote on the sales tax Sept. 7, and they could consider the real estate transfer tax sometime after that date.

# Two down and two to go in Wheeling's labor talks

8-18-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Now that Wheeling officials have hammered out agreements with two employee groups, they have two groups left awaiting settlements.

Currently, village officials are negotiating a salary increase and changes in the health benefits police receive with about 42 patrol officers. Village officials also must iron out a new labor agreement with about 20 non-certified police employees that includes records clerks, emergency operators and, for the first time, community service officers.

"So far, we're still talking. We've made progress. They're going well," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Patrol officers at the top of the pay scale now make \$42,314 as a base salary.

Recently, Wheeling officials and 39 firefighters inked a two-year pact to replace their last contract which expired April 30. And the village awarded about 40 public works employees a 3.5 percent pay increase retroactive to May 1, also arriv-

ing at that settlement four months after the April 30, contractual deadline.

Anderson declined to discuss details of the talks. However, similar to talks with the other groups, the village and union have passed an April 30 contractual deadline for reaching an agreement.

While negotiations are under way, the employee groups are covered under extended terms of the old contract. The police and non-certified police employees are represented by the Combined Counties Police Association.

Patrol Officer Edward Theriault, CCPA vice president, said the talks were progressing and the union could soon reach an agreement with the village.

Wheeling officials hope that talks with the other groups proceed as well as the ones they recently completed with the firefighters.

This past January, firefighters and the village settled on a pay raise narrowly avoiding arbitration. The latest firefighters contract was the first one inked well before arbitration was considered, said village officials.

# National Louis eyes local campus

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

8-19-93  
*Countyside*  
Arlington Heights has Roosevelt University. Lincolnshire has Keller Graduate School of Management.

Like its neighbors, Wheeling may soon house a satellite campus of the Evanston-based National-Louis University at the northwest corner of Wolf and Palatine roads.

"(Wheeling is) perfect for the northwest. We are just following the growth pattern of the northwest," explained provost emeritus Glenn Heck last week, after the Wheeling plan commission voted to recommend approval of the plan to the village board.

The proposal to convert a vacant, three-story office building to a campus still needs trustee approval. Heck said the facility would be remodeled to house 300 full-time equivalent students, 70 instructors and 100

administrative staffers. It would also feature 14 classrooms, four computer labs, between 12,000 and 15,000 square feet of library space, with 25,000 to 30,000 volumes of books.

The local campus would offer graduate degree courses in education and management programs, and undergraduate courses in arts and sciences. Student enrollment is expected to hit 1,500 in three years.

## Visibility

Heck said the 107-year-old, private university choose Wheeling as a satellite site because it's easily accessible, and it's located in an area with growing school districts.

Wheeling is "a choice location for our purposes," Heck said. "Two things we look for in a site: is it accessible and visible." The Wheeling site is ideal because it can be easily seen

from both Wolf and Palatine roads," he said.

With two vote abstentions and one trustee absent, plan commissioners voted 4-0 to pass the school plan on the the board of trustees.

Plan commissioner Frank Proietti commended university officials for selecting Wheeling. "I think we are lucky to have an institution of higher learning beyond primary and secondary education," Proietti said.

## Tax exempt

But commissioner Otis Hedlund said he was concerned that the school's tax-exempt status would rob village coffers of up to \$250,000 in property tax revenue. "I would like to see some kind of impact consideration given" to the taxing bodies, he argued.

Hedlund suggested that Wheeling residents attending the university be given some tuition discount.

Heck said state accreditation regulations prohibit selective tuition discounts to students.

The Wheeling campus could open for the spring semester in late March or early April, if approved by trustees.

National-Louis University also has other campuses in Chicago, Wheaton and Elgin, as well as in St. Louis, Atlanta, Tampa, Florida, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin and Virginia, and in Germany and Poland.

National-Louis University, which adopted the name about six years ago, was formerly known as National College of Education for training teachers. Since then, the school has added two major academic departments, management, and arts and sciences, to its curriculum at graduate levels. The college offers a doctoral degree in education.

# Lexington welcomes street repairs

8-19-93  
By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

*Countyside*  
Nearly two dozen streets in the Lexington Commons subdivision in Wheeling are in line to receive a \$1 million facelift beginning next year.

And this should come as welcome news to subdivision residents who have been hoping for it for some time, said Robert Gray, director of operations and maintenance.

"I think it's something they have been waiting for for a long time. Obviously we could have done this a long time ago had we had much funding," said Gray.

## Upgrade

An upgrade of all streets in the subdivision, except Lexington Drive, is slated to begin next summer. The 1994 road improvement project will cost \$800,000 and will include replacement and repair of curbs, gutters and sidewalks along 1.5 miles of street in the subdivision. An extension and repairs of storm sewers is also planned. For 1995, a \$200,000 improvement on Lexington Drive is scheduled.

Bids will be let in February for the first phase of the street project.

The \$1 million street project will be funded through Wheeling's share of the state motor fuel tax and other sources.

Streets slated for repairs include: Deerpath, Boxwood, Ironwood, Plumtree, Ferndale, Thorndale, Hawthorne, Silverwood, Driftwood, Wildberry, Williamsburg and Buckingham Courts. Other streets include, Elmwood, Southbury, Oakmont, Middleberry, Thornhill, Greystone and Woodbury Lanes. Scanlon Drive is also included.

# National-Louis to open 4th campus in Wheeling

8-25-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have approved plans by National-Louis University to locate its fourth Chicago-area campus in a local office building opening the door to higher education in the village.

The Wheeling village board voted 6-0 to grant the private university — which has campuses in Chicago, Evanston and Wheaton — permission to establish a campus in a 86,782-square-foot office building on nine acres at 1000 Capitol Drive, at the northwest corner of Palatine and Wolf Roads.

"This establishes us with an important presence in the Northwest suburbs," said Glenn Heck, provost emeritus for the university.

The university will purchase the three-story building and construct 18 classrooms, a library and computer lab. The university would also expand the parking lot by 98 spaces to give 352 parking spots.

The university will start offering classes at the Wheeling campus by fall 1994, and could serve 1,500 students by 1995.

Heck said most of the students that would be served by the Wheeling campus are adults with an average age of 36.

The Wheeling campus will offer students undergraduate and graduate level courses in management, graduate education courses, and undergraduate courses in health leadership and health services under its college of arts and sciences.

Recently, the university won endorsement for its plan from the plan commission.

University officials said they decided to locate in Wheeling based on previous long range expansion plans they had and to be more accessible to Northwest suburban students who had difficulties reaching the Evanston campus.

Because most of the classes would take place during the evenings, university officials also said rooms at the campus could be used as a convention center by local civic groups and other organizations.

And while the village loses up to \$300,000 in property taxes with the university in place, its presence was endorsed by area school officials.

# Police keeping lid on gang crimes

8-19-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the sharing of intelligence information, special patrols and other measures, law enforcement agencies have been able to keep crimes by street gangs down even during the summer when such activity traditionally increases, officials said.

"It's not really out of control, our intelligence is getting better and better. ... I would say there's sporadic incidents, nothing where anyone has been near to getting killed. I just say noticing gang

members is up because it's summer and there tends to be more people out, but I wouldn't say gang membership is up," said Michael D. Hartman, an investigator with the Cook County Sheriff's gang crimes and narcotics units.

One way the law enforcement agencies keep gang crimes down is by sharing information on hardcore gang members and monitoring such telltale signs as graffiti in the area. The county sheriff and Wheeling police work on gang intervention together.

According to Wheeling police, crime overall in the village has

dropped from 2,365 incidents occurring from Jan. 1 to July 31 in 1992 to 2,077 for the same period this year, a 12.1 percent decrease. Gang activity has decreased 9.5 percent during the same period going from 42 incidents last year to 38.

Major offenses such as homicide, robberies, criminal sexual assault and battery decreased 16.4 percent to 455 incidents for the period. Last year, police recorded 544 serious crimes during the same period.

Wheeling police attributed the decrease in gang crime this year

to regular police patrols and the reinstatement of special patrols by uniformed and plainclothes officers.

"If I have to equate it to a period, I would say we've had less gang activity in the last six months to a year than we've had in the last year," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

Traditional gang crimes are also down for the period with motor vehicle burglaries dropping 40.4 percent from 114, to 68 in first six months this year. Misdemeanors also fell 10.9 percent from 1,821 incidents to 1,622 incidents recently.

# Palwaukee tries to drum up business

9-3-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

To generate business for Palwaukee Municipal Airport, airport officials for the first time will have an exhibit at a national aviation trade show in Atlanta, Ga.

Airport officials will have a booth at the National Business Aircraft Association trade show Sept. 21 through Sept. 23. In 1992 that show, which is for business aircraft owners, drew more than 17,000 visitors.

"We've ordered a booth. What we're pushing is our location. If you're coming to Chicago, it's con-

venient to come to Palwaukee," said Fred Stewart Jr., the airport manager.

Airport officials have budgeted \$15,000 for the visit, which includes \$6,000 for the trade show booth. Stewart said \$9,000 allocated for administrative costs could be trimmed.

The booth, which is 10 feet wide and 8 feet tall, includes an aerial photo of the airport and pictures of what the facility will look like after improvements there are completed.

The airport is the midst of a \$83.5 million capital improvement

project to bring the facility up to Federal Aviation Administration standards. That work includes as its centerpiece the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection 570 feet from its current location and 250 feet from the airport's longest runway.

Two new bridges also are being constructed for those roads.

Helping with the airport's promotional efforts at the Atlanta show are Priester Aviation and Service Aviation, the two fixed-based fueling operators at Palwaukee. The Prospect Heights

Convention and Visitors Bureau also is providing assistance for the trade show.

During the show, airport officials will hold drawings for stays at area hotels and motels, Stewart said.

And visiting the show along with airport officials will be Anthony Altieri Jr., a Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioner and Wheeling trustee.

The village of Wheeling and city of Prospect Heights own and operate the airport under an intergovernmental agreement.

## Sales tax may rise

8-26-93

By CYRIL IBE

STAFF WRITER

Countyside

Wheeling may soon be charging shoppers more sales tax and real estate transfer fees for property sales, as officials have begun considering new revenue sources for the village.

Trustees will consider a local ordinance to add 0.25 percent on top of the percentage of the state sales tax Wheeling already collects on certain items. The proposed home-rule sales tax would be similar to the one that went into effect in Buffalo Grove Sept. 1, 1991.

"I think it's a great opportunity to draw from other revenues," said trustee Anthony Altieri Jr.

Robert Fialkowski, finance director, agreed that the proposed home-rule sales tax would help in reducing property tax burden on residents since there's already "substantial foreign contribution to our general sales tax."

Wheeling is seeking the local sales tax to replace more than \$410,000 currently generated annually from vehicle registration. The new tax is expected to go into effect by Jan. 1, 1994 and would result in increased general state sales tax from 7.75 percent to 8 percent on the items targeted.

Fialkowski said revenue from vehicle registration is not dependable and that the village spends between \$40,000 and \$80,000 a year in administrative costs to collect the \$410,000.

"If you look at 4,000 (vehicles), you can understand that it's an enforcement nightmare," Fialkowski said.

Like other municipalities in the state, Wheeling currently receives 1 percent of all sales tax on certain items sold in the village. Wheeling's real estate tax receipts amount to between \$600,000 and \$700,000 annually, the finance director told trustees Monday in recommending the additional revenue source.

## Wheeling considers instituting sales tax

8/23/93

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 likes fire training idea, but wants costs spread

9-14-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday favored joining Buffalo Grove and the Vernon Fire Protection District in developing a fire training facility, but called for its share of the expenses to be more evenly distributed during the three-year construction cycle.

Wheeling trustees said they like the facility proposed for a 5-acre parcel at Deerfield Parkway in Buffalo Grove. However, they want to pay less in the second year of funding than the \$130,000 fire officials projected. Wheeling officials are being asked to contribute \$30,000 this year, \$130,000 next year and \$25,000 in the 1995-96 fiscal year.

"I think it's a great idea, it's a great facility," said Trustee Robert G. Todd. "If we can spread it out another year, that will make it more palatable." Estimated to cost about \$545,000, the facility could include a variety of training equipment such as a mock two-story building for simulated fires, a 4-ft foot tower, a rail car for practicing train emergen-

cies, a tunnel for underground rescues, and a jet plane rescue/burn pit for aviation emergency practice. The facility, part of which could be open next spring, is expected to be completed by 1996.

The Buffalo Grove village board has already approved the project and Vernon Fire Protection District officials tonight are expected to discuss its funding.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said that it would be more efficient for firefighters to train at the facility instead of traveling to other towns for the specialized practice. Schaumburg and Arlington Heights fire officials currently have their own training facilities.

"This gives us that hands-on training where other options are limited by money or schedule," he said.

Wheeling village manager Craig G. Anderson said some of the funding for the facility could be included in the village's property tax levy to be set in December.

MacIsaac will return to the trustees next month to discuss ways the facility's expenses can be reduced.

## Wheeling committee looks at human rights ordinance

9-15-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's human rights ad hoc committee has started eyeing recommendations for a wide ranging rights ordinance covering housing, employment and general discrimination.

The ad hoc committee, appointed by the village board, will begin to develop recommendations for Wheeling's own ordinance protecting residents from discrimination.

"Basically, the committee is going to be reviewing the current village ordinances and going to make recommendations to the village board for revisions for a new human rights ordinance," said Joni L. Beaudry, assistant village manager.

The Cook County Board has approved a broad-based human relations ordinance protecting citizens from ethnic discrimination. The Wheeling committee will review the village's far housing and human relations ordinances, which are both advisory measures that don't specify penalties but call for establishment of review panels to hear discrimination complaints.

The ad hoc committee has started reviewing ordinances from other communities and is not yet certain if it will recommend instituting penalties, said Beaudry.

Residents Wheeling trustees appointed to the committee include Bill Donoh, Don Hammer, Bertha Sanchez, Kamal Zaretsky and Paul Doetsch.

Hammer is active at Wheeling's Senior Pavilion Center, and Sanchez helped the village complete its community needs assessment survey that provided village officials with data on the town's ethnic make-up.

And Zaretsky heads the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force, a residents group that promotes racial harmony.

Beaudry said the committee could have recommendations for a human rights ordinance for review by the village winter.

Previously, village officials have said that the proposed ordinance may cover only limited areas because there are some activities such as lending practices that other government agencies regulate more effectively.

The ad hoc committee will meet again in October.

# Wheeling wants U.S. grant for station

9-13-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are seeking a \$1.2 million federal grant to fund construction of the rail station, commuter parking lot and platform area for the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

Wheeling officials recently agreed to seek the maximum amount possible from the federal Surface Transportation Program grant that is administered by the Northwest Council of Mayors, which has about \$3.3 million for Northwest suburban communities. "The money would be used for

the Wisconsin Central station, parking and platforms," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "We would be happy to receive anything to cover expenses."

Dave C. Seglin, council liaison for the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of 35 North and Northwest suburban municipalities, said the federal government would supply 60 percent of the money and municipalities will put up 40 percent.

The mayors council would make the decisions on what municipali-

ties' projects receive funding. Communities located along the 53-mile railroad's route include Antioch, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Grayslake, Mundelein, Prospect Heights, Round Lake Beach, Wheeling and Vernon Hills.

"The council wants to see all the stations for the Wisconsin Central and see how much we have and to come up with a mechanism for dividing it fairly," said Seglin.

The mayors council is waiting to hear from Des Plaines and Prospect Heights officials on whether they want to build commuter sta-

tions before it decides about awarding funds. The council could announce grant awards in late October or November.

Communities receiving the grant could receive those funds in the 1995 or 1996 fiscal years. Lake County towns, including Buffalo Grove, must apply to the Lake County Council of Mayors for grant money.

When it is completed, possibly in 1996, the commuter line will stretch from the Wisconsin border to the eastern edge of O'Hare International Airport, officials said.

## Three villages look at funding fire training

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Fire department officials from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and the Vernon Area Fire Protection District hope to jointly develop a training facility where they can regularly practice firefighting techniques.

Wheeling trustees Monday are expected to discuss funding the facility that the Buffalo Grove village board has approved. Vernon Area Fire Protection District officials are expected to approve funding the project Tuesday.

"This tower will give us the opportunity to do the live training with the equipment we need to do it with," said Buffalo Grove Fire Chief Thomas C. Allenspach.

The facility is proposed for 5 acres located at the end of Deerfield Parkway just north of the Lake County water treatment facility. It would include a 40-foot tall tower and two-story building for simulated fires. The facility also will feature a liquid fire area; a simulator for viewing the igniting of household materials; a rescue training tunnel; an emergency vehicle driving range; and a rail car for railroad emergency exercises.

"I think it would be a tremendous asset to all three departments to have a facility where we could do training in a safe environment. It's going to improve firefighter safety, and it's going to improve upon an already good relationship existing between the three departments," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac. It would cost \$540,000 to build such a facility, part of which could be open next spring. It would be completed in three years, said Allenspach.

Each fire department would have to pay \$180,000 over three years plus an annual maintenance fee up to \$7,000. Wheeling trustees mixed funding the facility during budget talks last February.

If Wheeling trustees later fund the facility, the three fire departments would draft an agreement and establish a governing board for its use, Allenspach said.

## MATTY'S RAISES FUNDS

Wheeling Mayor Sheila Schultz and Bud Smith, mayor of Hamburg, Illinois chat in front of Matty's Place. The eatery raised money for the flood torn city.

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Tim Tuffy/Pioneer Press

Kathy Mark and Matt Wilstein mingle with Hamburg, Illinois residents, Mike Margherio, Deputy Sheriff of Calhoun County, Donna Smith, wife of mayor Bud Smith, and Barb Margherio, ESCDA co-ordinator of Calhoun County.

## Fundraiser warms hearts

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Bud Smith had tears in his eyes Sunday when he realized what Matty's Place in Wheeling had done for his small town of Hamburg, Illinois.

The problems brought on by the recent flooding of the Mississippi River on the small downstate community of 150 residents — mostly senior citizens — touched Matty's Place restaurant owners, Kathy Mark and Matt Wilstein and their employees, so much that they embarked on a month long effort to raise \$5,000 to help them. That effort ended Sunday, when Hamburg Mayor James E. (Bud) Smith traveled at least 300 miles to accept a check from Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz on behalf of Matty's Place.

"We all cried and everything. We were in so much joy — to receive something like that," said the 67-year-old Smith, who brought his wife, Donna, and Barbara Margherio, emergency services coordinator for Calhoun County, and husband, Mike, deputy sheriff for the county.

"We didn't know them. They didn't know us," Smith continued. "I couldn't thank them enough, and I still can't thank them enough."

But words of gratitude weren't that important to Mark on Sunday.

"The look on (the mayor's) face was worth everything. He was in tears," she said.

"They were really touched that people who didn't really know them reached out to help them," said Schultz.

"I was very proud of Matty's and people that helped," she added.

The fundraiser was prompted by a newspaper article Mark and her partner had seen in July about how Hamburg was buried by flood waters up to 12 to 14 feet high. Hamburg is a rural, farming town that boasts of only three streets and one restaurant, no municipal fire or police departments.

Though residents and volunteers sandbagged for "47 days and nights," Mayor Smith said, Hamburg, sandwiched between the Mississippi River to the west and the Illinois River to the east, suffered much flood damage. Many residents were displaced and Hamburg's only restaurant, Riverfront Cafe, closed. One of the three streets in the town is still flooded today with about 4 feet of water, the mayor said.

Hamburg's fate received the sympathy of Matty's Place owners and employees even though the two towns were far apart.

"I just thought, if there was anything we could do to help anybody... We know we couldn't raise

\$5,000 and \$5,000 isn't a lot of money today," Mark said Monday.

But raise the money, they did.

One Matty's Place's manager and 15 other employees working Sunday donated their hourly wages, with some also giving up their tips for the day.

Over 160 people paid a \$15 to participate in a three-hour, 93-mile road rally that made stops at El-Jo's Harbor in Wonder Lake, Gratton's Wharf in Lake Villa, Second Chance Saloon in Richmond, Odell's Lounge in Palatine and ended at Matty's Place. At the Wheeling restaurant, participants had a poker game contest and were treated to a buffet at no extra charge. The buffet featured a spread of snacks, fruits and vegetables, music by three area blues bands, and 50-cent draft beer donated by a Chicago beer distributor.

Hamburg's 17-year mayor said part of the \$5,000 will be used to help the town's restaurant reopen soon, adding that his town is indebted to Matty's Place employees and to Wheeling residents.

"There are no words that I can say to thank them enough. Maybe somebody else can say it," Smith said.

Donations may still be made to help Hamburg flood victims by calling Matty's Place at (708) 577-4520.

# Wheeling board trades stickers for sales tax

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees imposed the village's first retail sales tax Tuesday, but the vote may have been just as noteworthy for what it eliminated: the village's vehicle sticker.

Wheeling officials decided to join other communities in northern Illinois that do not require residents to purchase vehicle stickers, saying the fee isn't a fast-growing or efficient revenue source like the new sales tax. The stickers — \$20 for residential, \$30 for commercial — will be eliminated as motorists' current tags expire by next June.

The move was a tradeoff in a deal that brought the village its first tax on retail sales, equal to 0.25 percent of the purchase price of goods and services. The tax is expected to generate \$600,000 to \$700,000 in tax revenue annually, more than offsetting the \$410,000 in vehicle sticker revenue the village will lose.

"Why did we do it? Because as a source of revenue it's a more efficient way," said village President

Sheila Schultz. "It's fairer because everyone will pay it. With vehicle stickers it was more costly to administer, and not everyone bought them. So it was not equitable. Enforcement was difficult. And it (sales tax) brings us in line with other municipalities. It widens the tax base outside the community."

Wheeling used its home rule powers to create the retail sales tax, which will take effect Jan 1.

Under the sales tax, general merchandise purchases, including liquor and meals from restaurants along the village's famed "Restaurant Row" on Milwaukee Avenue, would be included, while groceries, motor vehicles and prescription drugs are exempt. The state would be responsible for collecting the new charge.

Wheeling officials also said the new sales tax will reduce the village's reliance on property tax increases.

So far, the local business community has not raised objections to the tax, which was discussed in two public hearings by the village

See WHEELING on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

board.

Wheeling joins St. Charles in Kane County and the Lake County towns of Lake Barrington and Deer Park as the only municipalities in the area without vehicle stickers.

The village also became the first to do so in the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of 35 Northwest suburban municipalities and townships, said Lora Kloth, director of the NWMC's Government Information Center.

"It does not look like anyone else is going without the vehicle sticker, at least in the conference," Kloth said, citing a 1992 phone survey of NWMC members.

But Larry Maholland, director of finance and administration for St. Charles, said his town of 23,847 has long been without vehicle stickers because of the expense of administration and having police enforce the requirement.

"I don't think we've had one since 1928. It would be the last thing I would recommend to collect money," he said. "It would be a culture shock to the

community."

Before approval of the new tax, Wheeling was one of the few communities in the area without its own retail sales tax. But consumers still will have to pay a 7.75 percent Cook County sales tax on retail purchases.

In February, Wheeling officials called for instituting the new tax to replace \$800,000 in state income tax surcharge funds they expected to lose. The General Assembly subsequently decided to retain municipalities' share of the state income tax surcharge.

Wheeling officials decided to keep the sales tax to offset rising operating expenses and fund infrastructure improvements, with 60 percent of the proceeds transferred to the road and bridge fund, and 40 percent to remain in the general fund.

"Given the fact virtually all of the surrounding municipalities have a retail sales tax, when Wheeling residents shop there, they are contributing to their coffers," Wheeling Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. said.

Wheeling trustees had to have approved a new sales tax by Oct. 1.

# Wheeling wants to establish housing mediation panel

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While a federal court is expected to soon rule on a final settlement in a 1991 Wheeling rental discrimination case, Wheeling officials are currently trying to establish a housing mediation panel to handle disputes.

The U.S. District Court Sept. 15 will decide if attorney Jeffrey

Taren is entitled to \$100,000 for legal fees from Ben and Josephine Fragate of Des Plaines and George and Georgia Concialdi of Chicago, owners of a six-unit apartment building at 304 9th St., Wheeling. A jury recently found the building owners illegally prevented Steven and Brenda Whyte, a black Chicago couple Taren represents, from renting and awarded them \$75,000 in damages.

"It's possible if there had been a human relations commission in Wheeling at the time this could have been resolved quickly," said Taren.

The Whytes wanted the apartment to be closer to their jobs. When the couple sought the apartment, Concialdi failed to show up for their appointment and didn't schedule another one. The Whytes were later told by building

owners they had too many children.

When they wanted to rent through the Martin & Marbury real estate agency that listed the apartment, the agency rejected their application. Officials for the Northbrook agency later agreed to a \$60,000 out-of-court settlement and wouldn't comment.

The Fragales and Concialdis have unlisted phone numbers and

couldn't be reached for comment. When the Winnetka-based Interfaith Housing Center, a non-profit housing advocacy group, heard about the case, it used black and white couples with similar financial backgrounds to pose as prospective renters of the apartment. The group found the white testers were encouraged to rent the apartment, while no one met with black couples expressing interest in

renting it. "Because there's a minority presence in a community doesn't mean the housing is well integrated," said Amy Schur, Interfaith's acting director. Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said a housing panel is needed and the ad-hoc human relations committee is studying it as a part of a proposed new wide-ranging rights ordinance.

# Wheeling passes home-rule sales tax

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

9-16-93  
Countyside  
Beginning in January, Wheeling residents will no longer have to worry about plopping down \$20 for a vehicle sticker, but they will notice a new tax tugging at their wallets when they check out at local retail stores.

Trustees last week unanimously passed an ordinance that will add a home rule sales tax of 0.25 cents a dollar to the 7.75 cents residents pay per dollar to state sales tax. The new sales tax will not cover prescription drugs, groceries and products that require title registration with the state.

At the same time, the trustees agreed to eliminate the village vehicle registration program, that brought in \$410,000 a year, but cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000 to oversee, according to staff. That was good news to an estimated 25,000 vehi-

cle owners in the village, who will not have to buy stickers after March 31 or June 30 of next year.

"It was a lot of work for the amount of money we collected. Basically, it was a lot of paper handling, a lot of paperwork," said Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski. "In addition to that, not everybody was paying their fair share. They weren't buying it."

"If you added up all the hours it takes (to collect the money), it's the equivalent of one full-time (employee) to do the job," Village Manager Craig Anderson added. "It's a costly administrative process. It's difficult to enforce."

The home rule sales tax will generate \$600,000 annually for Wheeling, officials estimate, on top of the \$3.4 million the village gets back from the state as its portion of the state sales tax.

Sixty percent of the incoming revenue will be budgeted for road improvements, while the other

40 percent will go into the general fund.

The village is also considering a real estate transfer fee of \$3 per \$1,000 of sale price, a move Fialkowski said would generate \$225,000 in revenue annually and help reduce the burden on property taxes. The board is expected to review the transfer tax ordinance by December.

Fialkowski said the sticker program always had a problem with uneven enforcement, because police would patrol and write violations for vehicles parked at apartment buildings and public lots, but did not make checks on private property.

Annual registration fees have been \$10 for trailers, \$20 for passenger vehicles, \$25 for recreational vehicles, \$30 for pickup trucks, and up to \$150 for trucks, depending on the weight. A \$25 late fee applied to all categories. The revenue was deposited into the road and bridge fund.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling OKs homes on site once zoned industrial

9-21-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday gave final approval to a developer's plan to build 11 single-family houses in a section of the village formerly zoned for industrial development.

Wheeling trustees approved the plan of the Cawn Group PC, Lake Bluff, to develop the Wolf Pointe subdivision on 3 acres on the northwest corner of Mayer Avenue and Wolf Road in the northeastern part of the village.

Wheeling officials had delayed giving the project final approval pending a decision on such details as the maintenance of a storm water basin and the responsibilities of the subdivision's homeowners association.

Public improvements for the property, such as the placement of sidewalks, landscaping, parkway trees, the sanitary and storm water sewers and other infrastructure, were reviewed and approved by village officials.

Berkshire Development Corp. of Tinley Park, which owns the parcel, originally had proposed constructing a nine-

building, 18-unit multifamily development for the site. The parcel has been a tiny island of industrial property surrounded by single-family houses.

Neighbors and the village's plan commission instead called for the developer to build single-family houses on the parcel.

After five months of hearings and subsequent zoning denials, Berkshire conceded and developed the proposal desired by the commission and neighbors in the Picardy subdivision immediately north of the site.

Steven Telow, whose house is adjacent to the property, had objected to the rezoning. He said the site would generate more tax dollars as industrial land.

The Cawn Group is developing the site on behalf of Berkshire. The developer is planning to build 11 houses of 2,200 square feet each.

Michael J. Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development, said the developer would probably start construction on the houses immediately. The subdivision will have sidewalks in its interior and surrounding it, he said.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling fines, closes store for selling liquor to a minor

9-28-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials fined the owners of a local liquor store \$500 and closed the business for five days as a reminder that the village does not tolerate the sale of alcohol to minors.

Young S. Choi, an employee of Bell Liquors, 767 West Dundee Road, admitted to the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission Monday that he sold a six-pack of beer and failed to request proof of age from an 18-year-old buyer on June 22. Choi waived his right to a hearing before the panel, and the commission fined S.I.C Inc., parent company of the family-owned store, \$500 and ordered it closed from Tuesday, Oct. 12 to Friday, Oct. 16.

In imposing the penalty, Wheeling trustees — who make up the commission — noted that the store had been cited for similar violations of selling liquor to minors in 1986 and 1987. And while Peter K. Lee, Choi's attorney, said the last violation occurred several years ago, the trustees called for a tougher penalty as a reminder that such

illegal sales aren't tolerated in Wheeling.

"I also think we need to impose a little stiffer penalty than in the past. This is the fourth violation," Trustee Robert G. Todd said.

In 1988, the store was hit with a \$300 fine and was closed for three days by the village for selling to a minor the prior year. Wheeling prosecutor Steven Handler made an "open-ended" recommendation to the panel on sentencing, saying the business be closed for anywhere from three days to 30 days.

Under Wheeling's liquor code, 30 days is the maximum a liquor-selling establishment can be closed before the village can permanently suspend its liquor license, Handler said.

Handler made his sentencing recommendation as a part of a plea agreement with Choi.

Todd and Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman called for closing the business a week.

This was the second time Choi was cited for selling liquor to a minor, the first incident occurred in 1987.

### Wheeling, police officers reach 2-year salary pact

9-30-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About five months after the original April 30 contractual deadline passed, Wheeling officials and police have settled on a two-year salary increase covering 42 patrol officers.

Wheeling trustees this week agreed to a new wage hike settlement with the patrol officers that gives them a 3.5 percent salary increase retroactive to May 1 this year and another 3.5 percent raise May 1, 1994.

"These things take time. I don't think there was any delay on their part or any delay on our part, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

He attributed the extended negotiation time to scheduling difficulties both sides experienced.

Under the new wage agreement, the starting patrol officer's base salary increases from \$31,353 to \$32,491 this year.

In the second year of the agreement, the starting salary for patrol officers again will increase, to \$33,628.

At the top of the pay scale, police will see salaries increase from \$42,314 to \$43,795 in the first year of the wage agreement.

The following year patrol officers at the top of the pay scale will see their base salaries rise to \$45,328.

The officers' overall three-year labor contract with the village of Wheeling is due to expire in April 1995.

Patrol officer Bill Stutzman, a representative for Combined Counties Police Association, the police union, said overall the rank and file are satisfied.

Prior to a vote by Wheeling trustees, the officers ratified the wage hike pact.

"I think we're happy with the way it went. It took longer than we would have liked, but it worked out satisfactory for both sides," Stutzman said.

Also under the new wage agreement, to save on insurance costs, the village can put a preferred provider organization for health care in place.

The PPO would specify where officers can receive medical services.

### Wheeling board rejects multifamily development

10-5-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday nixed a developer's proposal to rezone a three-acre parcel targeted for town houses that neighbors charged would adversely affect the area.

In a 5-1 vote, with Trustee Judy Abruscato dissenting, the Wheeling village board rejected a proposal by Platinum Homes Inc. to rezone a site at 433 N. Milwaukee Ave. from a zoning designation allowing only single-family homes to one permitting multifamily development.

Alfred D. Stavros, developer and owner of the site, hoped to have the parcel rezoned so he could build a 22-unit town house development on the property.

"I have a problem giving a direct zoning change for multifamily without some kind of definite plan; everything was conceptual," said Trustee Robert G. Todd.

Stavros said if his plan was approved he would place a restriction in any land sale contract limiting development to town houses. Stavros also noted that Wheeling's comprehensive

plan called for multifamily housing at that location.

"We feel we have met that criteria (for multifamily housing)," he said.

Stavros noted the town houses would be priced at \$160,000 to \$200,000 each, and that the parcel's configuration made it difficult to develop single-family houses on the site.

Stavros said that the only financially viable single-family houses that could be developed there were the more expensive custom-home units costing at least \$300,000 each. Wheeling's village staff and the village's plan commission both backed Stavros plan.

Neighbors objecting to the proposal said the development would affect their property values and hurt the semi-rural character of the area. Stephen M. Flanagan, a neighbor of the site and resident spokesman, argued larger, more expensive single-family houses could be built on the site.

"Because it would be difficult for developing single-family, doesn't mean it can't be developed for single-family homes," he said.

# Board to decide fate of building projects

## Town houses, nursing home on agenda

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Monday Wheeling village board meeting promises to provide, if nothing else, interesting discussions with two groups of residents expected to attend to protest building projects targeted for their neighborhoods.

Residents from the Edgewood

Drive area and the Eastchester subdivision in Wheeling are expected to attend the 8 p.m. meeting in the council chambers at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Edgewood Drive group is protesting a proposal by Platinum Homes Inc. to rezone a 3-acre parcel at 433 N. Milwaukee Ave. from a single-family home designation to one allowing multi-family housing. The developer wants to build a 22-unit town-house development there next to the neighboring single family houses, which residents say will lower their property values and adversely affect the area.

"If you put 22 town houses there,

one, it will change the character of the neighborhood, which is rural. And when people come down Milwaukee Avenue, they're going to see it as Wheeling's signature that they put 22 town homes on the edge of a forest preserve," said neighbor Steve Flanagan.

The second group raising objections to a project will be from the Easterchester subdivision that is protesting the proposed placement of a 30-foot tall, 60,000 square-foot nursing home Lexington Health Care Inc. wants to build on 3.2 acres at 755 Hintz Road.

Rich Sweet, secretary of the Eastchester homeowners associa-

tion, said his group objects to the project saying that it will aggravate flooding in the subdivision, and that the \$6.5 million building, where 130 to 140 would be employed, does not fit the character of a residential area.

Village officials originally wanted to see the project located somewhere along Milwaukee Avenue. The nursing home, and the Platinum Homes rezoning proposals both won the endorsement of the Wheeling plan commission after multiple hearings.

And Monday, Wheeling trustees could cast a final vote giving final approval to both projects.

# Some Move Fast On New Rail Line Plan

By TED SAYLOR

Even as federal legislators are pushing through funding that would make a suburban commuter rail line running from Antioch to downtown Chicago a reality, towns along the route, like Prospect Hts., are planning the stations that will be part of the project.

Prospect Hts. has just received initial designs for the rail station along the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks. The city's station will be located on the southeast corner of Wolf and Camp McDonald roads in an "under-used" commercial development, said City Administrator Ken Bonder.

Instead of building the rail station, Bonder said the city is

working with the commercial development's owner to secure use of a building for a depot and waiting area. This will decrease the city's financial commitment to the project.

In addition to providing a station, Bonder said Prospect Hts. plans to work with Commonwealth Edison to secure use of its right-of-way for a commuter parking area.

Although Des Plaines has committed "philosophically" to the project, City Manager Wally Douthwaite said there are no plans being made to purchase land or build a station. There is no money budgeted right now for such a project and any future funding will have to be prioritized along with the other capital projects in the city.

Most of the cities and villages along the proposed line committed to the project since the idea began to gain momentum back in 1986, although it has been floating around Metra since the late '70s.

The line would run south along the Wisconsin Central tracks from Antioch through Round Lake Beach, Grayslake, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling Prospect Hts., Des Plaines, O'Hare International Airport and Franklin Park. When it is completed, the service will be the first new commuter line in the Chicago area since 1928.

Last week the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$10 million in start-up funds for the commuter line, which is about half of Metra's request.

U.S. Rep. John Porter (R-10th), who represents in Congress a portion of the area covered by the proposed rail system, was able to save funding for the project, despite attempts by other legislators to trim some appropriations late in the session.

Porter told the Journal Monday that the Senate still has to approve the funding and he believes it could be raised to \$20.6 million by those legislators. If the larger figure is not approved, Porter said he will be back again next year asking for the rest.

"I will stay with it until the job is done," he said.

The new rail line will benefit the entire area by reducing highway congestion and allowing commuters to catch a train closer to their homes and eliminate long drives to other rail stations, Porter said.



# Wheeling police win salary increases over two years

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Forty-one patrol officers in the Wheeling Police Department will receive a 3.5-percent salary increase annually for the next two years, following a new two-year contract approved last week by the village board.

The new pact, ratified earlier on Sept. 22 by the Combined Counties Police Association of the department, offers the patrol officers a 3.5 percent pay hike retroactive to May 1, 1993 and the same percentage increase by May 1, 1994. The contract increases base salaries for officers from \$31,392 under the old contract that expired April 30, to \$32,491 for the first year of the new agreement.

The salary level tops at \$43,795 after five years for starting officers hired during the first year of the new pact. Second-year salary base will be \$33,628, capping off at \$45,328 after five years for officers hired that year.

Also included in the new contract are practically no changes in the health insurance benefits for the officers, except a voluntary preferred physician organization provision, designed to save costs of health-care over a long run. Benefits remain at a \$100 deductible for single coverage and \$200 for family coverage, with no contributions required of officers toward their premiums.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said officials would have preferred to have the officers contribute toward the health insurance premiums.

"It would have been nice to have other health insurance adjustments, but it's difficult to do when you don't have a whole lot to work with," Anderson said.

Police spokesman Bill Stutzman said his union would have demanded higher salary hikes if officers were required to contribute to their health insurance coverage.

Nevertheless, the contract negotiations that lasted five months with a federal mediator brought in toward the end went amicably, according to Anderson and Stutzman.

"I think both sides were satisfied with the way it ended," said Stutzman, a 15-year veteran of the department. "I think it took longer than we had wanted it to; but in the end we were happy with it."

The new contract will end a four-year pact that expires April 30, 1995.

Only salaries and medical benefits were covered in the two-year contract. Other employment issues such as working conditions, holiday and vacation benefits, schedules, uniform allowance were covered in the first two years of the four-year contract.

Anderson said village officials would prefer to have a two- or three-year contract that would include salaries and all benefits for police when the new agreement expires.

# Store penalized for beer sales to minor

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

A Wheeling liquor store will close for business for five days from Tuesday and pay a \$500 fine for selling alcohol to a minor, the store's fourth violation of local liquor ordinance since 1986.

S.I.C. Bell Liquor, Inc., 767 W. Dundee Road, will be closed from Oct. 12 to Oct. 16, following the Wheeling Liquor Commission's vote last week to penalize the establishment for selling a six-pack of beer to an underage customer.

According to Wheeling Prosecutor Steven Handler, the violation was committed on June 22 by an employee who was hired on the same date. Handler had recommended to the mayor and village trustees, who comprise the liquor commission, to fine the liquor store the maximum \$500 and shut it down for up to 30 days.

"I wanted the penalty greater than the last penalty to deter them from doing it again," Handler said.

However, he added, "I

thought their decision in light of how long it's been since the last time that this occurred... was fair."

Handler said the store owners did not protest the measures recommended against them.

An attorney for the store owners did not return phone calls Monday.

Several violations have been reported against S.I.C. Bell Liquor since 1986. That year, the store was fined \$300 for selling beer to a minor. A second violation of Wheeling's liquor ordinance by the store in 1987 resulted in a \$500 fine and its closure for three days. The store suffered a similar penalty in 1988 for a third violation.

Handler said liquor violations are not common in Wheeling. "It tends to run in spurts," he said. "Sometimes you can go a year or two without any complaints."

The last violation was in March. In July, the village board slapped Matty's Place tavern with a \$275 fine for serving beer to customers past the establishment's 2 a.m. closing time.

# Developer files suit against Wheeling

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A developer whose application to rezone his land for multifamily housing was rejected by the Wheeling village board filed suit in Cook County Circuit Court Wednesday seeking to overturn the decision.

Wheeling attorney and developer Alfred D. Stavros filed a lawsuit in the Chancery Division of Cook County Circuit Court seeking an order to force the village board to grant a multifamily housing zoning for his 3-acre parcel at 433 N. Milwaukee Ave. The site's current zoning permits only single-family housing development.

Stavros wanted to build on the parcel would be intrusive and would lower the property values of their single-family houses.

Stavros had sought the zoning change to permit the development of town houses there that would have selling prices of \$160,000 to \$200,000. The rectangular shape of the property made it difficult to develop luxury single-family houses there that would have selling prices of \$300,000, Stavros argued.

Both the village's planning staff and the Wheeling plan commission had endorsed Stavros' proposal. In

Wheeling trustees had indicated they rejected the proposal because of uncertain development plans for the site. The neighbors had mounted a petition drive protesting the rezoning and arguing that town houses would change the semi-rural character of the area that's near the Cook County Forest Preserve.

Stavros notes the village's comprehensive plan called for multifamily development where his land is located.

## LOCAL REPORT

### Wheeling leader proclaims Stamp Collecting Month

Wheeling Village President Shella H. Schultz proclaimed October to be National Stamp Collecting Month in the village and encouraged renewed interest in the hobby throughout the community.

benefits plan for municipal employees for an amount not to exceed \$4,750.

The firm handles similar responsibilities for other area municipalities.

### Trustees approve airport contracts

The Wheeling village board approved four Palwaukee Municipal Airport items including allowing the subleasing of Hangar 11 to Klein Tools Inc.; the awarding of a \$6,896 contract to Spring Scraper Co. for a ramp snow removal blade; and the awarding of an \$11,476 contract to Priester Aviation for the purchase of eight communications radios.

Wheeling owns the airport under an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Prospect Heights, which also approves those items for the facility.

### Knights of Columbus at OK for tag days

Wheeling trustees agreed to allow the Knights of Columbus to hold tag day fund-raisers Oct. 22 and Oct. 23 in the village. The not-for-profit group has previously held tag days in the village.

The village board also granted similar permission to the Wheeling Lions Club to hold tag days on Oct. 8 and Oct. 9. The MDA/MALC Branch Letter Carriers will have their tag day on Oct. 8.

### Village renews water meter contract

The Wheeling village board agreed to renew the village's contract with Badger Meter Inc. of Milwaukee, Wis., to maintain a supply of the company's cold water meters and parts on hand.

The extension lasts for another year.

### Firm to administer benefits plan

Wheeling trustees agreed to hire Insurance Management and Planning of Elmhurst to administer the village's flexible

# Palwaukee officials attend trade show

10-12-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials are saying the first aviation trade show they attended was successful for them and could generate new business for the facility owned by Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

Airport officials are lauding the National Business Aircraft Association trade show they attended recently in Atlanta, Ga., saying the event helped them generate business leads and hear from corporate aviators.

"Airport staff found attending

the conference was very informative, in that we were able to hear directly from corporate users of the airport," said Michael F. Zonsius, the airport's assistant manager for finance and administration. "Also, we were able to make some business contacts and promote Palwaukee and its most recent development."

At the event, airport officials had a 10-foot wide by 8-foot tall display booth featuring an aerial photo of the facility on Milwaukee Avenue just north of Palatine Road and what it will look like when it is fully developed.

The airport currently is in the

midst of a \$83.5 million capital improvement project to bring the facility up to Federal Aviation Administration standards. The centerpiece of that work is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection 570 feet west and 250 north from its present location to expand the safety zone between it and the airport's longest runway.

The booth was staffed at the trade show by Palwaukee officials including Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr., Zonsius and airport commissioners Anthony Altieri Jr. and Jim Nickel. Priester Aviation

and Service Aviation, the airport's two fixed-base fueling operators, also had representatives at the booth.

Airport officials held daily raffles for free stays at local hotels, and they were able to collect about business cards. They also distributed literature that listed restaurants and lodging located near the airport.

Airport officials budgeted \$15,000 for attending the event, but expected to spend much less. Final expense information wasn't immediately available, Zonsius said.

## Entrepreneur backs off plan for Wheeling teen nightclub

10-13-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Rolling Meadows-based entrepreneur has decided against building a teen dance club in Wheeling that would have been one of the few such venues in the area targeting adolescents.

Jeff Fisher said that because a deal could not be worked out with the owners of the Wolf Point Shopping Center at Camp McDonald and Wolf roads in the village, he will look elsewhere to establish the teen nightclub.

"It just wasn't a do-able deal," said Fisher. "Hopefully, we'll have a location as soon as possible."

Fisher had proposed to build a club called The Hype in a 10,000-square-foot space at the shopping center, which is located near an industrial area. The club would include a large dance floor and non-alcoholic juice bar for patrons 15 to 20 years old admitted for an unspecified cover charge.

Fisher had said that a dress code barring youths wearing street gang-style clothing would be enforced, and off-duty Wheeling police could have pro-

vided security for the club by patrolling the parking lot.

Inside the club, Fisher planned to use his own security personnel who would have metal detectors, and patrons who left the club wouldn't be readmitted. Fisher previously operated the Lazars teen nightclub in Rockford, which he sold.

Wheeling plan commissioners informally backed the proposal, but Fisher did not bring the project before that panel for a formal review.

Wheeling officials and police raised concerns about the proposed nightclub, and Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger noted other local businesses in the village had security provided by his department but didn't detail his discussions with Fisher.

Fisher said he is looking for other communities in which to locate the nightclub, but he declined to specify the towns being considered.

Besides Toto's in Schaumburg, and the Discovery Teen Dance Center in Kane County, there are few clubs in the area serving teens.

## Wheeling trustees approve 3-story nursing home plan

10-15-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved a company's plan to develop a three-story nursing home in the Eastchester subdivision over objections from some residents who charged the project would adversely affect their neighborhood.

In a 4-3 vote, with Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz casting the tie-breaker, the Wheeling village board approved a plan by Lexington Health Care Inc. of Lombard to build a \$6.5 million, three-story, 60,000 square-foot, 215-bed nursing home on 3.2 acres just east of Elmhurst Road at 755 Hintz Road in the Eastchester subdivision.

Joseph H. Abel, a planning consultant for Lexington said the area where the facility was proposed, which is next to a gas station and car wash, originally had a commercial zoning designation. He added the facility would serve as a buffer between the commercial area and

nearby residences.

"The (village) plan, until recently, showed this area was commercial," he said. "(The facility) is the highest and best use of this property."

Neighbors complained the nursing home would aggravate area flooding, bring more noise to the area and increase traffic woes noting its 150 employees and 100-space parking lot. They also argued such a tall nursing home did not fit in with the residential character of their neighborhood.

"It will belike living in the shadow of a giant," said Garth Road resident Larry Gulick.

Lexington officials countered that the building would buffer noise from the commercial area, that its drainage upgrades would control area flooding and that landscaping and distance screened the home from the neighborhood.

They added traffic from the site would occur at off-peak hours when the roads aren't crowded.

## Wheeling OKs nursing home

10-21-93

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Despite objections from nearby residents, Wheeling trustees narrowly approved construction of a 215-bed, three-story nursing home in a residential neighborhood.

Trustees voted 4-3 to permit Lexington

**"I believe that it is a good development and it will be good for the village and it will not be detrimental to the residents."**

**Board President Sheila Schultz**

Square, Inc. in Lombard to build on a vacant, 2.5-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Hintz and Elmhurst roads.

Board President Sheila Schultz, who broke the board's tie to approve the plan, said she was satisfied that the developer had addressed concerns about drainage, parking, lighting and landscaping.

### Presidential vote

"I believe that it is a good development and it will be good for the village and it will not be detrimental to the residents," Schultz said.

Bernadette Zirko, one of the residents who opposed the proposal, said Tuesday that she wasn't surprised by the board's vote but is

still concerned that the development might worsen flooding in her neighborhood.

"We are disappointed that Wheeling is not doing anything about sewers," Zirko said.

"People that are directly at the back of (the targeted site) complained that they have a lot of water."

The new nursing home was recommended for approval by the plan commission.

### Future use

An Eastchester Road resident, who declined to give her name, said her own concern was about the height of the building and the possibility that the facility could be turned into a mental institution in the future if the need no longer exists for a nursing home.

Lexington Health Care of Wheeling Inc. will be a 24-hour nursing home providing skilled care for a total of 150 employees.

It will have 100 parking spaces, beauty and barber shops, podiatry and dentistry offices, and kitchen services.

As planned, entrance and exit into the development will be through Hintz Road only.

Residents who signed petitions opposing the facility contended that traffic on Hintz Road would create dangers for neighborhood school children who cross the street on their way to and from school.

Existing care or housing facilities for seniors in Wheeling include Addolorata Villa Adult Health Care on McHenry Road and Wheeling Pavilion Center on Milwaukee Avenue.

## Non-certified police workers, Wheeling sign new contract

10-19-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday signed a new two-year labor contract with the village's non-certified police employees, signing the last municipal worker group they had to negotiate with this year.

The Wheeling Village Board unanimously approved a new pact with about 20 records clerks, emergency communications operators and community service officers. Retroactive to May 1, the pact replaces the old agreement, which expired April 30.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said negotiations between the village and the Combined Counties Police Association, the workers' union, passed the contractual deadline because of "scheduling and research" on salaries.

Under the agreement, emergency operators receive pay hikes of 3.5 percent for both years, raising base pay from \$32,344 to \$34,691 at the top of the scale. Starting salaries went from \$24,206 to \$25,914 at the end of the contract.

Records clerks receive increases of 3.5 percent from May 1, 1993, to Nov. 1, 1993, and 1.25 percent from Nov. 1, 1993, to May 1, 1994. On May 1, 1994, they get a 3.5 percent hike. Top salaries increase from \$25,683 to \$27,891, and starting salaries rise from \$19,166 to \$20,814.

Community service officers, who received a contract for the first time, were awarded 3 percent raises from May 1, 1993, to May 1, 1994; 2 percent hikes from May 1, 1994, to Nov. 1, 1994; and 1.5 percent raises afterward. Top salaries will increase from \$29,516 to \$31,504, and starting pay goes from \$22,025 to \$23,508 at the end of the agreement.

The union rank and file ratified the agreement last week. Anderson said raises put the village in the middle of the salary ranges those employee groups are paid by other are towns.

Earlier this year, the village awarded salary increases and health insurance changes to its patrol officers. They also inked a two-year agreement with its firefighters.

# Wheeling village board may hire public relations firm

10-16-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board is considering hiring a public relations consultant to help promote the community throughout the area.

Wheeling officials are currently reviewing proposals from three small public relations firms,

which they declined to name, vying to promote the village.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson recently said he got the idea for such promotion through discussions with officials at the Wheeling & Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"There are a lot of good things about Wheeling people don't know,

and we should bolster that it's a good place to live and work," he said.

The firms' proposals request fees ranging from \$30 per hour, with monthly retainer agreement, to a few thousand dollars per month retainer fee. Anderson estimated that the village could end up paying \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually for promotions.

The winning firm would probably be responsible for creating an economic development-style brochure describing the various benefits of Wheeling, including its famed Restaurant Row, industrial parks and other amenities.

The firm would also probably be involved in helping village officials to promote Wheeling's centennial next year.

Trustee Judy Abruscato called for having the village board review proposals from the three firms seeking its business. She said that such reviews are customary in other purchases of goods and services for the village.

"I think we need to look at all the aspects," she said. "I would like to see the applicants. I would

like to see what we have." Abruscato also said the village should consider hiring a part-time consultant for its public relations. Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said Anderson's office should handle the review.

Village officials hope to have the promotional consultant in place by the beginning of 1994, said Anderson.

## Work-release crew clearing tires from Palwaukee site

10-25-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is using prisoners from work-release programs to clear thousands of old tires from a site near Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling that airport officials need for renovation work.

The state agency is using a 12-man work-release crew to clear a 1.79 acre parcel just east of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection. Airport officials need tires cleared from the site as a part of the project to relocate the intersection 570 feet to the west to expand the safety area between it and Palwaukee's longest runway.

"They're removing muddy tires and whatever. They're using work-release people," said Tap Hefley of the agency's old tire program. "They'll continue at their pace until they're finished."

Hefley said the agency employs prisoners with Correctional Industries, a state-run company that can only deal with the state. The prisoners

are from work-release centers, have nearly completed their sentences, are not violent and have been cleared for unsupervised outside work. The IEPA often employs such crews on cleanups, she said.

The crews started work at Palwaukee three weeks ago, but have not been there every day. State officials said they miscalculated the size of the job, estimating the site, once a tire dealership and truck terminal, holds 40,000 to 50,000 tires.

State officials soon expect to appoint a more permanent crew of inmates from the Joliet or Stateville state penitentiaries to work on the site until it's cleared.

Airport officials will hire a contractor to remove abandoned autos, trees and other debris from the site and make it level when the crews are finished. The tires will be shredded on site and taken to a Decatur co-generation plant for conversion to energy.

Airport officials acquired the property from Frank R. Chupich last year after a lengthy legal battle.

## Wheeling wants info on border gas station

Countryside

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER  
10-21-93

Wheeling officials' concerns about sales tax revenue, access and traffic circulation could stall plans to build an Amoco service station with a food mart and car wash facilities on a 3.75-acre site at the border with Buffalo Grove.

The site lies in both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. But the majority of the site, over 2 acres, is in Wheeling.

Amoco officials have approached the Buffalo Grove plan commission for rezoning of the fraction of an acre in that village. But from the sounds of Wheel-

ing's inquiries, they perhaps would have been better to start with that village. The plan cannot proceed without Wheeling's blessing, and Wheeling officials say they have many questions.

One such issue is where a cash register would be stationed — in the Wheeling portion with higher Cook County sales taxes, or in Buffalo Grove with a lower percentage in Lake County. Buffalo Grove officials would like to see the register in Lake County. Wheeling officials have not stated a preference, but are disgruntled they have not seen any plans.

"Most of their site plan

resides in Wheeling. A minority of it is in Buffalo. They have not started any kind of process for this project. For them to think that everything is going to be approved down here is conjecture at best," said Mark Janeck, planner for Wheeling.

Janeck said the Wheeling portion of the property will need to be rezoned, and must meet a variety of requirements set out in the village's code.

"I can tell you that there is no way they can start construction without coming to us. . . There is a piece of land with property in two municipalities. Just because

you get approval by one municipality doesn't mean the other municipality approves it," Janeck added.

"Buffalo Grove is not Wheeling, and Wheeling is not Buffalo Grove," he said.

Wheeling officials are also concerned that sanitary sewer service lines for the car wash and the food mart would be connected from Buffalo Grove mains since Wheeling does not have lines in the targeted area. If this is permitted, it would be an unwelcome precedent in Wheeling, according to Michael Klitzke, director of community development.

"I know of no other situations where buildings

within the village of Wheeling are serviced by Buffalo Grove utilities," Klitzke wrote in a letter to Buffalo Grove officials.

Buffalo Grove plan commissioners shared Wheeling's concerns during a meeting last week. While they agreed that the Amoco plan would be a good revenue generator, they asked the petitioner to address Wheeling's concerns before returning to them. The planners also requested a traffic study for the area near the site before a plan commission public hearing is held sometime later this year.

## Wheeling OKs fire-training pact plan

10-21-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees agreed to start developing an intergovernmental agreement with the Buffalo Grove Fire Department and Vernon Fire Protection District for a new fire-training facility the three agencies would share.

The Wheeling village board agreed to go ahead and develop the agreement to cover use of the fire training facility that will be developed on a 5-acre parcel in Buffalo Grove at Deerfield Parkway. The facility, which could cost

\$555,000, will include a variety of training equipment such as a mock two-story building, a 40-foot tower, a rail car for train emergency practice and a jet plane rescue/burn pit for aviation emergency practice.

While supporting the concept of a year-round training facility for firefighters, Wheeling trustees were concerned the second year payment in the proposed three-year construction cycle the village was expected to make was too high. Under that plan, Wheeling officials would have to pay \$30,000 the first year, \$130,000 next year

and \$25,000 in the 1995-96 fiscal year.

A revised payment schedule has the village, and the other two agencies, paying \$185,000, spread out over four years in consecutive payments of \$30,000, \$70,000, \$50,000 and \$35,000 ending in the 1996-97 fiscal year.

Wheeling fire officials said the facility, that would be built in phases, could have some of the training equipment deleted from it as a cost saving measure.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac had said the facility was needed because it was more effi-

cient for firefighters to train near the village than travel to distant towns.

If Wheeling trustees approve the funding, they would have to change to the current year's budget to make the first payment of \$30,000.

The Buffalo Grove village board and Vernon Fire Protection District have already approved funding for the project.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a draft for the agreement could be available for review by the trustees within a month.

# Village inks pact with police

By CYRIL IRE  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
A new, two-year pact has been inked between Wheeling officials and non-certified police staff that promises the employees at least a 3-percent pay hike for the first year.

The agreement approved last week by Wheeling trustees covers 20 radio operators, community service officers and records personnel with slightly different salary schedules. The pact will be retroactive to May 1 and will replace the one that expired April 30.

Under the new contract negotiated with the Combined Counties Police Association, radio operators' salaries will increase by 3.5 percent for each of the two years, with base salary increasing to \$34,691 from \$32,344 at the top of the scale. For the second year of the contract, starting pay will rise from \$24,206 to \$25,914.

Community service officers' pay will be only three percent higher during the first year of the new contract over last year's but will increase by 3.5 percent during the second year. This will result in pay increases from \$29,516 to \$31,504 at the top, while starting salary will rise to \$23,508 from \$22,025 at the end of the contract.

Increase in salary for records personnel will be 3.5 percent between May 1 and Nov. 1, 1.5 percent between Nov. 1 and May 1, 1994 and 3.5 percent for the second year of the new agreement.

Medical benefits in the new contract are similar to those included in a separate two-year contract approved earlier this month for 42 sworn police officers. The package includes a voluntary preferred physician provision. Insurance benefits remain at \$100 deductible for single coverage and \$200 for family coverage, requiring no contributions (Continued on page 98)

from the employees.

"Again, like the police department contract (negotiations for the non-certified staff) took longer than we expected," said police spokesman Bill Stutzman, adding that the talks began in May. "(But) in the end, we came

on page 5

up with a contract that is fair to both parties.

Non-certified police rank and file passed the agreement by an "overwhelming margin" recently before the board voted on it last week, Stutzman said.

# Wheeling eyes 2-year waste disposal pact

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are developing the village's first contract ever with a waste disposal company that would specify residential garbage pick-ups rates and increase the number of materials accepted for recycling.

Wheeling officials want to have an agreement in place with Waste Management-Northwest by Jan. 1 to comply with Solid Waste Agency of Cook County guidelines for garbage disposal into the Glenview transfer station. Wheeling, which currently uses the Mallard

Lake station disposal, will be one of the first nine towns to use the Glenview facility.

Wheeling officials are now eyeing a two-year pact with the company with options for two, one-year extensions. Under the proposed agreement, the company would operate as it now does in the village without a contract making residential trash pick-ups once or twice a week.

Currently, Wheeling residents pay \$14.15 a month for a single weekly pick-up and \$3.10 for an additional one. The company picks up trash twice a week in summer

and once weekly in winter, with optional visits made for yard waste disposals.

Joni Beaudry, Wheeling's assistant village manager, said with the new agreement the village hopes to maintain current disposal fees and expand the list of items accepted for recycling. Now, the scavenger company, which has a recycling contract with Wheeling, accepts plastics, aluminum, glass and newspapers.

"We're looking at expanding the recycling program, that's the biggest change," she said.

Wheeling officials hope to add such materials as cereal boxes,

magazines, telephone books and other products to the recyclable materials list.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said the contract was good for Wheeling because it doesn't specify major changes to the company's operations in the village.

"I have no issue with it because the contract is remaining the same," said Abruscato. "We have 90 percent more control over what the contractor is going to do than we did before."

Wheeling trustees could vote on a new pact in a month, said Beaudry.

# Wheeling approves changes for new Alzheimer's facility

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have approved changes to building plans for the state's first residential facility for Alzheimer's disease patients due to open next spring.

The Wheeling village board Monday approved changes in the plans submitted by New Perspective Inc. of Mequon, Wis., that allow the company to move the locations of buildings on its 4.7-acre site at 760 N. McHenry Road. Company officials said moving the buildings slightly from their original location would improve the site.

"We tried to open up the site and reduce the blacktop a little bit," said Diane C. Bjorkman, president of the company.

Wheeling trustees approved the project in February.

By reconfiguring their locations, the buildings were no longer angled to the parking spots, and four more parking places could be added. Also, the site gained slightly more open area, said Bjorkman.

With its nearly \$2 million project, the company will build

three, 7,000-square-foot single-story buildings slated to house up to 48 patients who are victims of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

The company, which operates several facilities in Wisconsin, chose the Wheeling site because it is centrally located for serving Cook, Lake, DuPage and Kane counties, where experts said half of the state's 200,000 Alzheimer's patients live.

Alzheimer's is a dementia-related neurological disorder that causes memory loss, impaired judgement and disorientation, according to the Alzheimer's Disease Association.

The monthly charge for a spot at the facility will be \$3,200. The facility will include a fenced yard and gardens, private rooms and wide hallways where patients can walk freely.

Bjorkman said only Alzheimer's patients would be accepted at the facility; those with multiple problems would be referred elsewhere. Patients would receive around-the-clock care by nurses.

Bjorkman said construction would begin Nov. 15, and the facility would be open May 15.

# Wheeling refinances loan to get lower interest rate

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Taking advantage of low interest rates, Wheeling officials agreed to refinance the remaining years of an \$18.5 million bond issue, resulting in slightly lower tax levies for the next three years.

Much like refinancing a home mortgage, Wheeling officials are refinancing the final three years of its 11-year bond issue issued in 1985. Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said the village is issuing \$4.92 million in new bonds and redeeming \$5.25 million in old bonds, and contributing \$400,000 from its reserves to further reduce its debt.

As a result of such borrowing, he said, the village will save \$23,000 on the 1994 tax levy, \$112,000 in the 1995 levy and realize \$175,000 in savings on the property tax levy the final year of the bond issue.

"The savings will be in reduced tax levies for debt service for the next three years," he said.

With the refinancing, the village sees a drop in interest rates from between 7.75 to 8

percent for the old bonds, to current rates ranging from 3.85 to 4.6 percent, said Fialkowski.

Additionally, the village saw its bond rating upgraded by Moody's Investor Service from an A to an A1, which Wheeling officials said reflects the town's improved financial stability.

The 1985 bond issue consolidated general obligation bonds Wheeling officials used to fund infrastructure improvements throughout the village, which is the same function the latest bond issue is serving, said Fialkowski.

In other moves to strengthen village finances, Wheeling trustees recently approved the town's first home rule retail tax of 0.25 percent of the purchase price for most goods and services, which will take effect Jan. 1 and be collected by the state.

The Wheeling village board is also considering levying a real estate transfer tax sellers would pay on property transactions of \$3 per \$1,000 of the selling price. Unlike the home rule sales tax, there is no state deadline for imposing it since it would be collected by the village.

# Wheeling to open village hall some Saturdays

11-11-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Responding to requests from some elected officials and residents, Wheeling will institute Saturday hours for the administration building at 255 W. Dundee Road.

For the next six months, Wheeling officials will open the village hall on the second Saturday of each month starting Nov. 13 on a limited schedule from 9 a.m. to noon. During that time, residents can conduct such routine business with the village as buying a vehicle sticker or paying water bills.

"It had been a request from

some of our residents from time to time that we be opened on Saturdays," said Anderson. "We decided to give it a trial to see if it would be used."

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said in addition to the Saturday hours the village hall will maintain its usual Wednesday evening hours, when the building is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. On weekdays, village hall is open from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m.

During the extended Saturday hours, the community development and finance departments will be opened, each staffed by a

couple of employees, said Anderson. Anderson also said while the amount of overtime the employees will have to be paid has not yet been determined it will probably be a nominal expense.

The proposal to open the village hall on weekends had been brought up during the elections last spring with all the candidates seeking posts on the village board agreeing it was a good idea, said Anderson.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato, who was unsuccessful in her bid for the village president's post which Sheila H. Schultz claimed

for a fourth term, included the issue of Saturday hours for village hall in her party's platform.

"I think it's super we're finally having this done to service the community," she said. "It will help. It came in light of the election and before that."

Abruscato added the Saturday hours will help people who work too late to visit village hall on weekdays.

Saturday dates village hall will be open are: Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12 and April 9.

## Village considers trash contract

11-4-93  
By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling is considering a new contract with its waste hauler that would expand recycling in the village and comply with requirements of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

If approved, the proposed and first-ever agreement with Waste Management-Northwest in Wheeling, the village's scavenger for residential waste for more than 20 years, will go into effect Jan. 1, 1994. More recyclables, including phone books, magazines, catalogs and cardboards, would be added to the recycling program for an extra cost to residents of only 50 cents per month over the current charge of \$1.95.

Though Wheeling officials have had a good working relationship with the hauler, Village Manager Craig Anderson said, the proposed pact is designed to help guarantee that garbage from Wheeling will be assured a dump site in the future, as landfill space continues to shrink. It would also ensure that the scavenger firm would divert the waste to a transfer station designated by the solid waste agency, rather than to a landfill in Naperville.

"The intent here is to guarantee that we have a place to take our waste for the next 20 years and for recycling," Anderson said.

The contract would also give the village some control over future fees charged for garbage collection.

Under the current scavenger service in Wheeling, Waste Management charges residents \$12.20 per month for once weekly yardwaste and garbage pickup between April 1 and Dec. 1 and \$15.30 per month for twice weekly pickups between April 1 and Dec. 1. Additional pickups at extra costs are available between April and December.

## Wheeling police warn of solicitors for fake charities

11-12-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police issued a warning that they have nothing to do with unidentified phone solicitors asking local businesses for contributions on the department's behalf.

Police are tracking the sources of two different phone solicitations in the village that seek contributions from local businesses for police charities. Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said that in the first solicitation, the caller will claim to be working for an organization seeking funds to purchase bullet-proof vests for Wheeling Police.

Representatives from the organization are sent to the businesses to pick up the funds if encouraged, but they give the contributors a receipt saying the money is going to the fire department, said Haeger.

In the second questionable solicitation, the caller asks a businessperson to make a \$95 purchase of unspecified merchandise that the caller claims supports a police cause.

The caller then says the merchandise is delivered to the

business on a cash-on-delivery basis.

Wheeling Police Department Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said that the department does not use phone solicitors for any cause. Police also suspect similar solicitations may have been made in neighboring communities.

Wheeling Police first became aware of the solicitations being made in the village a week ago, Haeger said.

So far, they have not found who is making the calls or where they're originating.

"We're not sure who it is," Haeger said.

So far, all the local businesspeople approached have rejected the requests for \$95 for the package, which Haeger said makes it difficult to track the source of that solicitation.

In the other phone pitches, police said the caller identifies himself as a "Sergeant Kelly." Wheeling Police said those who want to report the phone solicitations or other suspicious appeals to call 459-2634.

Haeger said Wheeling Police are checking to see whether the solicitors have violated any state statutes with the appeals.

### SUBURBAN REPORT

## Wheeling sets tentative tax levy at \$7.19 million

11-16-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board Monday set its 1993 tax levy at \$7.19 million, up 15 percent from last year's \$6.1 million levy.

The village is required by law to establish levies for several funds, but once the levy is established it can be abated, or reduced, based upon actual expenses incurred, revenue generated from other sources and fund balances from the previous year. The actual levy is likely to be \$6.6 million, an 8.25 percent hike over last year's levy, said Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski.

While the levy request has increased, it's a conservative hike to ensure the village receives enough tax revenue in case a proposed Cook County property tax cap becomes law, Fialkowski said. Under that measure, public bodies would be prohibited from raising levies by more than 5 percent of the prior year's levy or the cost of living, whichever is less. Levy hikes of more than 5 percent could only be made by pub-

lic bodies if approved by voters in a tax increase referendum.

"I think it's appropriate not to put the village in a position to be hurt by the imposition of a tax cap," said Fialkowski.

Wheeling trustees are seeking a levy of \$2.6 million in the general fund, the same amount they levied last year.

Fialkowski said existing fund balances and projected revenue from the village's sales tax, about \$600,000 or \$700,000, stabilizes the fund.

The 1993 road and bridge fund levy is \$782,269, enough to fund street maintenance, said Fialkowski. That fund won't be abated further because only \$550,000 was levied for it last year, leaving minimal reserve funds, he said.

The general obligation bond and interest fund, which includes village debt payments for infrastructure projects, could be abated by \$100,000, bringing it to \$2.27 million, up 8.95 percent from this year.

A public hearing will be held on the levy Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. at village hall, 255 West Dundee Road.

# Panel: get downtown going

Small steps have been taken in the village's plan to revamp its downtown. But several plan commissioners would like to see more action.

By PIONEER PRESS

STAFF WRITER  
*Countyside* 11-18-93

Citing slow progress, plan commissioners want to make more input on the planned redevelopment of downtown Wheeling, including land along Milwaukee Avenue.

The plan commissioners voiced their feelings about the project north of Dundee Road last Thursday after recommending approval of a new, 129-seat Chinese restaurant on a nearby 1.3-acre parcel on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue.

"We haven't got anything going on it. It's a damn shame," noted plan commission chairman Paul Eisterhold on the proposed tax increment financing (TIF) district created for the redevelopment plan.

"We have been working on this for God knows how long," added commissioner Steve Walanka. "I just wouldn't like the village board to pull it from under the rug and say, 'This is the

comprehensive plan,' when we should be handing it to them."

Walanka suggested that the plan commission have a designated representative to meet with village board members and even join them in executive sessions, if necessary, to discuss the plans for the Sportmart property and the rest of downtown.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the board would be receptive to input from plan commissioner. She pointed out the commission is already charged with the task of reviewing the village's comprehensive plan, which will include the downtown area and have a lot of bearing on future redevelopment.

"The plan commission's contribution is a very vital part of the downtown redevelopment. . . I really welcome the input of the plan commission," she said.

Back in late June, the village board approved Sportmart's request to add 10,000 square feet to the 32,000 square feet the sporting good store currently occupies near the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Schultz said Mid-States Bradford, Inc. of Oakbrook, the developer of the shopping center, has yet to proceed with its plans.

Schultz said the rest of the redevel-

opment plan is being held up by a proposal by the state to improve Milwaukee Avenue near Dundee Road. State officials are yet to complete their design plan for the road improvements, she said.

Nevertheless, plan commissioners are getting antsy to get thing going on downtown, and are willing to serve as a catalyst for action.

Mark Janeck, director of community development, said village staff have been meeting with Mid-States Bradford and two other developers on coming up with an acceptable plan for the proposed retail center.

"Unfortunately, since the plan commission has not received specific development projects, I don't think the board really knows how you feel on this," Janeck told the plan commissioners.

The Chinese restaurant recommended last week for approval by the plan commission would be constructed on two lots totaling 1.3 acres, located just west of the Shadow Bend townhome development. One of the lots is vacant and the other has a vacant building that was formerly used as a day care center.

## Wheeling fire chief calls for switch to outside dispatcher

*Countyside* 11-23-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board is considering a proposal to have emergency calls for the fire department handled by a radio dispatch center outside the village to improve response times.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac told village officials Monday that because the town's radio dispatchers handle 20,000 police calls annually compared with 3,100 fire calls, they focus on police emergencies, and fire calls aren't always properly dispatched. MacIsaac proposed that Wheeling join the Glenview-based Regional Emergency Dispatch Center, which emphasizes fire-related radio calls.

"It's taking 95 to 98 percent of the fire responsibilities from the Wheeling dispatchers and transferring it to the RED dispatchers," he said. "We're not talking minutes here, but seconds. And seconds count."

Under the proposal, calls to the Wheeling Fire Department would be transferred instantly to the RED Center. The RED Center dispatchers would be re-

sponsible for contacting those neighboring fire departments that have mutual aid agreements with the Wheeling Fire Department. Additionally, emergency response times would decrease and village dispatchers could stay focused on police calls, said MacIsaac.

To join RED Center — which serves Northbrook, Glenview, Morton Grove, Niles, Prospect Heights and the north Maine Township area — it would cost Wheeling \$129,094 the first year and about \$115,000 annually thereafter.

"I wonder if we're throwing a lot of money at something that would be better addressed with training instead of throwing it on someone else's back?" Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said MacIsaac's proposal would be considered for the village's budget, which will be set in February. A separate levy may be needed to fund affiliation with the RED Center, Anderson said.

"The bottom line is, it would be nice to do, but do the benefits outweigh the costs?" Anderson said.

## Fire chief proposes joining dispatch group

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER  
*Countyside* 12-2-93

Response time for emergencies could improve under a proposal by Wheeling fire officials to join a regional dispatching cooperative of five other neighboring communities.

But the plan would cost the village at least \$115,000 more annually in fire and police operation costs.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac has proposed teaming up with the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center in Glenview and terminating dispatching by the Wheeling Police Department — a move he says could mean the difference between life and death in some fire emergencies.

"We are not talking minutes. We are talking saving seconds. The big issue here is we are trying to improve the level of dispatch and the level of service we get, from a police-oriented service to a fire-oriented service.

"What we are looking at is a more efficient and safer method of handling dispatches."

Police dispatch 24,000 police-related calls a year, compared to only 3,100 fire and medical

emergencies, and mutual aid calls. Police have to prioritize all calls before notifying police or fire personnel for response, thus some time is often lost, the fire chief said.

"By going to fire-oriented, single-point dispatch center, we feel we are going to improve that time," MacIsaac said.

The RED Center currently dispatches fire emergencies for Morton Grove, Niles, Glenview, Northbrook and Prospect Heights — all Wheeling neighbors. "We are kind of like an anomaly in the process," MacIsaac said.

"I feel going to Red Center is a benefit to the citizens and a benefit to the community, because they are going to get improved service," he added.

The proposed switch would allow Wheeling police dispatchers to focus only on police calls, which contrast with fire calls, MacIsaac said. "You could be called for a dog barking to can I park my car on the street to somebody dying of a heart attack," he said.

Doug Edmonds, executive director of Northwest Central Dispatch System in Arlington

Heights, agreed.

"A lot of calls to the police are more service oriented, whether it's a barking dog or neighbor's stereo is too loud or a car is parked in my driveway," he said.

If Wheeling joins the Red Center, it would cost the village an extra \$115,000 a year for fire dispatching. A fixed amount is currently being charged to dispatch both police and fire calls from the police department.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the proposal will be reviewed during upcoming budget meetings that begin in February to determine its feasibility.

"It's a cost-benefit issue," he said. "Do we get enough benefit from being in RED to spend an additional more than \$100,000? We will be adding another village expenditure of more than \$100,000 a year."

But Doug Edmonds, executive director of Northwest Central Dispatch System in Arlington Heights, another intergovernmental cooperative, said the benefits of having a separate dispatching system for fire calls outweigh any cost considerations.

## Wheeling's summer parade to celebrate '94 centennial

*Countyside* 11-20-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents can once again look forward to a parade in the middle of the summer next year, only it will fall on Sunday, June 26, instead of on the Fourth of July.

In 1994, the village's centennial year, the Wheeling centennial parade committee has decided to hold a parade marking the occasion on June 26, instead of holding a Fourth of July parade, because the date is closer to Wheeling's incorporation and more civic groups would be available for the gala, said William A. Rogers, the committee's chairman.

"It's not a Fourth of July parade. We're honoring the centennial of the village since that date approximates the centennial of the village," said Rogers, a former Wheeling trustee, who noted the town was incorporated on June 22, 1894.

While details are not finalized yet, Rogers said the centennial parade will travel a different route than last year's Fourth of July event.

The June 26 gala will start at

Wille Avenue near the Milwaukee Avenue-Dundee Road intersection and travel west on Dundee Road until it reaches the K-Mart store at 780 W. Dundee Road near the Route 83-Dundee Road intersection.

Rogers said the centennial parade could include five to 10 floats, up to 100 different marching groups, several community bands, veterans organizations, other schools, civic groups, and groups from neighboring communities.

The parade will be one of the events in a yearlong tribute to the village that could include a winter ball at the Chevy Chase Country Club, a civil war re-enactment, and dedication of a commemorative fountain near the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center at 327 W. Dundee Road. The site was formerly occupied by the historical Koeppen farm.

Rogers said residents interested in getting involved with centennial festivities can attend the committee's meetings, which are held the first and third Thursday of each month at the Wheeling Administration Building, 255 W. Dundee Road.

# Wheeling to commemorate 50th anniversary of WWII

11-27-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Along with the celebration of its centennial, Wheeling is also officially designated to host World War II memorial events in the coming year.

Thanks to the efforts of resident Frank E. Horbert, the village has been designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to be an official World War II commemorative community.

The village received that designation after Horbert formed a five-person committee to hold events in 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of the war many historians call the most significant event in the 20th century.

Horbert said his group will hold three events in the coming year on Memorial Day, May 31; on the

Fourth of July; and on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

"We'll probably tie it in with the 100th anniversary of the village," said Horbert who added he wanted future generations to be aware of the conflict's historical significance.

The veterans events will fall during Wheeling's centennial year celebration.

Events planned to mark the centennial include a Civil War reenactment, dedication of a commemorative fountain on the site of the old Koeppen farm on West Dundee Road, and a gala at the Chevy Chase Country Club at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The committee also will host an unspecified observance Dec. 7 at the AMVETS Post 66 at 700 Old McHenry Road to commemorate

the 52nd anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Horbert said planning for the 1994 events is still under way, and he was uncertain what would be done.

The committee is funded by contributions and also receives some funding from the AMVETS, he said.

A World War II veteran, Horbert, 74, served as a corporal with the

28th Marine Corps unit that fought on Iwo Jima and mounted a flag on Mount Suribachi, he said.

His committee has a commemorative display about World War II on exhibit at the Indian Trails Public Library District building at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.

That display includes first issue stamps from the period and notes where the war occurred.

## Wheeling village board approves levy increase

12-7-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board Monday approved a 1993 tax levy of \$7.19 million, which is 15 percent higher than last year's \$6.1 million levy.

In a unanimous vote, Wheeling trustees complied with state law and established a levy for several funds. Once that levy was set, the village board abated \$583,000 in bonds, making the actual levy \$6.6 million, an 8.25 percent increase over last year's levy.

Wheeling finance director Robert W. Fialkowski said the levy increase was conservative and it ensures the village receives enough tax revenue to meet expenses.

"We have a safe level of reserves; we can weather the storm," he said.

Village officials are concerned the proposed Cook County property tax cap could become law. Under that measure, public bodies would be prohibited from raising levies by more than 5 percent of the prior year's levy or the cost of living, whichever is less.

Levy increases greater than 5 percent could only be made by public bodies if approved by voters in a referendum.

Wheeling resident George Hieber questioned Wheeling's levy increase, saying some homeowners may find it too high.

"We're getting this from the school districts, from the village. We're getting taxed out," he said.

Fialkowski said the levy was one of the few revenue sources the village can control in its nearly \$23 million annual budget and that levies in the next two tax years probably would drop.

Village officials levied \$2.6 million in the general fund, the same amount it levied in 1992. Fialkowski had said that projected fund balances and \$600,000 to \$700,000 from a new village sales tax stabilizes that fund.

The 1993 road and bridge fund was set at \$782,269 and will cover the street maintenance program, said village officials. That wasn't abated because it had low reserves, said Fialkowski.

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission is seeking a proposal from the airport's first fixed base fueling operator for leasing Hangar Three before deciding on which of two companies will get to lease the facility.

The panel is asking Preister Aviation to submit a proposal Dec. 15 to continue leasing the hangar at the southeast end of the airport. It has rented monthly since Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased the airport in 1986.

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

## Fuel operators to compete for Palwaukee hangar lease

12-4-93

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission is seeking a proposal from the airport's first fixed base fueling operator for leasing Hangar Three before deciding on which of two companies will get to lease the facility.

The panel is asking Preister Aviation to submit a proposal Dec. 15 to continue leasing the hangar at the southeast end of the airport. It has rented monthly since Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased the airport in 1986.

The commission is now deciding whether Preister Aviation or Service Aviation, the airport's second FBO, should get to lease the hangar.

"They want each of them (FBOs) to come back with a proposal," Airport Manager Fred Stewart said about the commission.

Preister Aviation got to lease the somewhat dilapidated hangar monthly because it was originally slated by the commission to be demolished. Because Preister Aviation only has a

monthly lease for Hangar Three, Dennis P. Jans, president of Service Aviation, offered the commission a fixed \$1,680 monthly fee to lease the hangar for aircraft maintenance and storage.

Jans has said Preister, which started the airport in the 1920s, has long-term leases for many of the other hangars at Palwaukee.

Charlie Preister, owner of Preister Aviation, has said that his company serves about 20 customers from Hangar Three, and it pays a monthly share of revenues from business it does at the hangar ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Airport commissioners have mixed views about the lease. Some are concerned about what will happen to Preister's customers, and are worried that Jans hasn't offered to pay half the revenues generated from Hangar Three monthly as Preister does.

The commissioners decided against putting up the lease for bid because they were concerned that upstart Service Aviation couldn't compete with the better financed Preister.

es would lower property values of their single-family houses. They wanted luxury houses built on the land, which Stavros said would be too expensive and couldn't easily fit there.

The neighbors also said the development would change the semi-rural character of the area that's near the Lake County Forest Preserve.

The village's planning staff and the plan commission endorsed Stavros' proposal. Wheeling's comprehensive plan targeted his parcel for multi-family housing.

Noting the endorsements of his proposal, Stavros said the documents and opinions of village planning officials support his case. In February he'll seek a summary judgment from the Circuit Court judge stating his charges are facts and there is no need for a trial.

"I think that this case will be solved by a summary judgment," Stavros said. "If it's not resolved by summary judgment, we'll have a trial."

Stavros' lawsuit, which names Wheeling officials, does not seek monetary damages from the village.

Wheeling officials will fight a developer's lawsuit that claims the village illegally denied the rezoning of his property and prevented him from building multi-family housing on the site.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhoades said the village is disputing the lawsuit filed in the Chancery Division of Cook County Circuit Court by local attorney and developer Alfred D. Stavros. He is seeking an order to force the village board to grant multi-family housing zoning for 3 acres at 433 N. Milwaukee Ave.

In October, trustees denied Stavros' request to rezone the parcel from its single-family housing designation, saying they were uncertain what was planned for it. Stavros sought the change to permit construction of a 22-unit town house development there with selling prices of \$160,000 to \$200,000.

"We're denying the allegations that the zoning was improper and we'll follow it (the lawsuit) through," Rhoades said. Neighbors argued town houses

over Milwaukee Ave. land

12-3-93

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Daily Herald Staff Writer

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In October, trustees denied Stavros' request to rezone the parcel from its single-family housing designation, saying they were uncertain what was planned for it. Stavros sought the change to permit construction of a 22-unit town house development there with selling prices of \$160,000 to \$200,000.

"We're denying the allegations that the zoning was improper and we'll follow it (the lawsuit) through," Rhoades said. Neighbors argued town houses

over Milwaukee Ave. land

12-3-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
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# Fire damages mobile home in Wheeling

12-9-93

By KRISTY PHARISS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police said a fire that gutted a mobile home in the Whippletree Village park Wednesday afternoon was deliberately set in what they suspect was a domestic dispute.

No one was injured in the blaze on the 300 block of Landau Lane, which was ignited in four different locations of the trailer and described by officials as "intense."

Wheeling police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said a suspect was in custody Wednesday.



Wheeling police officers rope off the area around a mobile home that was gutted by fire Wednesday night at the Whippletree Village park.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

# Wheeling denies restaurateur lot

12-10-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved a local businessman's plan to open a restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue but balked at his request to have the village purchase a lot adjoining the site for parking.

Wheeling trustees approved a proposal by Vincent Fung to open a 129-seat restaurant serving Chinese and Cantonese cuisine in a 5,100-square-foot building at 133-145 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Fung also wants to acquire a small parcel under 10,000 square

feet just south of his eatery to expand the parking lot to allow him to bring the total number of seats up to 175.

Because the owners of the parcel would not sell to Fung, he asked the village to acquire the property under its tax incremental finance district authority.

"The extra parcel is very vital to me," Fung said.

The section of Milwaukee Avenue containing Fung's restaurant site lies within the village's TIF district, which Wheeling officials have targeted for a number of improvements to make it a more attractive

commercial area.

Included among the improvements village officials have made to the area is acquiring older properties for such projects as the widening of Milwaukee Avenue.

Fung said the village should purchase the parcel using its condemnation powers and then sell it to him.

Under a condemnation, the village could acquire the property for public interest at a fair market price.

Wheeling village officials said that if the village condemned the parcel and acquired it, the process

could take 2 or 3 years and add up to \$30,000 to the cost of the land.

"What you're really asking for is the village to use our condemnation powers to get it," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "What we're saying is that doesn't seem to be a viable option at this point."

Anderson also said that if the village were to condemn the land, a court and not the village board would have say over who gets to purchase the property.

Wheeling officials said the last condemnation in the TIF area took eight years to resolve.

# Ideas begin flowing for Wheeling fountain

12-14-93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village and park district officials met jointly Monday to discuss placing a commemorative centennial fountain plaza on West Dundee Road, with both sides saying they should agree on all aspects of the project.

The two groups discussed locating a village-proposed 50-by-50 foot fountain and plaza on an 18-acre parcel that was once the historic Koeppenfarm on West Dundee Road between the village hall and Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center and soon-to-be-built Recreation Center.

Wheeling officials are viewing the fountain as one of a number of amenities slated for the area that would make it the center of the village. Also planned for the area is the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station and a bike-path system that reaches into Lake County.

"It's really important that we do something that works for the both of us," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz. "It's to tie the two parts of the village together and make it a focal point."

Both groups agreed they did not want a fountain as elaborate or

large as Chicago's Buckingham Fountain because of the expense and because the farm site is located in a flood plain.

The groups also agreed the fountain should be completed by the summer, close to the village's June 22 incorporation anniversary. They also want to have a zero-depth fountain with evening illumination and a brick plaza.

Wheeling park officials said they favored having the fountain located farther from the edge of the road so it would fit in aesthetically with their facilities and neighboring Heritage Park.

"Our desire is not to do everything piecemeal, but that everything flows," said park board president Tom Webber.

Wheeling officials would pay for the fountain with funds raised by the centennial committee, they said. No cost has been determined yet, and the groups have not decided who would maintain the fountain.

The Sente & Rubel Ltd. architecture firm used by the park district was hired for \$5,000 to develop proposals for the fountain.

A committee comprised of two park commissions and two Wheeling trustees will review the architect's proposal in January.

# Wheeling sets sites on Centennial plaza

12-16-93

By CYRIL IBE

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
Water flowing from a proposed fountain in Wheeling is expected to add to a toast of the village's centennial anniversary next summer.

Village and park board officials held a rare joint meeting Monday to discuss the proposed Centennial Fountain Plaza on a portion of an 18-acre parcel between the municipal hall and the nearby Aquatic Center and Recreation Center, still under construction.

Though still a concept in the minds of the officials, they envision it as the future center of the village, a strong draw for residents and nonresidents, along with the nearby recreational facilities and a new Metra station in the area. As proposed, the zero-depth fountain would measure about 50 feet by 50 feet and would be completed in time for dedication by June 22, the 100th anniversary of the village.

Both sides agreed that the fountain would enhance the thematic look of the area, which includes the nearby 88-acre Heritage Park.

In the coming months, a joint committee of members of the two governing bodies will be working with Sente & Rubel Ltd., a Northbrook-based architectural firm, to design the specific features of the plaza. Officials voiced concerns about how far from Dundee Road the fountain should be located and what kind of landscaping would be most suitable to pull passersby from the road to the plaza.

"I dream of a passive park, one with pathways, trees, flower beds," suggested park board member Greg Klutecki.

No cost estimates have been made on the proposed fountain, and no decisions made on how to share the cost of construction and maintenance between the village and park boards.

# Community center to provide education, counseling

12-11-93  
 BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even though the soon-to-be opened Wheeling Community Resource Center is just a store front, Olga Victor sees it as bridge.

"I want it (the center) to be an empowerment and a bridge to the community," Victor said.

Located in the Center Plaza Shopping Center at 54 N. Wolf

Road, the center is similar to the Police Neighborhood Resource Center in the East Park Apartments in Rolling Meadows, which provides that complex's Hispanic population with educational and counseling services.

Slated to open on Wednesday, the Wheeling Community Resource Center is only the second in the area aimed at serving minority and low-income residents.

Victor, 29, director of the center for Omni Youth Services of Buffalo Grove, says the center will feature a host of programs including family counseling, job placement assistance, English tutoring and legal advice on such matters as immigration law.

And while Victor said the center is targeting people from all ethnic groups, such as Polish and Russian immigrants, initially, its programs

are aimed at Hispanics.

"The Mexican population is already isolated. They don't have many social events, they don't have a place where they can ask questions in their own language. The resource center is going to be a tool to let people know they have rights and treat people with the dignity they deserve," she said.

Omni first proposed two centers this past April, one in Wheeling and

one in Prospect Heights, to meet what agency officials said was a growing demand for Hispanic family services.

Prospect Heights officials eventually nixed funding a resource center in their city, while Wheeling officials embraced the concept. As a result, Wheeling allocated \$20,000 to the center, federal grants added \$80,000 and Omni officials hope to receive another \$10,000 through

local fund-raising.

Wheeling officials believe the center will help overcome cultural barriers and offer more contact with people they didn't previously reach through other means.

"It provides me, and in essence the police department, with a way to bring programs directly to the people. A lot of these people too in-

See CENTER on Page 3

## CENTER: Churches, schools in on new agency

Continued from Page 1

to bring programs directly to the people. A lot of these people too intimidated to go to the police station for a safety program, and if I run a safety program there it makes it more accessible to the people," Barbara G. Kobishop, Wheeling Police Department crime prevention officer.

Victor said organizations that will be involved in the center include Wheeling Police, the Wheeling Park District, Northwest Suburban High School District 214, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23, St. Joseph The Worker Church and the Regional Action Planning Project (RAPP), a gang prevention program affiliated with Omni.

Victor said that the center will serve 500 families in its first six months of operation with four staffers, two full-time employees and volunteers.

Officials have not yet set the center's hours, but some evening times are planned, Victor said.

A youth drop-in center to be located at Heritage Park Recreation Center at 222 S. Wolf Road also will be affiliated with the resource center.

Victor said the youth programs will be designed to provide teens with recreational opportunities.



Olga Victor, director of the new Wheeling Community Resource Center explains the types of services the center will offer to low-income residents.

Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

Because a number of programs, seminars and other activities are planned for the center in the first year, Victor, who previously worked for a Puerto Rican social

service agency in New York, said the maiden year would be an experimental one.

She hopes that in the first year the center will develop a clientele

of regulars who patronize the facility, and that it helps integrate the community.

"It's very important what's going to work and not going to work. I'll



Mobile-home fire  
 An unidentified Wheeling firefighter cleans up debris from a fire that gutted a mobile home in Whippletree Village park last week. An investigation continued this week.  
 Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

# Center open house to explain services

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Community Resource Center is holding an open house today for the public to see where a host of services will be offered to minority and low-income residents.

Located in the Center Plaza Shopping Center, 54 N. Wolf Road, the center will be open from 4 to 7:30 p.m. for residents to visit.

Formed by a partnership of Omni Youth Services and the village of Wheeling, the center is only the second in the area aside from a similar center in the East Park

12-15-93  
Apartments in Rolling Meadows, geared specifically to serving minority and low-income residents. The Des Plaines Police Department is considering establishing a neighborhood center to offer similar services.

Olga Victor, 29, director of the center, said she hoped the center would become "a bridge, an empowerment" that helps its clients take advantage of a number of services available in the community.

Services targeted for the center include family counseling, English as a Second Language classes and other seminars on topics of interest

to its clients, such as immigration laws.

Victor said the center, which will have two full-time workers and volunteers assisting those it serves, can develop a steady clientele throughout the year.

The center was funded by \$20,000 from the village, \$80,000 through a federal grant and \$10,000 Omni officials hope to raise from fund-raising efforts.

Organizations that will be involved in the center include the Wheeling Police, the Wheeling Park District, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23, St.

Joseph The Worker Church and the Regional Action Planning Project (R.A.P.P.), a gang prevention program affiliated with Omni.

Officials have not yet set the hours of the center, but some evening times are planned, Victor has said.

Initially, programs at the center will be targeted to the area's Hispanic population, and other ethnic groups such as Polish and Russian immigrants to be served once the facility is up and running.

Victor said that the center could serve as many as 500 local families in the first six months of its existence.

## Airport commission grants lease to Priester Aviation

12-16-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission Wednesday decided to let the airport's first fixed-base fueling operator continue leasing Hangar Three over another company's bid to rent the facility on a monthly basis.

The panel agreed to award Priester Aviation a long-term, monthly lease for the hangar at the southeast end of the airport, and rejected a proposal by Service Aviation, the airport's second FBO, which also wanted to rent it for \$2,400 a month.

Airport commissioners sought a proposal from Priester Aviation after Service Aviation made its proposal to rent the hangar for aircraft storage. Under its current lease with Priester, the commission receives half the profits generated from the hangar, which range from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Priester Aviation originally leased the hangar on a short-term, month-to-month basis because when Wheeling and Prospect Heights acquired the airport in 1986, the dilapidated

building was slated for demolition.

"It does look like that demolition we based that on is not going to happen right away, so we're going to negotiate a long-term lease," said Commission Chairman Dan Quiery.

Priester's new proposal includes giving the commission 60 percent of the profits from Hangar Three, paying a guaranteed minimum monthly rent and funding some improvements in the building. Attorney Lawrence B. Swibel, representing Priester, said the minimum rent and amount of building improvements the company is funding will be negotiated.

Airport officials will start negotiations with Priester by February, 1994, said Quiery. Priester now serves 15 to 20 customers a month from Hangar Three.

Service Aviation President Dennis P. Jans said the decision could force his company to consider expanding to other airports.

"It puts major constraints on our growth at Palwaukee, it inhibits the competitive environment at the airport," he said.

## Wheeling gets top rating for pedestrian safety record

12-16-93  
By DAVE MCKINNEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has received the top rating in Illinois from the AAA-Chicago Motor Club for the village's pedestrian safety record, representatives of the Des Plaines-based travel and insurance company said Wednesday.

The suburb was selected for its pedestrian safety initiatives and for its lack of pedestrian fatalities or injuries during 1992. AAA spokeswoman Anne Blanchard said.

Also recognized for pedestrian safety at a ceremony in Des Plaines, which was attended by Secretary of State George Ryan, were the communities of Arlington Heights, Northbrook, Mount Prospect and Wheaton.

Wheeling, which had only four pedestrian injuries in 1992, was honored for establishing several programs in schools and Wheeling Park District to teach children about traffic safety. In addition, the village has increased patrols at high-accident locations, according to AAA.

"It certainly is a pleasant

"It certainly is a pleasant surprise to be recognized this way."

— Sheila Schultz,  
Wheeling Village President

surprise to be recognized this way, and it goes along with our goal to increase public safety through prevention and education," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said Wednesday.

Wheeling's last pedestrian fatality was in 1989.

AAA also honored 16 Illinois communities that have gone a decade without recording a single pedestrian fatality. Deerfield tops the list at 21 years. Farther down are Lake in the Hills (15 years) and Barrington (11 years).

"For a suburban community to go 20 years without a pedestrian death is pretty remarkable," Ryan said.

## Wheeling prepares for centennial

12-16-93  
and the chance for all participants to play a role in leaving behind a lasting monument to be enjoyed by future generations. All proceeds from the Gala will benefit a Centennial Foundation Plaza, a Village of Wheeling project to commemorate the Village's 100 years of progress. The Gala doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and a variety of entertainment will be spotlighted throughout Chevy Chase, including the show band, The New Odyssey, a piano bar and local musicians such as Wheeling High School's New Dawns and the Senior Center's Pavilion Aires. Complimentary appetizers and sweet table along with a Wheeling birthday cake, will be served and a cash bar featuring a special Gala drink will be available.

"We are already seeing a terrific response from people who live or work in Wheeling," said Debby Santy, Gala chairperson. "We encourage you to get your tickets now to take advantage of the special discount and to be assured you'll be taking part in a special night in Wheeling's history," she said.

Being held at Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Wheeling, the Gala will feature entertainment, food and drink, Wheeling history, a silent

The grand kickoff event to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Village of Wheeling is the Wheeling Centennial Gala, "Celebrate Tomorrow with Yesterday's Memories," to be held Feb. 5, 1994. Tickets are available throughout Wheeling and the organizers of the event encourage residents to obtain tickets early, as there are a limited number of tickets available. In honor of Wheeling's founding year, the ticket price is \$18.94, but any tickets purchased prior to 1994 are being sold at a \$3 pre-centennial year discount. Tickets are available in person in Wheeling at Dornick's Finer Foods, Wal-Mart, First National Bank of Wheeling, Cole Taylor bank, Indian Trails Library, The Pavilion Senior Center, and the Jaycee Tree Lot on Dundee Road

Officially broke ground Dec. 1 for New Perspective Wheeling, the state's first sheltered care facility specializing in the care of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Approximately 50 village officials, representatives of area facilities and community members turned out for the event.

Michael Johnson, vice president of NBD Bank-Mount Prospect, Village President Sheila Shultz and New Perspective of Illinois President Diane Bjorkman turned over the first ceremonial shovel of dirt to begin the festivities. The \$3 million-plus facility will offer those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease 24-hour care and supervision in a safe, residential and home-like environment.

It is estimated that more than 4 million Americans over age 65 will suffer from severe dementia by 2030. The Chicago Chapter Alzheimer's Association estimates that there are a minimum of 100,000 individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake counties alone.

For further information, contact Bjorkman at (708) 465-1100.

## Groundbreaking adds a New Perspective

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# Prisoners to clear tires at Palwaukee

12-21-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is using a more permanent detail of prisoners from work-release programs to step up its efforts to clear thousands of old tires from a site near Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

According to Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr., the Old Tire Division of the Illinois Department of Corrections said the agency would send a work crew of an unspecified number of prisoners from downstate prisons to Palwaukee in December to clear

tires from a 1.79-acre parcel just east of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection.

Airport officials need the site cleared so they can relocate the intersection 570 feet west to expand the safety area between it and Palwaukee's longest runway, so the facility can meet Federal Aviation Administration guidelines.

Unlike 12-man work crews sent to Palwaukee earlier this year, the latest arrivals will be those serving longer terms who can remain on the site for a longer basis.

Those crews came to Palwaukee in October, but did not stay for longer than a day.

State officials estimate there were 40,000 to 50,000 tires on the site, which exceeded their projections.

"Instead of relying on local work-release people to do the job, instead they have some longer term prisoners trained to remove tires," Stewart said.

Starting Dec. 27, the crews will work five days a week for two months to remove up to 2,000 tires a day.

The prisoners will not work on the site if the temperature with the wind chill dips under 10 below zero, said Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant manager for operations and main-

tenance.

The IEPA often uses such crews on cleanups, agency officials have said.

Airport officials discovered the tires after acquiring the parcel from former owner Frank R. Chupich in a lengthy legal battle.

Tires from the former tire dealership and truck terminal will be shredded on site and taken to a Decatur co-generation plant for conversion to energy.

Airport officials will hire a contractor to remove other debris from the site when the crews are finished.

## State increases efforts to clear tires from Palwaukee airport

12-18-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is using a more permanent detail of prisoners from work-release programs to clear thousands of old tires from a site near Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said the Old Tire Division of the Illinois Department of Corrections would send a work crew of an unspecified number of prisoners from down state prisons to Palwaukee this month to clear tires from a 1.8-acre parcel just east of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection.

Airport officials need the site cleared so they can relocate the intersection 570 feet west to expand the safety area between it and Palwaukee's longest runway, therefore satisfying Federal Aviation Administration guidelines.

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a day.

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Airport officials will hire a contractor to remove other debris from the site.

## Palwaukee Airport project flies well ahead of schedule

12-29-93  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Renovations at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, including the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection, are ahead of schedule and could be completed earlier than expected, airport officials said.

The \$83.5 million project to bring the facility in Wheeling up to Federal Aviation Administration standards is now moving smoothly after the start of work was slowed by a delay in federal funding, the officials said.

Bob McAndrews, resident engineer for Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, the engineering firm overseeing the project, estimated that work could be finished two to three months ahead of the expected February 1995 completion date. Construction was recently halted for the winter, airport officials said.

"It's been a very eventful year for the airport. A lot has happened," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. "In my opinion, it's ahead of schedule."

The centerpiece of the project is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz road intersection 575 feet west to expand the safety area

between the road and the airport's longest runway.

Included in the project is the relocation of two bridges on both roads.

"The bridges are 70 percent completed and they'll probably complete them by spring instead of fall. With Hintz Road, if we get a good spring or good summer, we could be done by next fall," McAndrews said.

Both lanes on Hintz Road opened to traffic this fall, with the completion of a storm sewer installation project that had limited travel to a single lane, Stewart said.

McAndrews attributed the early completion date to initially generous estimates on how long construction would take, and the hard work of the crews.

Meanwhile, prisoner work crews will begin work to clear thousands of old tires from a 1.8-acre parcel that will be the site of the relocated intersection.

Airport officials acquired the site after a lengthy legal battle with former owner Frank R. Chupich that lasted for several years.

The polluted site has been an obstacle to completion of the project.



Sheila Schultz, Wheeling Village President, is a Corporate Board member for Northwest Suburban Aid for the Retarded (NSAR). Schultz, along with 33 other business and civic leaders, is helping NSAR to reach its goal of continuing to benefit more than 200 adults with developmental disabilities by supplying vocational, residential and community employment programs. Currently, NSAR is in the midst of a million dollar construction project in the Northwest suburbs to house 21 adults with developmental disabilities.

# Blaze guts Wheeling neighborhood store

1225-93  
By KIM MIKUS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A fire raced through a small, privately-owned Wheeling supermarket Friday, destroying the building and sending customers and employees scurrying out into the cold day.

The blaze at Franklin Finer Foods, at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, apparently started when a stack of plastic foam boxes in the meat area hit a ceiling light fixture and sparked, according to the village manager.

Thick black smoke, which could

be seen for miles, brought traffic in the area to a complete halt for most of the day. One unidentified grocery store employee was treated for smoke inhalation, fire officials said.

The fire broke out at about 9:30 a.m., and in all more than a dozen fire departments aided in putting it out.

Observers stood in the cold and watched as flames jumped between 100 and 200 feet into the sky. The roof of the brick supermarket was destroyed as well as the entire

See **BLAZE** on Page 5



Smoke billows from the roof of Franklin Foods, in Wheeling, which was destroyed by fire Friday. The fire apparently started in the meat department.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

Continued from Page 1

inside of the store.

"All the locals always went there," said Jeff Blackford, who lives about a mile from the store. He rode his bicycle to the fire scene when he heard firefighters called to the business on his police scanner.

The fact that the fire raced so quickly through the store is attributed to several aspects, fire officials said.

These include the older age of the building and the fact that a grocery store is filled with burnable materials, such as cardboard and paper, officials said.

Mundelein firefighter Mike Lawrence speculated that the fire also spread quickly because of the structure of the roof, a style often seen in older buildings.

"The roof is kind of a half-moon structure made of wood. And once a portion of the roof gives way it's very dangerous," Lawrence said.

In addition, fire officials could not confirm whether the old building had a sprinkler system, although several said they do not think it did. That conjecture also was made by Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who was at the scene.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said fire officials on Friday believed the fire started in the meat department, when a light

fixture was knocked by one of many plastic foam boxes being stacked in the area.

"Right now it is speculated that a Styrofoam box hit a light bulb that sparked and caught fire," Anderson said. "It went up real fast."

Fire officials would not confirm the cause of the blaze and said they are continuing to investigate. Wheeling Fire Lt. Richard Theobald said it is unknown how much damage was caused, but he said it was the most damaging fire in Wheeling this year.

Firefighters from 14 departments, including Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Libertyville, Buffalo Grove, Glenview and Northbrook, assisted in preventing the fire from spreading to the other six stores in the strip mall.

"It appears like the fire has been contained to the grocery store," Anderson said. "They're putting as much water as they can on the building," Anderson said as firefighters directed water onto the store from four aerial hoses as well as from the ground.

An adjacent store suffered some minor damage from smoke and water, and another store in the strip mall was damaged slightly from smoke, said Wheeling firefighter Jay Gallant.

In the privately owned grocery store, customers and employees



knew each other by their first name, said people standing outside. Nearby residents who do their weekly shopping at the business described the fire as "tragic."

The store opened more than 20 years ago as a Jewel. The current owners, who could not be reached for comment, started their business about five years ago, village officials say.

Schultz, who comforted store owners of other businesses in the strip mall Friday morning, said she was planning on shopping at Franklin's the day of the fire.

"This is my store. I was coming here this afternoon," Schultz said.

"You hate to have to observe this. The store is wonderful for the people of this area," Schultz said.

# Firefighters describe store inferno

12-26-93  
By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Firefighters from Mount Prospect and Buffalo Grove said Saturday they had a harrowing escape Christmas Eve in the fire that destroyed a Wheeling grocery store and that still kept roads closed for part of Christmas Day.

As investigators combed the still-smoldering wreckage Saturday, and city officials worked to reopen Dundee Road, firefighters were reporting that eight of them just had gotten off the roof of Franklin Finer Foods when it collapsed in a giant fireball.

The last one to leave the roof, Mount Prospect firefighter Tom Willming, was swinging from the building's parapet onto a ladder when the roof caved in.

"The smoke and flames were actually on me," Willming said. "We could have had a lot of people seriously hurt."

Willming was treated at the scene for a first-degree burn on his hand.

"He made it with literally seconds to spare," said Keith MacIsaac, chief of the Wheeling Fire Department.

The fire destroyed the privately owned market, but firefighters were able to cut a hole in the roof to prevent the inferno from spreading to the six other stores in the strip shopping center near Dundee and Milwaukee roads. In all, 19 suburban fire departments helped put out the blaze.

Meanwhile, the wreckage was still too hot Saturday to let investigators do much to determine the cause of the fire, which resulted in about \$750,000 in damage.

The investigation will take about a week to complete because heavy equipment is needed to remove the debris, MacIsaac



Wheeling firefighter Joe Deppong surveys damage to Franklin Finer Foods at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue Christmas morning after a fire devastated the market Friday.

Photo by Ray Carlin

explained.

Witnesses said the fire apparently started in the market's meat department when a pile of plastic foam boxes hit a light fixture, causing it to spark.

An employee rushed to get a fire extinguisher but could not put out the blaze in time as the flames consumed the Styrofoam cartons and plastic wrapping stored in the meat section, MacIsaac said.

"The fire developed quickly and totally engulfed the building," he said. "The store itself is a total

loss."

The fire started at about 9:30 a.m., sending flames more than 100 feet into the air and billowing black smoke that could be seen for miles.

The fire moved quickly because food shelves are typically stocked with highly flammable food and boxes, MacIsaac said.

The way the store's arched roof was built, using a bow-string truss construction, also contributed to the fire's rapid spread, the chief

See **BLAZE** on Page 4



Continued from Page 1

said.

"That's what led to the early roof failure and the fireball," MacIsaac said.

There was no sprinkler system, but none was required because the building was built more than 20 years ago before sprinkler laws were passed, MacIsaac said.

"Had it been sprinklered, this type of tragedy probably would have been avoided," he said.

The A-Better Vacuum store next to the market sustained smoke and water damage, and other stores in the strip mall sustained minor smoke damage, MacIsaac said. All of them should be able to open for business Monday, he said.

Saturday morning a Wheeling Fire Department engine crew kept an eye on two small fires still smoldering inside the gutted store. Firefighters could not reach the

fires because they were covered with heavy debris, firefighter Joe Deppong said.

Inside the store, steam rose out of a twisted maze of beams scattered on the ground. Icicles covered the beams and the surviving walls.

In front of the store, soggy greeting cards lay strewn on the ground. But a row of gum machines remained standing just inside the store, and red holiday ribbons still hung from the remaining brick.

Police kept a section of Dundee Road west of Milwaukee Avenue closed Saturday morning so firefighters could reach a hydrant across the street in case the fire flared up again.

The blaze was so intense that at one point five ladder trucks were battling it.

MacIsaac said the fire was the worst he had seen during his 3 1/2 years as chief.

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e of Roselle; her  
ary Joan (Patrick)  
Rolling Meadows;  
ons Sean Patrick  
d Ryan Andrew Ked  
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receded in death by  
Walter C.  
will be from 2 to 9  
Dec. 26 at the funer-

preciated.  
ation (708) 253-0168.

**Lendvay**  
Lendvay, 56, of Mun-

3090.

As a public service to our readers, the Daily Herald lists concise details of area deaths, including name, age and hometown and the name and phone number of the funeral home handling arrangements. Information regarding fees for detailed obituaries is available through the funeral home or by calling the Daily Herald at 870-3666.

To report the death of a Social Security or SSI Beneficiary or to inquire about survivor benefits,

## ons ahead of schedule

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Meanwhile, prisoner work crews  
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Airport officials acquired the site  
after a lengthy legal battle with for-  
mer owner Frank R. Chupich.

The polluted site has been an  
obstacle to completion of the pro-  
ject. Wheeling and Prospect  
Heights own and operate the air-  
port under an intergovernmental  
agreement.

12-25-93

# Palwaukee Airport renovations ahead of schedule

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Renovations at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, including the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection, are ahead of schedule and could be completed earlier than expected, airport officials said.

The \$83.5 million project to bring the facility in Wheeling up to Federal Aviation Administration

standards is now moving smoothly after the start of work was slowed by a delay in federal funding, the officials said.

Bob McAndrews, resident engineer for the Crawford, Murphy & Tilly engineering firm overseeing the construction project, estimated that work could be finished two to three months ahead of the expected February 1995 completion date. Construction was recently halted

for the winter, airport officials said.

"It's been a very eventful year for the airport. A lot has happened," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. "In my opinion, it's ahead of schedule."

The centerpiece of the project is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz road intersection 575 feet west of its current location, to expand the safety area between the road and the airport's longest runway.

Included in the project is the relocation of two bridges on both roads and the movement of utilities.

"The bridges are 70 percent completed and they'll probably complete them by spring instead of fall. With Hintz Road, if we get a good spring or good summer, we could be done by next fall," McAndrews said.

Both lanes on Hintz Road opened to traffic this fall, with the comple-

tion of a storm sewer installation project that had limited travel to a single lane, Stewart said.

McAndrews attributed the early completion date to initially generous estimates on how long construction would take, and the hard work of the crews.

Meanwhile, prisoner work crews will begin work next week to clear thousands of old tires from a 1.8-acre parcel that will be the site of

the relocated intersection. The project is being overseen by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Airport officials acquired the site after a lengthy legal battle with former owner Frank R. Chupich.

The polluted site has been an obstacle to completion of the project. Wheeling and Prospect Heights own and operate the airport under an intergovernmental agreement.

# Fire destroys Franklin Foods

12-30-93  
By MICHAEL ULREICH

STAFF WRITER  
*Courtesy*

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz has to look for a new place to shop for groceries since Franklin Finer Foods burned down Friday.

Schultz was on the scene of the fire at around 9:30 a.m. last Friday when nine employees and an undetermined amount of customers had to flee the store at 291 E. Dundee Road after a fire apparently started in a meat-cutting area.

"I'm devastated for a lot of reasons," Schultz said. "It's a tragedy for the owners, employees and the people who shop there. I do have a fondness for smaller

**It's a tragedy for the owners, employees and the people who shop there. I do have a fondness for smaller stores.**

**Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz**

stores. Everything that I needed was there. The employees were so nice, it gave you the feeling of a neighborhood store. Everyone I know had the same feeling."

A miscommunication between firefighters and their commanders nearly resulted in a greater tragedy that just a closed food store.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said that 16 firefighters were working around the roof of the store and four had actually been on the roof shortly before it collapsed. One last firefighter was on the top of a ladder when the roof collapsed, MacIsaac said.

"We did have a close call," MacIsaac said. "There was a miscommunication on the roof and the last man on the roof had just got on the ladder when the roof collapsed and he had to



Tim J. Tufty/Plains Press

Three days after the blaze, not much remains of Franklin Foods in Wheeling. Damage to the building, which did not have sprinklers, was estimated at \$750,000. The

exact cause of the fire has not yet been determined because heavy equipment is needed to remove the collapsed roof from the rest of the debris.

move smartly."

MacIsaac said the roof was "bowstring truss," a strong construction method for normal building purposes but which can be "catastrophic" in a fire. The fire, in that respect, was a "learning process," MacIsaac said.

Franklin Finer Foods, located in what was known as the Wheeling Plaza just west of Milwaukee Avenue, was originally a Jewel Food Store and then a Country Dairy before the current owners bought it approximately five years ago, Schultz said.

MacIsaac estimated damage to the store at \$750,000. The cause of the fire won't be determined for a few days, he said, because heavy equipment is needed to remove the collapsed roof from the rest of the debris. But witnesses told MacIsaac that they saw sparks from a light fixture on top of Styrofoam trays used to cut meat.

One firefighter suffered a minor burn on the back of his hand, MacIsaac said, and a store butcher was treated for smoke inhalation

at Holy Family Hospital and released the same day.

Some 19 departments responded to a second and third alarm by Wheeling, including Libertyville and Buffalo Grove, as part of the Northwest Suburban Mutual Aid agreement.

MacIsaac said he called for a second alarm at 9:44 a.m. due to the size of the building and called for a third alarm at 10:29 a.m. for additional manpower so firefighters could receive some relief from the cold weather conditions. The fire was called in at 9:38, MacIsaac said, and was completely doused around noon.

"The building presented the biggest problems," MacIsaac said. "The building had no sprinkler system. Had there been a sprinkler system, the damage would not have been nearly as extensive as it was. Once the roof fell, we were able to redirect our protection to the rest of the shopping center and abandon the grocery store, so there was a substantial saving of the shopping center. A number of the businesses

were back in business the same day."

"We were able to keep the fire from spreading," said Libertyville Lt. Richard Greene, part of a four-man contingent sent by the Libertyville Fire Department.

Apparently the building had been constructed before village ordinances were enacted requiring all new commercial and industrial facilities to have sprinkler systems, MacIsaac said. He estimated the building's age at around 36 years.

MacIsaac said two nearby stores received minor smoke and water damage.

Bill Malcom, owner of A-Better Vacuum Service at 281 E. Dundee Road, said he became aware of the fire when police entered his business and told him his staff would have to leave. Malcom was at the store Monday cleaning up the smoke and water damage. He said he expected to be back open later that day. He said his insurance company had yet to set a damage estimate.



Tim Olk

A firefighter works the hose while flames engulf Franklin Foods Friday morning.

# Wheeling OKs health-code changes

1-4-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved revisions to two health ordinances that would improve the reporting of food-related illnesses and set guidelines for the disposal of bulky items.

Cooperating with an initiative from the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of area communities, the Wheeling village board approved an agreement with the Cook County Department of Public Health, requiring that agency to tell village officials of any

reports it receives about food-borne illnesses received from local businesses.

"It's to formalize the mechanism to communicate back and forth," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "It's making sure we're sharing the information."

There currently are no requirements for county officials to inform municipalities of complaints they receive about food-borne illnesses from local businesses such as restaurants or grocery stores. People complaining about such

illnesses can either call county officials or the village about those matters.

The agreement also requires the village to report food-related illnesses to the county.

While there are currently no food-illness complaints being handled by the village, Anderson said the agreement is taken more seriously by Wheeling officials than those in other towns because of the many food serving businesses along the village's famed "Restaurant Row."

Wheeling trustees also approved a revision to the health code for

bulk disposal.

The revision, which covers businesses and residences, requires items too large to fit in a dumpster to be disposed of within seven days of being discarded.

Anderson said that while Wheeling does not have a problem with bulk disposal, the revised ordinance gives village officials a way to ensure such items as old sofas don't create an eyesore.

Penalties for violations of the ordinance could range from \$50 to \$500, but the village would first issue warnings, Anderson said.

# 1993 The Top Ten Stories

CountrySide - 12-30-93

## Fountain celebrates village's 100th year

**1** Wheeling village and park officials joined hands to help pave the way for the upcoming celebration of Wheeling's centennial.

The village and park decided to combine to plan and fund a Centennial Fountain Plaza in the middle of town to help residents celebrate the village's 100th year.

Following a meeting with architects and the two boards in December, a preliminary design of the plaza, planned for a portion of the 18 acres of land between the village hall and the Aquatic and Recreation centers, is expected to be ready for review in a couple of months.

The fountain is proposed to be a zero-depth pool measuring 50 feet by 50 feet and is expected to be completed in time for dedication by June 22. Officials envision that it would draw residents to the center of the town and would fit in with the nearby 88-acre Heritage Park.

In the coming months, officials will work out arrangements on how to share cost of constructing the fountain, which would not be quite as high as Chicago's Buckingham Fountain in the city's downtown.

## Aquatic center makes big splash

**2** Wheeling's residents found it easier to cool off during the hot summer months with the completion of the \$5.3 million aquatic center.

Park District officials were hoping the new center would make a splash, and it seemed to meet their expectations. About 1,000 patrons daily visited the facility, which is tucked away off Northwest Parkway, behind the Recreation Center under construction.

Only a handful of communities can boast of such a facility, which some residents feel has helped to boost the village's images. The Aquatic Center will be joined next year by the Rec-



Pioneer Press photo

Wheeling residents found an exciting new way to keep cool when the Park District's Aquatic Center opened in the spring. The pool exceeded expectations for attendance.

recreation Center.

"Wheeling's always had a reputation of being a step below the rest of the (northwest Chicago) suburbs," Ken Zaretsky noted in June when the water facility opened. "The aquatic center, and the recreation center with it are the first step to coming out of that image."

The new facility has been a bread winner. By Labor Day, the pool had collected \$50,000, exceeding the park district's estimate of \$44,000 by June 12. The park district expected to collect \$356,000 during the entire season, a profit over the \$312,000 budgeted for expenses, including the salaries and wages for employees, pool supplies and pool maintenance.

## Local sales tax replaces car stickers

**3** Wheeling village trustees voted in September to eliminate vehicle sticker fees in favor of an additional home-rule sales tax of .25 cents a dollar.

Prescription drugs, gro-

ceries and products that require title registration are exempt from the new sales tax, which goes into effect Jan. 1. The new tax will generate an extra \$600,000 annually over and above the \$3.4 million the village collects from its share of state sales tax.

At the same time, trustees eliminated the village vehicle registration program, which yielded only \$410,000 a year with an overhead cost of between \$60,000 and \$80,000 in enforcement. The estimated 25,000 vehicle owners in Wheeling will not have to buy stickers when their current ones expire by March 31 or June 30.

## Trustees approve nursing home

**4** A 215-bed, three-story nursing home was approved by Wheeling trustees in October.

"I believe that it is a good development and it will be good for the village, and it will not be detrimental to the residents," said Village President Sheila

Schultz, as she tried to allay the concerns of neighbors who had opposed the facility. She broke the 3-3 tie vote by trustees to give the proposal the green light.

Lombard-based Lexington Square, Inc. was given approval to build the facility on a 2.5-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Hintz and Elmhurst roads.

Some neighbors who had opposed the facility were concerned about its potential impact on flooding in the neighborhood. Others didn't like the height of the building or the possibility that it might be converted into a mental institution in the future, should the need dry up for a senior nursing home.

Lexington Health Care of Wheeling Inc. will be a 24-hour nursing home with 150 employees.

## Police staff reach contract

**5** The village and its non-certified police staff inked a new, two-year contract in October. The pact promised 20 radio operators, commu-

nity service officers and records personnel a 3 percent pay increase for the first year.

The salary schedules for the three groups of staff covered by the new agreement differed slightly. Under the pact, salaries for radio operators will increase by 3.5 percent for each of the two years, with base pay rising from \$32,344 to \$34,691 at the top of the scale. For the second year, base pay will rise to \$25,914 from \$24,206.

Community service officers will receive a 3 percent increase during the first year of the contract and 3.5 percent in the second year. As a result, pay increase will be \$31,504 from \$29,516 at the top of the scale, while starting pay will be up from \$22,025 to \$23,508 during the second year.

For records personnel, increase in pay will be 3.5 percent, 1.5 percent and 3.5 percent at different times of the contract span.

The village had earlier approved a similar contract for sworn police officers.

## President wins fifth term

**6** Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz swept her party to victory in April for a fifth term in office as head of the board of trustees.

Schultz's Heritage Party comprising incumbents Elizabeth Hartmann, Robert Todd and Wayne Wisinski beat challengers in the opposing party that included Judy Abruscato challenging Schultz, Sue Smedinghoff, Cheryl Fitzpatrick and Mike Lynch as trustees.

Abruscato challenged the village president under the banner of Citizens for Wheeling. Abruscato, who had two years remaining on her term as trustee, remains on the board.

"It's not coattails. Just good candidates who worked very hard," declared a jubilant Schultz on election night. Schultz's clerk candidate, Jeanne Selander, defeated Mike Kurgan soundly in that race.

(Continued on page 14)

Does NOT pertain to Wheeling

# Wheeling trustees give support to 10-house subdivision

# Cause of supermarket fire elusive

## Investigation by Wheeling officials comes up empty

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire officials Thursday officially closed the investigation of a Dec. 24 fire that destroyed a local supermarket, listing its cause as undetermined.

Wheeling fire officials said after an extensive investigation by firefighters and insurance companies, the cause of a fire that gutted the Franklin's Finer Foods store at 291 E. Dundee Road remains unknown.

But Wheeling fire officials said that the fire does not have suspi-

cious origins.

"We wound up with 18 hours at the site, and probably spent another 10 hours going over building plans and interviewing people who worked there," said Wheeling Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Perricone describing the investigation.

Wheeling fire officials said the fire started in an attic above a meat cutting room at the store, but they do not know what triggered it.

One unidentified store employee was treated for smoke inhalation, fire officials said.

As a part of the investigation, fire

officials brought in heavy equipment to unearth debris from the gutted building.

Initially, investigators focused on the rear of the building where witness said the blaze may have started when a stack of plastic foam boxes may have been ignited by a ceiling light fixture.

The three alarm blaze that Wheeling firefighters put out with help from 19 area fire departments caused damage estimated at \$750,000. Witnesses saw the blaze produce flames jumping 200 feet high.

The Kumkoski family, which ran the store, was uncertain Thursday if it would reopen the business at another location.

"At this time, we don't know. We have to wait and see where we're at financially," said Elaine Kumkoski, who operated the store with her husband, Frank.

Kumkoski also said she was uncertain how much they would receive from insurers because their financial records were destroyed in the blaze.

The family employed about 25 people at the store, she said.

# Drug abuse, transportation top list of area concerns

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Substance abuse, public transportation and unemployment — in that order — are viewed as top concerns in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, according to results of a recently released United Way survey.

The concerns were voiced in responses to the United Way's first needs assessment survey in four years of a total of 213 residents and 65 "key informants."

The key informants consisted of elected village officials, business owners and executives, school administrators, religious leaders and police chiefs. The poll was conducted between January and October of last year and was designed to help the United Way in allocating funds this year to the 21 agencies it supports in northwest communities.

The 213 respondents of the survey represent 7 percent of the 2,850 households polled. More than 200 surveys were sent to the "key informants," with 65 of them returned. Female residents make up 52.8 percent of the respondents, while 46.7 percent were male.

In the survey, 46 percent of the respondents ranked lack of transportation as the top concern among resi-

dents, with 39 percent of them considering unemployment, crime and drug abuse as next on the list of concerns.

But, according to results of the key informants' poll, 84 percent of the respondents consider alcohol abuse a problem, followed by drug abuse with 76.8 percent. Unemployment and lack of means of public transportation tied as the third area of concern with 74 percent of the respondents ranking it as such.

United Way Executive Secretary Lynne Benson attributed concerns over transportation partly to lack of awareness about the means available in the area.

Both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove don't have commuter train stations, but are scheduled to be on the Wisconsin Central line in the next couple of years.

"The bus lines we know are not being used. We don't know why," she said. "I think people feel comfortable getting into their cars. . . . We are not a waiting population any more."

Corporate downsizing and consequent layoffs are blamed for increasing unemployment in the area, Benson said. "There are more people in middle management laid off by companies," she said.

Respondents were also allowed to write personal and confidential comments on their surveys. A sample of the results is as follows:

■ On substance abuse: "With the high correlation between substance abuse and: child abuse, domestic violence, crime, teenage pregnancy, employment, poverty, mental health, medical care, and delinquency, we need to be better informed about this disease. There are too few, affordable resources for the families of addicts to receive counseling and help."

■ On transportation: "We don't have our own train station, therefore we have to travel by bus or car to other areas — more pollution. RTA good about Park & Rides and service to trains."

■ On unemployment: "Many people have moved out of the area because they cannot afford to continue living in their houses while being out of work. Many of the people who are unemployed are not necessarily the sole wage earner in the family, but are the ones who are the major breadwinner."

Other issues the survey polled people on included, teen pregnancy, housing, medical care, adoption services and daycare.

"It keeps with our desire to have single-family (houses) if at all possible," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Manda plans to build houses with about 2,450 square feet with four bedrooms, two- and three-car garages and asking prices ranging from \$230,000 to \$280,000, he said.

Manda added that construction on the development could start next spring.

The village board granted zoning variations allowing Manda to

"I think we should stay with our ordinances and require the 15 feet," said Trustee Robert G. Todd.

The Harmony Homes parcel has single-family houses on its north and east sides, with town houses and apartments on its west and south sides, respectively.

Previously, the proposal was endorsed by the Wheeling plan commission.

Manda said the project will be built in phases.

money," said John Zimmerman, an engineer for the development.

The developer argued that extending the walkway an additional 3 feet would reduce the curb area and trees would have to be removed. Zimmerman said the proposed walkway does not connect to another sidewalk.

Wheeling officials said trees there are "nuisance" species, such as Willows and Elms, that shed seeds and don't comply with village codes.

build the subdivision with slightly narrower roads and a smaller cul-de-sac, due to the small size of the site.

However, the trustees nixed Manda's proposal to install 12 feet of walkway along the east side of the subdivision on Cornell Avenue.

The village board said he instead should extend the walkway an additional 3 feet, giving it a 15-foot length.

"I don't think the 15 feet is required, and we're spending more

# Liquor store cashier charged with alcohol sale to a minor

If Diginolamo is found guilty of selling to a minor, the store can be fined from \$35 to \$500 per violation and have its liquor license suspended, which would close the establishment for a time under village code.

For repeated violations, village code gives the commission the authority to permanently suspend the establishment's liquor license.

Selling alcohol to minors is a violation of village codes and state laws, while failing to check a prospective buyer's identification violates Wheeling ordinances.

In September, the liquor control commission fined the owners of Bell Liquors, 767 W. Dundee Road, \$500 and ordered it closed for six days this past October after a cashier admitted to selling alcohol to minors without first asking for the proper identification.

That store had previously been cited for illegal liquor sales to minors in 1986 and 1987.

While Wheeling does not require liquor sellers to take special courses to be aware of the rules, police often have seminars to inform them about village codes.

Wheeling officials are charging the cashier of a local liquor store with selling beer to a minor and failing to check the purchaser's identification.

Todd L. Diginolamo, of 420 Inland Drive, Wheeling, a cashier at A-1 Liquors at 50 N. Wolf Road, is being charged by the village with selling a six pack of beer to Tyler Berg, 18, on the evening of Oct. 16.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said an officer saw Berg purchase the six pack from Diginolamo, who allegedly did not ask for any identification proving he was at least 21.

The officer then followed Berg in his patrol car and later arrested him, said Haeger.

"The officer said he looked young," Haeger said the patrolman reported.

At a recent hearing before the village's liquor control commission, Diginolamo asked for a continuance. The panel set the new hearing date for Jan. 24.

The store has not previously been cited for violating Wheeling's liquor codes, said village officials.

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved a developer's proposal to build a single-family housing subdivision on the southwest side of the village.

In a 6-0 vote, trustees endorsed the plan by George Manda of Barrington to build the 10-house Harmony Homes subdivision on 2.3 acres on the southwest corner of Hintz Road and Cornell Avenue.

# Fewer communities stuck on vehicle stickers

## Cost driving program out of the suburbs

1-5-94  
BY LAURA JANOTA  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It seemed natural in the young, growing suburbs that village governments looking for new sources of money would turn toward automobiles, which helped build the region.

The result, in most suburban communities, were vehicle sticker programs that required residents to buy a local registration tag every year. Such programs had the widespread appeal of bringing in a steady stream of revenue without forcing village officials to raise property taxes.

"We had village stickers and an appropriate fee almost since the day the village was incorporated," recalled Charles J. Zettek, retired

president of Elk Grove Village, which incorporated in 1956.

Times may be changing. Though most communities still rely on the revenue, a few officials now say vehicle sticker programs requiring residents to buy registrations are becoming too costly and too tough to enforce for some suburbs in Lake and Cook counties.

Although sticker programs can bring in as much as \$1 million annually in some larger suburbs, the programs have become something of a nuisance in communities such as Wheeling and Vernon Hills, two suburbs that will scrap their sticker programs later this year.

"It's tough to enforce. It's irritating and it's ineffective," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said of the community's vehicle

sticker program, which will be phased out beginning March 31.

While vehicle sticker sales meant up to \$420,000 annually for Wheeling's coffers, they have cost the town up to \$90,000 to administer. Village officials estimate that more than 10 percent of vehicles in the village don't have stickers.

The village has enacted a .25 percent sales tax to replace the vehicle sticker program.

"We have residents voicing complaints because they don't realize they need a sticker. We've got complaints from people who receive tickets," said Kathy Ryg, village clerk of Vernon Hills, where the sticker program, producing about \$45,000 a year in revenues, will be

See STICKER on Page 4

### Vehicle sticker fees

Wheeling officials will drop their vehicle sticker program later this year, joining a minority group of suburban communities that no longer collect such fees. Here's how other communities compare:

Town	Yearly fee	Town	Yearly fee
Unincorporated Cook	\$25	Barrington Hills	\$15
Buffalo Grove	\$22.50	Bartlett	\$15
Arlington Heights	\$25	Des Plaines	\$15**
Wheeling	\$20*	Hanover Park	\$15
Elk Grove Village	\$20	Hoffman Estates	\$15
Mount Prospect	\$20**	Barrington	\$10
Palatine	\$20	Inverness	\$10
Prospect Heights	\$20	South Barrington	\$10
Rolling Meadows	\$20	Streamwood	\$10

Fees reflect charges for basic stickers only and do not include discounts, late charges or fees for special vehicles. Some towns charge less for seniors and other special groups.

\*Fee will be discontinued July 1, 1994 \*\* Fee expected to increase later this year.

Source: Daily Herald news reports

Daily Herald Graphic

### Villages Junk Auto Stickers

1-10-94  
Tribune - 1-10-94  
Vernon Hills and Wheeling are doing away with automobile stickers, saying they're not worth the hassle.

In Vernon Hills, the \$5 stickers generate about \$50,000 in revenue, village officials said, but they also generate a heap of resentment among residents and require a great deal of staff work.

Similarly, in Wheeling, the stickers generate \$420,000 in revenue,

officials said, but cost almost \$90,000 for printing and labor.

Vernon Hills will hand out free stickers, however, because many motorists fear an unstickered car is a target for tickets in towns such as Chicago that do require a sticker, Village Clerk Kathy Ryg said.

To recoup lost revenues, Wheeling has imposed a local sales tax of one-fourth of 1 percent, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

### Community Center becomes center of activity as hoped

1-12-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Now that it is open, the Wheeling Community Resource Center is becoming the center of local activity its organizers hoped for, its director said.

Formed by a partnership of Omni Youth Services and the village of Wheeling, the center is only the second in the area aside from a similar one in the East Park Apartments in Rolling Meadows geared to serving minority and low-income residents with a variety of social services.

"As long as we do the community outreach, the rest of the community has found out about it," said Director Olga Victor. "We're slowly but surely getting a multi-cultural response."

Located at 54 N. Wolf Road at the Center Plaza Shopping Center in Wheeling, Victor said that so far two or three residents drop by daily and many others make phone calls.

The center had its grand opening Dec. 15.

Those using the center needed help with such matters as filling out public aid applications, getting legal help for

"As long as we do the community outreach, the rest of the community has found out about it."

— Director Olga Victor

housing disputes and locating English As A Second Language classes.

The ESL classes are being held by Northwest Suburban High School District 214 officials at nearby Wheeling High School, said Victor.

While the services of the resource center are mainly aimed at Hispanics, Victor said that others from diverse ethnic backgrounds are going to the storefront facility as well.

January programs at the center include a driving rules and child safety workshop by Wheeling Police on January 13, and Furst Temporary Services will hold a job recruitment session there for clerical and factory positions Jan. 18.

Later that day, an attorney will discuss naturalization and immigration laws at the center.

Continued from Page 1

disbanded beginning this summer.

"There was a great deal of administrative time being spent on it," said Vernon Hills Police Chief Gary Kupsak, who estimated it cost at least \$2,500 of the \$19,000 the village's fine program brought in to find scofflaws and issue citations.

At the same time, the stickers are no longer needed to track vehicle registrations — another purpose of the stickers — because that information can be retrieved almost instantaneously by computers through the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, Kupsak said.

"It will be a public relations positive for us not to have to deal with people who are not buying their stickers," he added.

Besides Vernon Hills and Wheeling, sticker programs have been stopped because of concerns about cost and enforcement in tiny Third Lake as well as Aurora and Naperville.

Not all communities, however, are sold on the idea that vehicle sticker programs aren't worth the trouble.

"We've identified \$20 million in road programs that are needed. It's a matter of trying to come up with the funds to address those needs," Mount Prospect Finance Director David Jenson said.

The village is raising sticker fees for automobiles to \$30 from \$20 beginning in May and hopes to

realize more than \$1 million in revenues from them in 1994.

In Arlington Heights, where sticker prices went up \$5 last year to \$25 for passenger vehicles, there's also hope of raising more than \$1 million. And officials there believe stickers are useful for more than just revenue.

"It's an extra tool to help us identify vehicles," Arlington Heights Police Lt. Michael Ossler said. "License plates can be changed a lot easier than taking stickers off of windshields."

Many agree there's a high cost to administering and enforcing the sticker program.

"I still feel that it's probably the most inefficient way we raise revenue in the village," Buffalo Grove Finance Director William Brimm said. Officials in Buffalo Grove considered dropping the sticker program but decided to keep it.

"I think at some point you'll see a lot of communities dropping it," he said.

## Wheeling community center to celebrate King's birthday

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The recently opened Wheeling Community Resource Center will be the site of a celebration Friday, Jan. 21, to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Wheeling Township Unity Task Force and the Local Spiritual Assembly of Baha'i of Buffalo Grove will host a celebration of the late civil rights leader's birthday. The event will be held at the center from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. that day.

The center is located in the Center Plaza Shopping Center at 54 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

Kamal Zaretzky, president of the task force, a local group that promotes ethnic harmony, said the event will include four grade-school children doing a re-enactment of King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Also featured that evening will be a presentation from Blacks United In Progress, a black student group at Wheeling High School, she said. Speaking at the event will be Wheeling High School counselor Freddie Mitchell, who will recount her

experiences during the civil rights era in the 1960s.

The Baha'i Youth Workshop of Chicago will do dances and raps promoting racial unity at the celebration as well, Zaretzky said.

"One of the things we would like to do in remembering Dr. King's life is we would like to rekindle the inspiration for achieving race unity. We hope the function brings people together," Zaretzky said.

Zaretzky also said that the event was not scheduled for a date closer to King's birthday on Saturday, Jan. 15, or its traditional observance on Monday, Jan. 17, because of scheduling conflicts.

There is no admission charge, she said.

The center opened this year as a partnership between Omni Youth Services of Buffalo Grove and the village of Wheeling to provide services to low-income and minority Wheeling residents.

The center is only the second in the area targeted to serving those residents whose needs were not adequately addressed by other agencies, according to the center's organizers.

## Village to kick off its centennial with Gala

The Wheeling Jaycees remind village residents that the event of the season is almost upon us. The Wheeling Centennial Gala, the kick-off event for a year-long centennial celebration honoring Wheeling's 100 year anniversary, is just over a week away.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling. Gala-goers will be treated to complimentary appetizers and sweet table, a piano bar, fabulous decorations, and a variety of entertainment, including The New Dawns from Wheeling High School, the Pavilion-Aires Chorus, and The New Odyssey show band.

Bob Chinn's Crab House in Wheeling is preparing their famous mai-tais as the Gala Drink which will come in a souvenir glass, and Sauer's Bake Shop of Wheeling has designed a huge anniversary cake.

Attendees will also take part in a silent auction featuring gift packages from area businesses, including air fare, jewelry, and fine dining.

Get your tickets now. Call 566-8618 for information.

## New Year's DUI arrests decreasing

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

The advice, "Don't drink and drive," seems to be sinking into the consciousness of New Year's Eve revelers in the area, reducing the number of potentially dangerous drivers during the holidays.

Wheeling police made "zero" arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol on New Year's Eve, according to Police Chief Michael Haeger.

And only one DUI arrest was made in Buffalo Grove the same night, said Cpl. Scott Kristiansen of the traffic safety unit.

No arrests were made the previous year, Kristiansen said. The number of DUI arrests made on New Year's Eve in 1992 were not readily available, Haeger said.

Police are crediting public awareness and personal safety measures taken by holiday celebrants for the steady decrease in the number of drivers arrested in the area for driving under the influence.

"I think with all the advertising, all the public information (about drunk driving) ... people are making plans to stay places (after drinking on New Year's Eve)," Kristiansen said.

"More and more people are doing that ... making arrangements if they are downtown to stay where they are," he added.

Haeger said Wheeling hasn't had a problem with holiday drunk drivers for several years.

Unlike in some communities where more officers are put on the streets on New Year's Eve, Wheeling police needed no extra hands than officers on regular patrol, Haeger said.

On the other hand, two more traffic unit officers were on hand in Buffalo Grove between Christmas week and New Year's Day to help keep an eye on drunk drivers, Kristiansen said.

## Village heads into centennial

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Planning a party for just several people can be quite a chore, and more so for a yearlong centennial celebration of a village of nearly 30,000 residents.

That's why ensuring a smooth celebration of Wheeling's 100th birthday is among Village President Sheila Schultz's priorities for 1994 which also include transportation and road improvement projects.

"I think any time people get together and reflect on the past, it brings the community together," she said.

"I certainly expect this to give us new enthusiasm and an encouragement for the projects ahead of us — a new pride in the community," Schultz added.

### Gala year

As planned, celebrations for the "exciting year for Wheeling" will begin in February and continue throughout the year. The festivities will include a gala to be held at Chevy Chase in February, a fashion show, a Civil War re-

### Station

Schultz said construction of the new train station is a "significant activity" for her village, and "it becomes very important because of the Clean Air Act."

The federal regulation mandates the Chicago area and other metropolitan areas around the country to have in place measures to reduce the number of commuter vehicles by 1996 or face penalties that will include losing federal funds for traffic mitigation.

Relocation of the Wolf and Hintz Road intersection with traffic signals is another project village officials are setting their eyes on this year, the village president said.

Work is expected to begin this year on the Lake-Cook-Milwaukee Avenue overpass, and the long-awaited Milwaukee Avenue improvements will move forward, too.

"Also within the year, we expect the redevelopment of the tax increment financing area to be started. Combined with the Milwaukee Avenue improvements, this should stimulate further redevelopment of the business district," Schultz said.

enactment, a special parade and fireworks, and dedication of a Centennial Fountain Plaza this summer in the center of town near the village hall.

"It is also a year when many projects that we have been working on for some time will be coming to fruition," Schultz said in a written statement this week. "Several of those involve transportation improvements that will make getting around the village easier for us all."

One of the transportation projects is the proposed Wisconsin Central Commuter Line, which would give Wheeling access to Antioch to the north, O'Hare Airport, Chicago's Union Station, and all the suburbs in between. This would be the first new commuter line in the region in 70 years, according to Schultz.

Wheeling is among about a dozen area communities targeted for new Metra stations, expected to service the proposed commuter line by 1995 or 1996. The Wheeling station is currently under the design and engineering phase and is estimated to cost the village \$1.34 million for station and parking lot construction and other improvements, not including costs for acquiring 6 acres of property for the station.

## Airplane traffic takes off at Palwaukee in '93

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Reversing a decline that lasted several years, the number of take-offs and landings increased at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in 1993, said officials.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr., reported the increase after years of decline for the airport located on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Palatine Road in Wheeling.

"We had higher traffic this year than we did last year, but it's still considerably under what we had in 1988," said Stewart.

"When the economy gets bad, avi-

ation is the first thing to go. Perhaps this is a turn-around in the economy," Stewart said.

According to airport statistics, in 1993 the facility had 168,139 operations, compared to 143,214 in 1992, a 17.4 percent increase. In 1988, the airport hit a high of 251,277 take-offs and landings, said Stewart.

From 1984 until 1990, the airport regularly exceeded the 250,000 mark for its activity, said Stewart.

After 1988, operations and the airport steadily declined until this past year, he said.

At its highest operational level,

the airport was the 51st busiest in the country according to Federal Aviation Administration statistics.

Currently, Stewart said he was uncertain if the airport is even ranked by the FAA.

With its three runways and 24-hour, year-round schedule, Palwaukee houses a variety of general and business aviation aircraft.

Airport officials are currently in the middle of a \$83.5 million project to upgrade the facility to meet FAA standards.

The project's centerpiece is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection 570 feet west so

they can expand the safety zone between it and the airport's longest runway.

The work, originally expected to be completed by early 1995 is ahead of schedule, said airport officials.

Additionally, airport contractors and crews of work release prisoners from the Illinois Department of Corrections are expected to soon finish clearing thousands of old tires from a 1.79-acre site just east of the Wolf and Hintz intersection.

The airport is owned and operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling under an intergovernmental agreement.

# Corps fails to reach decision on balefill by goal date

C4

1-8-94  
By KRISTY BARD  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started the new year by continuing to work toward a decision on the proposed balefill site in Hanover Township, after failing to reach its goal to announce a decision in 1993.

Facing a mountain of paperwork, Corps officials were unable to finish

reviewing the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's application for a permit to construct the controversial balefill at West Bartlett and Gifford roads near Bartlett. Officials now say they can't speculate on a decision date.

The Army Corps is now reviewing transcribed comments on the proposed high-tech balefill from several emotional public hearings last year. Officials also are studying

several thick volumes of information recently sent to them by SWANCC, a waste disposal consortium of 23 suburban communities.

"We did give it every priority, but there's an extensive amount of paperwork," Carol Massante says. "We complete the required public hearings, but it's just impossible to complete the paperwork."

A Corps project officer and some assistants are studying the information. Once completed, the officer will send a recommendation to the Corps' district engineer, Lt. Colonel

"These are very substantial and in-depth answers to the Army Corps' questions," he said. "The agency would like a decision (from the Corps) as soon as possible, but we understand the Corps has lots of information to work with."

Meanwhile, after more than a year of construction, SWANCC has been forced to postpone the scheduled opening this week of its \$12 million Wheeling Township

garbage transfer station.

Equipment at the station, which is northeast of Des Plaines River and Central roads, will compact garbage into small bales before being taken to the proposed balefill.

SWANCC has set a Feb. 1 opening while waiting for an operating permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Beal said. The permit ensures that the station meets state specifications.

## VIEW FROM ABOVE

Wheeling Public Works hoe operator Steve Morris leans out the window to get a better look at the hole he's digging at the intersection of Route 21 and Dundee Road in Cook County. **PAGE 5**

## Wheeling rewards manager with \$81,510 pay package

1-18-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday gave Village Manager Craig G. Anderson a 4.5 percent salary increase lauding his administration of the town's daily operations over the past year.

In a unanimous vote, the village board awarded Anderson, 43, the increase that raises his yearly salary from \$78,000 to \$81,510 retroactive to Dec. 1.

"His review was excellent. He is doing an outstanding job. We have some interesting and complex issues before the village, and we want to compensate him accordingly," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

In the past year, Anderson helped negotiate new labor agreements with employee groups including the firefighters and the police union, who received a pay increase.

This spring Anderson will be involved in negotiating with public works employees for a new labor agreement.

Anderson is involved in Wheeling's efforts to build a commuter station for the Wisconsin Central Railroad on a

the former site of the Koeppen farm adjacent to Wheeling's village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Daily responsibilities Anderson has includes overseeing a full-time staff of about 190 employees and supervising the village's budget of more than \$22 million.



Craig G. Anderson

His other responsibilities include overseeing Palwaukee Municipal Airport managerial functions and representing the village on regional governmental boards.

Wheeling owns the airport under an intergovernmental agreement with Prospect Heights.

Anderson has been with the village for 4½ years.

Last year, Wheeling trustees raised his salary 8 percent from \$72,450 to \$78,000.

Anderson, formerly village manager of Glenview, started in Wheeling at \$55,000.







Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Public Works employees work to fix a frozen water main valve at the intersection of Route 21 and Dundee Road which temporarily interrupted service.

## Cold weather, fire spell extra work for water crew

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

The strength of Wheeling public works personnel has been tested several times lately by unexpected water main breaks caused by either weather conditions or fire emergencies.

The intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road was closed to traffic for hours last week, following water main breaks there on Jan. 4 and 5. The inconvenience came on the heels of seven water main breaks apparently caused by the heavy water pressure used to battle fire at Franklin Foods at 291 E. Dundee Road on Dec. 31.

"It's obviously putting a strain on us, but it's to be expected at this time of the year," said Scott Lark, water division supervisor.

Wheeling fire officials have ruled the cause of the

fire resulting in an estimated \$750,000 damage in the 36-year-old grocery store as "undetermined." The fire originated in the attic area above the meat cutting room.

### Round the clock

According to Lark, two, eight-man crews worked round the clock on Christmas Eve to remedy the water main situation, which resulted in the flooding of some streets, including Dundee Road, Dunhurst and the Wheeling Industrial area. The crews received overtime pay to check out the water mains and put repair clamps on them, he added.

"The impact, we'd like to believe, was minimum. They were quick enough that any impact in any one was minimal," Lark said.

Several trouble spots with water main have been

reported this winter in Wheeling. "There's been enough of them," Lark said.

### Frost cycle

"Water main breaks for this time of the year is a common occurrence due to the frost in the ground, the heaviness of the ground, the moistness," he added. "The infrastructure as a whole this time of the year is put probably on its highest strain."

But thanks to an "exemplary crew" in Wheeling, there's been as little disruption as possible due to the emergencies, Lark said. He also commended village residents for their patience and sometimes help in combating the unexpected.

"The citizens of the community showed appreciation for the work of the crew. It was greatly appreciated," he said.

and Vernon Township who were left either in the cold or in the dark, or both, as the mercury plunged to 20 degrees below freezing temperatures, with a windchill factor of much worse Tuesday morning.

The outage that occurred shortly before 6 a.m. affected about 6,000 homes in Wheeling alone, while 800 of the homes were in Northbrook. The remainder were in other towns, ComEd officials said.

The four-hour long power outage was due to frigid temperatures that caused electric lines to contract, causing inability of a substation in Wheeling to correct faulty current on 11 different feeders lines, said Ron Crawford, public affairs director. It took more than four hours to restore electricity to the customers with crews on alert since the deep freeze hit the Chicago area.

"This frigid weather affects everything; it affects the system, it affects heating," said Bill Darling, who handled reports on the Wheeling outage. For Ellsworth there was not only heat, but also warmth, as she spent the morning with her sister and her two children off from school, "camping out and drinking coffee."

Power was restored to all the affected customers by 10:10 a.m., Crawford said.

## Power outage leaves many in the cold

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

When Camille Ellsworth's waterbed started feeling somewhat like an ice bed on Tuesday morning, sleeping became so uncomfortable that she jumped out of bed in her Wheeling townhome to find out what might be wrong.

Her suspicion about experiencing a power outage had unfortunately come true for her and her cat, Spike.

"Needless to say I was warm," Ellsworth recalled sarcastically. "It was not a very good feeling, especially when I live in a complex with older people."

Like the seniors living in Ellsworth's complex, it was a chilling experience. "(My cat) was hiding in a corner between a couch and a wall. I knew that wasn't right for him," Ellsworth said.

There was double trouble for Ellsworth, as her car couldn't start when she tried to drive to a warm refuge in her older sister's house in another part of town.

But the sister came to the rescue and took Ellsworth and Spike to her house. "We both jumped ship. I was concerned about him. He's an indoor cat. He's not an outdoor cat," she said.

Ellsworth was one of roughly 10,000 Commonwealth Edison customers in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Northbrook, Lincolnshire

## Transfer station opens

By CYRIL IBE

STAFF WRITER

Disposal of solid waste in northern Cook County is expected to be improved with the opening of the new \$12 million transfer station in Wheeling Township in a couple of weeks.

After completing construction work that began in June, 1992, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has issued a permit to open by Feb. 1 the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's first and largest transfer facility.

Located on a two-acre site on the east side of River Road just north of Central Road, the station will serve 23 municipalities, including Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. The site is next to the Sexton-Maryville landfill that used to accept solid waste from area municipalities until the mid-1980s.

"This transfer location is indeed the central location in the agency's region," said the agency's assistant executive director Ann Tennes.

The new station is a "highly-engineered, state of the art facility that will serve SWANCC members in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner," said C. Brooke Beal, the agency's executive director.

As built, this is an enclosed building, where all refuse will be handled inside, with none of the 155 collection trucks stored on site. Buffering of the site from neighboring residences was considered, with the nearest home being 800 feet away.

The new facility will be run by Groot Recycling & Waste Services, Inc. of Elk Grove Village and will have the capacity to handle the processing of 1,600 tons of refuse daily from the participating municipalities before being transported to a landfill in Naperville.

# After battles, garbage station opening

By Martha Russis  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, one man's trash is indeed another one's treasure.

Situated near the Des Plaines River, the severe white building with its distinguished-sounding address—3 Providence Drive—has the look of a corporate or medical office. But make no mistake, business here is garbage, loads of it.

With workers installing finishing touches, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County is ready to open its first

## Supporters hail high-tech sorting plant

garbage transfer station, after a decision Friday by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency granting a permit to open the facility.

For supporters of SWANCC's mission, the station's opening, which will take place next month, represents the first fruits of their labor dating to 1985. But angry critics who blasted the station from the start would

sooner trash the building itself.

"They would still rather it not open and they would prefer SWANCC pack up their building and go away. They are all opposed to it," said opponent Christine Benecke, 46, who has lived near the site for 32 years. "It is so depressing, I can't even tell you."

Her defeat contrasts with the enthusiasm of Sheila Schultz,

agency chairman and Wheeling village president, who declares she is "proud and excited" to open the \$12 million building.

Inside the cavernous 80,000-square-foot station, garbage trucks will dump trash collected from homes throughout the north and northwest suburbs in one of three large bays.

Hazardous household wastes like cleaning agents or paint as

well as yard waste, prohibited by state law from landfills, will be separated out, and what's left will be compacted into rectangular bales weighing 1.5 tons.

From there, the bales will be loaded on flatbed trucks and transported to a landfill proposed for Hanover Township. In the interim, Greene Valley landfill in Lisle Township will be the destination.

When it opens, the station and its 50 acres will be annexed into Glenview and will serve that community and others, in-

SEE GARBAGE, PAGE 7

## Garbage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cluding Glencoe, Evanston, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling.

Planners laud it as the answer to the suburbs' future garbage storage problems, but as the station was created, bridges were also burned.

In fact, Des Plaines, the nearest municipality to the station, was so upset it dropped out of SWANCC and spent \$186,000 in legal fees to block the facility's construction. Last year, the Illinois Pollution Control Board rejected the city's claims that the building is too close to a residential area and that groundwater would be contaminated.

Des Plaines decided to cut its losses and accept the station, and when it opens, city manager Wally Douthwaite said there won't be any undue scrutiny.

"Are we going to send out a vigilante squad?" Douthwaite quipped. "No."

The agency's executive director, Brooke Beal, said the station, with its soundproofing and sophisticated air-filtration system, is built according to the highest standards, leaving "no environmental concerns."

Beal said the station, near the corner of River and Central Roads, is "one of the most highly engineered, well-constructed facilities in the world. We believe it is a one-of-a-kind facility and will be

a model for new facilities throughout the United States."

But opponents aren't impressed by the high-tech talk and say the station is a waste of money because other disposal facilities are available.

"I do not understand how or what their reasoning is. People are going to be paying for it over the long term," said Mary Byrne,

**'We believe it is a one-of-a-kind facility and will be a model for new facilities throughout the United States.'**

Brooke Beal, executive director  
Solid Waste Agency

president of Citizens Against the Balefill, the thorn in SWANCC's side since the agency formed.

The Glenview station is the first of four planned facilities the agency claims will stabilize hauling prices for residents of its 23 member communities. In the future, as other landfills close and dumping fees rise, SWANCC says owning its disposal network will help control prices.

The cornerstone of the agency's plan is the proposed construction of a so-called balefill in Hanover Township where trash would be buried. The plan is being bitterly fought by opponents from communities near the 410-acre site. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is



Tribune photo by Chuck Berman

Ironworkers and millwrights work in the baling area of the garbage transfer station, which is being readied for its opening.

on the verge of announcing its decision on whether to grant a permit for the balefill.

But the corps' decision will not be the last word on whether the balefill is built.

The latest wrinkle comes from an Appellate Court ruling before Christmas upholding a temporary restraining order barring preliminary work on the site. The ruling also sent a lawsuit challenging Cook County's zoning of the property to Circuit Court for trial.

Attorney Bryan Mraz, representing Bartlett, the community that

has spearheaded the fight against SWANCC, said he is waiting for the agency's next move. SWANCC officials won't comment.

Also in the works are two other stations, in Rolling Meadows and Elk Grove Village. Both will be smaller than the Glenview station, and the agency will soon decide which to build next.

When it does, Benecke has one piece of advice for anyone near those sites who will have to deal with SWANCC: "Keep an eye on them."

## NLU's Wheeling campus opens

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

When Jane Aherne decided to enroll part-time in college for a master's degree in educational psychology, she wanted a school with a short commute from her home in Cary, Ill.

The 38-year-old mother of three found that in National-Louis University's new Wheeling campus, which opened its doors last week to 60 students like Aherne.

"I'm very happy with the location of that campus, because I live in Cary. . . . That cut the commuting time for me," said Aherne, who left the workforce nine years ago to raise three children, one eight years old and two five-year-olds.

"I think they've really picked a great spot. Wheeling is very accessible," said Aherne, adding that she would have had to commute to the NLU's main campus in Evanston.

When university officials appeared before Wheeling plan commissioners last August to make a pitch for the new campus they said accessibility was top among their reasons for choosing

the village.

The facility features six classrooms, and will expand to 14 classrooms, four computer labs, up to 15,000 square feet of library space with 30,000 volumes.

Located at 1000 Capitol Drive, near the northwest corner of Wolf and Palatine roads, the Wheeling campus is a remodeled former three-story office building with 240 parking spaces, and

**'I think they've really picked a great spot. Wheeling is very accessible.'**

Jane Aherne

room for up to 300 spaces.

The 60 students are enrolled in various courses offered at the university's National College of Education on the campus this winter term. Courses in the university's college of Arts and Sciences and College of Management and Business also will be offered in Wheeling later this year.

A total of 140 university faculty, staff and administrators are based on the Wheeling campus.

The new Wheeling campus is geared toward meeting the academic needs of those living or working in Northwest suburbs like Aherne, who eventually wants to be an educational specialist. It is also geared to help local school districts.

"What the Wheeling campus allows us to do is to better serve the needs of school districts, teachers and school administrators in the northwest suburbs," said Linda Tafel, dean of the university's National College of Education.

"This allows us to have a campus near these people," Tafel added.

Student enrollment is expected to reach 1,500 in three years.

"I would hope that they really build that campus up because I'm going to attend National Louis University for a long time," said Aherne.

NLU has other campuses in Wheaton, Elgin and Chicago and five academic centers throughout the country and one in Heidelberg, Germany.

## Wheeling planners back rezoning for town houses

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission Thursday backed a developer's proposal to rezone a parcel on the northeast side of the village to accommodate a new town house development.

In a 4-0 vote, with one commissioner absent and Commissioner Ellen Butor abstaining, the panel endorsed a proposal by Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. and United Development Homes to rezone a 7.5-acre parcel, located just east of Chamber Park and immediately west of the Pavilion Senior Center at 199 N. First St., to give it a designation allowing attached single-family town houses.

The site formerly was zoned for more dense multifamily apartment developments.

On the parcel, developers hope to build a 34-unit town house development that will give residents a view of two ponds there and the neighboring park.

"I think that will be a real nice place to live," plan commissioner Terry Steilen said, noting the views the units would

give residents.

Ira Frank, vice president of Wheeling-based Joseph Freed and Associates, said that further details about the development would be unveiled at a Feb. 10 hearing before the plan commission.

While the panel did not raise objections to the plan, they hoped neighbors of the proposed development would comment on the project at the next hearing.

The plan commissioners said they're interested in learning how neighbors would feel about having nearby Second Street permanently remain as a dead end to control traffic in the area.

Currently, Second Street ends at Edgewood Drive.

Frank said the street running through the development would be kept private by the developers.

The site is surrounded by single-family houses, multifamily developments and the senior center.

Village officials said they tried to interest developers of senior housing in the site but found no takers.



Wheeling firefighter Dave Palmeri, left, is rescued by Pat Trunda during a practice session earlier this week.

Daily Herald Photo/Joel Lewnard

## Firefighters weather icy waters for rescues

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Never mind the cold — Wheeling firefighters dove into icy waters this week to practice their underwater rescues, the need for which knows no season.

Firefighters wearing bright red, inflatable "Gumby" suits practiced retrieving fireman Dave Palmeri, who played the hapless victim who has fallen through the ice.

The exercise, at the pond behind Station House 23 at Hintz and Wheeling roads, was the field training part of a diving rescue.

"They tell you to stay off it (ice) all the time. You can never tell thickness of ice," said Wheeling firefighter Joe Deppong, who taught the training course.

Wheeling Fire Lt. Robert

Hoos also cautioned that water does not freeze uniformly, and its thickness is determined by depth, wind conditions and other factors.

"When the weather is like it is now, where we've had some warm weather, the ice can still have some stress cracks in it even if it's thick," Hoos said, noting that people should stay off ice where safety areas have not been designated by a park district or other authority.

If someone does fall through the ice, emergency officials have a snappy three-step approach people should memorize to save them — "Reach, throw and go."

"Reach" with something long, like a stick for the submerged person to grab; then "throw" a rope out to them.

Referring to "go," Deppong said that's reserved for emergency rescuers equipped with

the inflatable suits who can put the suits on quickly and walk out to the victim.

The suits keep them buoyant and can support the weight of up to four people in the water, he said.

Wheeling firefighters said they can be in the water wearing their Gumby suits rescuing someone within five minutes of arriving on the scene.

Anyone trapped in cold water can usually survive up to an hour, said Deppong.

If a person has been trapped in such waters for a longer time, rescuers usually assume they would be searching for a dead body.

However, anyone in the water longer than 10 minutes experiences hypothermia that lowers the submerged person's heart rate and makes movement difficult.

So grasping onto a rope, for

example, becomes difficult when someone has entered that state, said fire officials.

Additionally, fire officials said, alcohol and cold weather don't mix.

A person who has alcohol in his system will freeze more quickly, they said.

Like many suburban communities, Wheeling has a number of retention ponds, lakes and other water bodies at developments throughout the village.

The village is also located along the Des Plaines River, which prompts the Wheeling Fire Department to stay prepared to make cold water rescues.

While such rescues are normally associated with children playing around an icy pond, fire officials said that adults snowmobiling or ice fishing also run the risk of falling through a thin surface.

Preview Wheeling's year-long 100th Anniversary celebration beginning February 5 and plan to participate in gala history-making special events.

GLANCING BACK...  
Centennial  
1894-1994  
WHEELING  
LOOKING AHEAD

# WHEELING 100 Anniversary



## Daily Herald

Wednesday, February 2, 1994  
Section 1-C

This special section was produced and edited by the Marketing/Promotion Department.

# Centennial Gala starts celebrations

This week's edition of The Wheel will be dedicated to the up and coming Wheeling Centennial Gala, taking place on Feb. 5! The Gala is being presented to you by the Wheeling Jaycees who feel "proud to have been given the opportunity by the Village of Wheeling to organize the largest project in the history of the organization." All proceeds of the Gala will go toward the Centennial Fountain Plaza, a monument that will be enjoyed by generations to come. Every room in Chevy Chase will be filled and here is just some of the events going on:

There will be a fabulous show band called The New Odyssey that will provide dancing and listening sounds from the 1890s to the 1990s. They play 60 different instruments.

If dancing isn't for you but you like to listen, there will be a piano bar available.

The Wheeling High School's Swing Choir New Dawns and the Senior's Pavilion-Airs Chorus will perform throughout the evening.

Bob Chinn's Crabhouse will provide special "Gala" drinks with the proceeds benefitting the fountain.

A complimentary appetizer and sweet table will be there.

A special Wheeling 100th birthday cake will be provided by Sauer's Bakery.

Celebrities, dignitaries, local folks will be present.

A silent auction will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The cost is only \$18.94, in honor of Wheeling's founding year. Tickets are available by phone at 566-8618 but they are going quickly. You may pick them up in person at Dominick's Finer Foods, Wal-Mart, First National Bank of Wheeling, Cole Taylor Bank, Indian Trails Library and the Pavilion Senior Center. Some of the silent auction items that will

be available are two round trip airline tickets from Travel Wise, Wisconsin Bed and Breakfast stays, Philadelphia Eagles signed football, St. Louis Cardinals tickets, Marriott Lincolnshire golf, Bulls tickets, a gold watch, tickets to Harry Carey's, Shaw's Blue Crab, Demi Moore's movie script from "Indecent Proposal," signed photos from Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Gov. Jim Edgar, Bob Hope, Natalie Cole and Steve Martin, a Wisconsin fishing get-away, and more.

Village President Sheila Schultz has been the executive director of the Gala and Debbie Santy has been the general chairwoman. You can reach Debbie at 816-9335 for more information.

You can not afford to miss this exciting kickoff to the year's events. The Wheel will continually keep you posted on the other activities as they get near. Remember that the Gala doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the entertainment concluding at midnight. Help blow out the 100 candles on our town and show up to this event!

## New contract means fee hike for Wheeling garbage pickup

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently approved the village's first-ever contract with a company to pick up residential garbage.

In a 5-1 vote with Trustee Judy Abruscato opposing the measure, the Wheeling village board approved a contract with Waste Management-Northwest to pick up trash from multifamily and single-family residences.

Wheeling trustees approved the three-year pact to comply with requirements from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County so the village's refuse can be disposed of at the Wheeling Township garbage transfer station located near Des Plaines.

Under the pact, disposal rates will be raised Feb. 1 from the current \$12.20 pickup fee and \$1.95 fee for recyclable materials to a \$10.56 pickup rate, with a \$2.45 charge for recycling and a new \$1.50 charge for yard waste stickers.

Currently, Wheeling residents are not charged for disposing of yard waste. Abruscato called for a flat-rate increase instead of

trying to make them buy stickers, which she said would be an inconvenience.

"I, myself, have looked at this and figure \$15.51 a month saves time, saves money, saves printing costs for Waste Management," she said.

Arguing in favor of the rates presented in the contract, Trustee Robert G. Todd said it would save residents money to pay by the bag for yard waste disposal.

"If that will save you money, then you should do it," he said.

The monthly fee for additional pickups was raised to \$3.50 from \$3.10 under the new contract.

The Wheeling village board also approved a three-year agreement with the company to have Goodwill Industries pick up reusable household material residences throw out, including toys, books, small working appliances and other items the village and company may agree on later.

Company officials said that if Goodwill trucks miss a home where such items are being disposed of, a truck from Waste Management will make the pickup.

Planned Feb. 5 <sup>1/27/94</sup>  
Journal & Topics

# Packages Pour In For Town Centennial Gala Event

Packages have been arriving in Wheeling containing items for a Silent Auction being held during the Wheeling Centennial Gala on Feb. 5.

Since all Gala proceeds benefit the commemorative Wheeling Centennial Fountain Plaza, many are being donated by Wheeling businesses. There has also been a good response from celebrities nationwide.

"Just this week we received a football signed by the Dallas

Cowboys, an autographed invitation to the 1989 inauguration of George Bush and a Sister Act II poster signed by Whoopi Goldberg," said Craig Perley, co-chairman of the Silent Auction, which will run from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Gala at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

Tickets are on sale for the Gala which is being held in honor of Wheeling's founding year 100 years ago.

## Manager gets pay increase

By Cyril Lee  
STAFF WRITER  
2-3-94  
Countryside

Wheeling Village manager Craig Anderson has received a 5 percent increase in pay, putting his annual salary at \$81,510.

The village board recently approved the pay increase of \$3,510 to his old salary of \$78,000 a year, said Anderson. The pay increase will be retroactive to Dec. 1, when he usually gets an annual performance evaluation, he added.

Anderson's benefits include a life insurance coverage equal to his yearly salary and the use of a village car for both official and permitted personal uses, Anderson said. Medical benefits fall for police that provides for a voluntary preferred physician with a \$100 deductible for single coverage and \$200 for family package for no charge to employees.

Anderson has been village manager in Wheeling for five and half years, when he came from Glenview. He had served as assistant village manager in that town for eight years.

In Wheeling, Anderson, 43, oversees nearly 200 employees, most of them full-time. The assistant village manager and several department heads, including the fire and police chiefs and the village attorney, report directly to Anderson.

As a requirement for his Wheeling position, Anderson lives in the village.

## Weekend gala will kick off Wheeling's centennial events

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Organizers of this weekend's Wheeling Centennial Gala are expecting the event to be a hot ticket.

Event chairwoman Debbie Santy said the Saturday evening blast being held at the Chevy Chase Country, at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., could draw as many as 1,000 partygoers.

"We may be sold out, I don't know. We sell (tickets) to 40 to 50 people a day. We have 800 people now and we can only hold 1,000," she said.

Organized by the Wheeling Jaycees, the event is being held to celebrate the village's century of existence and to raise funds for a commemorative fountain. That fountain will be located on West Dundee Road next to village hall.

The evening's festivities will include entertainment by "New Odyssey," dance sets, and performances by the Wheeling High School New Dawns and the Pavilion Senior Center Pavilion-Aires Choir.

Additionally, the event will feature a cash bar and refresh-

ments, along with a large centennial cake. A silent auction will be held where such items as a football autographed by the Dallas Cowboys and merchandise from local businesses will be sold.

Santy said that formal dress is optional, and that many of the people attending will be in semi-formal attire.

As many as 50 volunteers will be at the event attending to the participants' needs, Santy said.

A number of local dignitaries, including Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz and Congressman John Porter are expected to attend the gala.

The gala kicks off a yearlong celebration of the centennial in the village that includes a historical fashion show and a Civil War re-enactment.

Tickets for the gala are on sale throughout the village at Dominick's, Wal-Mart, 1st National Bank of Wheeling, Cole Taylor Bank, the Indian Trails Public Library and the Pavilion Senior Center.

The tickets cost \$18.94. For further information, contact Santy at 816-9335.

The Centennial is an excellent time for residents to become a part of the community.

## Putting on a party hat

It's time to party.

Wheeling is celebrating a very important birthday this year. The village turns 100, and for many months, the Wheeling Jaycees, Wheelings Lion Club and other community organizations have been planning events and festivals to help residents join in the community spirit and highlight the village's finer points.

The Centennial Gala ball kicks off the festivities Saturday, with hands, dancing and entertainment that will keep the Chevy Chase ballroom hopping well into the wee hours. If you haven't already picked up your tickets, drop by a Dominick's, Wal-Mart, First National Bank of Wheeling, Cole Taylor Bank, Indian Trails Library or the Pavilion Senior Center, or call 566-8618.

The Gala is only the start. Many other exciting activities will dot the calendar throughout the year. The Countryside will list them as they arrive in the community calendar and elsewhere in the paper. Residents, take note, this is your celebration. Get involved.

Wheeling has a lot to celebrate in its 100th year. Things are finally beginning to happen downtown to give the village a reason to be proud. The Park District's Aquatic Center opened this summer to tremendous accolades from residents and non-residents alike. The Recreation Center is nearing completion. Progress is being made on a Wheeling station for the Wisconsin Central. Plans continue to brew to revitalize the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

But a community is built not so much by physical amenities, but by people coming together and building bonds of unity and friendship. People have helped make Wheeling what it is.

Residents joining together on community projects, serving together on committees and boards, or just taking the time to talk to their neighbors—these things elevate a town above just a spot on the map or a place to pass through on the way to someplace else.

The Centennial is an excellent time for residents to become a part of the community, have fun and foster a spirit of togetherness to launch the village into its next 100 years.

## Multi-cultural resource center opens

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

As Wheeling continues to acquire a multi-cultural identity with the influx of new immigrants, the community is coming up with creative ways of meeting the various needs of the population of nearly 30,000.

One of the ways to achieve this goal is through the recently opened Wheeling Community Resource Center at 54 N. Wolf Road, staffed by two full-time employees of Omni Youth Services.

Funded by a \$80,000 community development grant from Cook County and matched by a \$30,000 contribution by Wheeling and Omni, the center is designed as a one-stop facility that can provide residents with information to meet a variety of needs — everything from where and how to apply for a driver's license to employment opportunities in and around the village.

For immigrants from foreign countries, the center holds bilingual workshops on immigration and naturalization rights, understanding the

American banking system, as well as on childcare and welfare programs available in the area. The center even provides tutoring and after-school recreational programs for high school students.

Though the center partially caters to Spanish-speaking Wheeling residents, officials hope that it will eventually serve residents who speak other foreign languages as well, as it continues to grow.

"The idea is to provide a lot of orientation and reference and different resources to the village of Wheeling. These are really targeting the multi-cultural aspect of Wheeling," said Olga Victor, project director of the center.

Victor, who has a bachelor's degree in social science education and a master's degree in social work, also speaks Spanish and American sign language. She runs the center with community outreach specialist Shari Huizar.

### Awareness growing

Though the center opened more than six weeks ago, Victor said awareness about it in the community is growing slowly. She sometimes has

gone door to door in the community to distribute flyers on the programs offered by the center. Olga would like to see more than the half dozen residents who walk into the center daily to seek help.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said the resource center, though a facility for the entire village, was designed to be conveniently located at a walking distance to serve particularly residents in the northeast section of the village. As a resource center, the facility provides information to residents on where to go for both village and non-village services, she added.

### Various services

Omni Executive Director J. Harry Wells urges Wheeling residents to take advantage of the various services the new center.

"In a lot of ways, this center will be an advantage for the new residents, helping them to contact the resources through us so that they can feel comfortable that they will be listened to," Wells said.

# Gala begins year-long birthday bash

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

*Country side*  
When members of the Wheeling Centennial Gala Committee began a year ago to plan for the kickoff of the celebration of the village's 100th birthday Saturday, they had no idea how Super Bowl XXVIII might affect it.

But since a football signed by the Dallas Cowboys is among nearly 300 items to be sold at a silent auction Saturday evening, committee members are hoping the Cowboys' victory on Sunday over the Buffalo Bills will make the autographed football a hot item.

"I just think there's a lot of Dallas Cowboys fans in the world. I just imagine that everybody will be excited about the possibility of getting a football signed by the back-to-back football champions," said Debbie Santy, general chairperson of the centennial committee.

"I think (the Cowboys win) will have an impact (on the auction)," added Clarice McMillan, co-chairman of the Silent Auction Committee. "It's going to increase the price (of the football) significantly."



McMillan said the committee is hoping to get "several hundred dollars" for the football signed by a few Cowboy players, including running back Emmitt Smith.

"We are just glad they (the Cowboys) thought enough of our celebration to send us a football signed by their players. We are definitely glad they won," said Santy, a Chicago Bears fan who routed Sunday for the Cowboys.

Another item among the football regalia to be auctioned is an autographed Jersey donated by Greenbay Packers No. 92, Reggie White.

"The stuff is just coming in all the time," said Santy Monday. "We are real excited about the auction."

## Attractions

Other auction items include the scripts from "Indecent Proposal" signed by Demi Moore and "Fatal Attraction" signed by Glenn Close and a 25-case Hidden

Value salad dressing made in Wheeling.

According to Santy, the committee solicited donations of auction items from about 100 celebrities around the country, with many of them like Bob Hope responding.

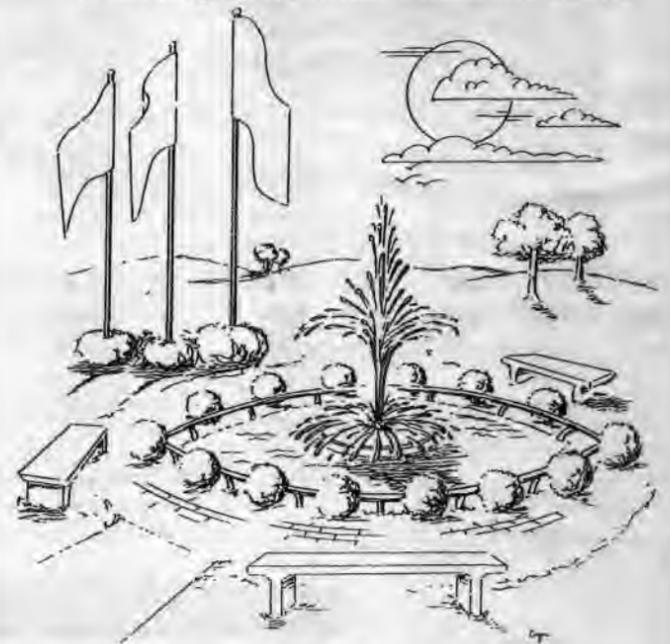
"I'm thrilled at the response. I think it's because of the once-only type of thing."

Proceeds from the auction will go toward building the Wheeling Centennial Fountain Plaza to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the village and "to leave behind a lasting monument for future generations," Santy said.

## More events

About 1,000 guests are expected at the Wheeling Centennial Gala at 7:30 p.m. at Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue. The event was organized by the committee and the Wheeling Jaycees and has a theme of "Celebrate Tomorrow with Yesterday's Memories." Gala organizers promise the evening's activities will include something for everyone, including dance sets, and performances by the Senior

Artist's Rendering  
Wheeling Centennial Fountain Plaza



Proposed location: between Wheeling Village Hall and Wickes Furniture, on Dundee Road in front of the Wheeling Aquatic Center

An artist's sketch of the Centennial Plaza which will be built in honor of the village's 100th anniversary.

Pavilion-Aires and Wheeling High School New Dawns choirs.

The Centennial will continue with other events throughout the year, sponsored by a variety of community organizations.

## 100th birthday bash

Retired Wheeling Police Chief Marvin O. Syke Horcher was set back \$555 for the autographed Dallas Cowboys football he purchased at the Wheeling Centennial Gala's silent auction.

But the former village official felt it was worth it, considering all the time volunteers put in to make the event a success.

"That was the best party I've seen there in 50 years," said Horcher.

Continued from Page 1

Wheeling Police Chief from 1955 to 1977.

Hosted by the Wheeling Jaycees last weekend, the event held at the Chevy Chase Country Club kicked off a yearlong celebration of Wheeling's 100th birthday.

The event attracted area business and political leaders including State Sen. Grace Mary Stern, Edward P. Rotchford, the mayor of neighboring Prospect Heights, and Congressman John Porter.

The movers and shakers, along with the Wheeling residents on hand, viewed such entertainment as the Wheeling High School New Dawns musical group and the Senior Pavilion-Aires Choir from the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center.

With 50 volunteers handling the action in four different rooms of the Wheeling Park District building, gala committee chairman Debbie Santy said the bash was an example of good teamwork.

"We worked for a year to make it appeal to the people in Wheeling and we had a full house."

Proceeds from the event are going toward funding a centennial fountain on the site of the historic Koeppen farm on West Dundee Road adjacent to village hall.



Ann, left, and Bill Rogers talk to fellow Wheeling resident Mario Abruscato at the Centennial Gala.



Anita, left, and Jim Rhodes of Buffalo Grove look over some auction items at the Wheeling gala. Jim is Wheeling's village attorney



Mary Boyer, Lee Addlin, center, and John Boyer of Waste Management in Wheeling chat in front of a decoration at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

## Wheeling gala marks start of centennial celebration

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With a crowd of nearly 1,000 on hand Saturday, Wheeling kicked off a yearlong celebration of its centennial with a gala at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

Hosted by the Wheeling Jaycees, the event drew scores of area officials, including Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, State Rep. Lauren Beth Gash, and Al Larson, village president of Schaumburg.

Attractions at the gala included local talent such as the Wheeling Senior Pavilion-Aires Choir, the New Odyssey Band and the Wheeling High School New Dawns group.

"After a year and a half of planning this, we pulled it off without a hitch," said Greg Koeppen, a volunteer on the centennial committee, who also served as the master of ceremonies for the Pavilion-Aires performance.

Aside from choosing from a variety of drinks and appetizers, partygoers were able to bid in a silent auction on a number of celebrity items such as an autographed photo of Robert Redford and a football signed by the Super

Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys that commanded a three-figure price.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to fund construction of a fountain to mark the centennial year that will be located on the site of the old Koeppen farm, next to village hall on West Dundee Road.

Decorations at the event included three, three-tiered cakes from Sauer's Bake Shop in Wheeling. Some attendees were dressed in 19th-century costumes to mark the festive occasion.

Also available was a piano bar where people could relax to the sounds of Jerry "K" in a room with much less hustle and bustle than elsewhere at the country club.

"I'm having an awfully good time. The Jaycees have done an outstanding job with this," said Schultz.

"There are people who moved away from Wheeling who moved back because they heard about this."

Other events planned this year to mark the village's century of existence include a founding day observance June 22 and a Civil War re-enactment Aug. 6-7.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Manufacturing company asks Wheeling to back tax break

2-8-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday again considered a local company's request for a reduction in its share of Cook County property taxes.

The village board is reviewing a proposal from Smalley Steel Ring Co. to recommend to the Cook County Board the business be granted a reduction in its share of county property taxes for the next eight years.

With such a tax break, the company would use the savings to build a \$1.7 million, 42,686-square-foot addition to its 56,703-square-foot building on a 6-acre parcel at 385 Gilman Ave.

Michael Greenhill, vice president of engineering for the company, said it would be difficult for the business, which manufactures spiral retaining rings and wave springs, to relocate because it has "customized" the site to fit its needs.

"There's a lot of sites available. We prefer to stay in Wheeling," he said.

The company hopes to add space for a warehouse, offices and manufacturing, said Green-

hill.

He also said the lack of space at the company is hampering its hiring.

The business employs 124 workers and, with the expansion, will add 25 more within the next three years and 100 in the next 10 years, said Greenhill.

In 1988, the company received a county property tax reduction it used to help finance earlier expansion.

Wheeling officials have said the village backs such requests by companies as an incentive to keep them from moving to other communities.

Greenhill said before the company seeks the property tax reduction from county officials, it must first have its request backed by village officials.

Greenhill said his company purchased an adjoining property anticipating expansion.

Wheeling trustees are expected to vote on the company's tax request Feb. 22.

The reductions have resulted in the creation of about 900 jobs and construction valued at more than \$40 million in Wheeling.

### Wheeling village president backs Phelan for governor

2-14-94  
BY AMY McLAUGHLIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Cook County Board President Richard Phelan won the support Sunday of some suburban leaders — including Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz — for his bid to oust Gov. Jim Edgar.

Phelan, along with state Comptroller Dawn Clark Netsch, Attorney General Roland Burris, Palos Park attorney James E. Gierach and Sheila Jones of Chicago, is a candidate in the March 15 Democratic primary for governor.

Schultz joined about 45 leaders of Chicago area communities — mainly from the South and Southwest suburbs — in announcing support for Phelan Sunday. A recent poll showed Phelan running a distant third behind Burris and Netsch.

Schultz said as Cook County Board president, Phelan understood the issues facing municipal leaders.

"Some people in Springfield view municipal government as just another special interest

group," she said. "I think what gets lost sometimes is that we're dealing with many of the same issues. We're not competing."

For his part, Phelan said if elected, he will work with municipal leaders on issues that are important to them — like fighting unfunded state mandates that make up 30 percent of a municipality's budget.

"If Sheila (Schultz) can roll back the unfunded state mandates, she won't have any (budgeting) problems," Phelan said. "The unfunded state mandates set her agenda."

Hoffman Estates Village President Michael O'Malley, who along with Schultz is one of few Democratic municipal leaders in the North and Northwest suburbs, said Sunday he has not decided whom to support.

Although he's eyeing the Democratic primary race, O'Malley said he will go with the candidate who has a record of helping out Illinois' communities.

"If they help the municipalities ... that's the way I lean," he said.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Village to purchase 6 cars for police

2-9-94  
Wheeling trustees also approved the purchase of six marked pursuit vehicles for the police department for \$86,000.

Village officials purchased the Chevrolet Caprice autos from Miles Chevrolet of Decatur, Ill., the dealer awarded the state purchase contract.

Police officials noted that with this purchase, for the first time, the police cars would be shipped to Elgin, reducing transportation costs.

### New speed limit set for Russetwood Court

Wheeling trustees recently approved the posting of a 25 mph speed limit on Russetwood Court in the Clarewood Subdivision.

The village board acted on the advice of police officials who had conducted a traffic study in the area.

Under village code, whenever a traffic control sign listing a speed under 30 mph is posted, a study must first be done.

### Tank design to cost more under amendment

The Wheeling village board approved an amendment to the agreement with Stanley Consultants Environmental, Inc., for underground tank design, increasing the amount the company receives.

Under the newly amended agreement, the company will receive \$7,600 more from the village, raising its fee from \$14,000 to \$21,600.

The company designs various Environmental Protection Agency-ap-

proved tanks for the village.

### Trustees approve sale of surplus fire vehicle

Wheeling trustees accepted a \$61,220 bid for the sale of its 1969 Sutphen ladder tower fire vehicle.

The village approved sale of the surplus equipment to the Sutphen Corp. of Amlin, Ohio.

Village officials noted that the company's bid was \$31,220 more than what it offered for trading in the old vehicle when a new one was purchased.

# Memories stir as Wheeling holds Gala

2-10-94

By CYRIL IBE

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

They came full of memories of good ol' times in Wheeling, of a village with just a few hundred residents during the earlier part of its history, of two-room schoolhouses, farmhouse restaurants, and all.

They — old timers and newer residents, old and young alike — came in hundreds, an estimated 1,000 of them, to celebrate the kick-off of Wheeling's yearlong celebration of its 100th birthday held Saturday at the landmark Chevy Chase Country Club.

"Celebrate Tomorrow with Yesterday's Memories" is the theme of the anniversary that will culminate this summer in the dedication of the Wheeling Centennial Plaza near the village hall.

## Memories

Thanks to corporate sponsorships, residents had the opportunity to share a lot of memories with one another and with nonresidents as well. Over cocktails, Wheeling residents shared tales of either growing up or rearing children in town.

Bernice Schuler used to make \$5 a week as a "pantry girl" at Wheeling's former Hartmann House restaurant back in the 1930s.

Since boarding was provided for employees like her, the 15-year-old kept only \$1 for herself, giving her parents the balance to help out during the Great Depression.

With Wheeling's population around 400 then, she knew her neighbors as well as she knew the streets — by their names.

But, that was back then.

Today, Wheeling has a population of almost 30,000



and nearly as many streets as it had people back in the 1930s.

"In the old days, you knew everybody in Wheeling. Now, you don't know anybody. You feel you're the stranger," said the 76-year-old Schuler who lived all but one year of her life in Wheeling and has two grown children with husband Willard.

The gala featured various activities, including piano bars, a silent auction of various items like celebrity autographs, a Civil War re-enactment dance band performing and the Wheeling

**“In the old days, you knew everybody in Wheeling. Now, you don't know anybody. You feel you're the stranger.”**

**Bernice Schuler**

seniors group, the Pavilion-Aires. Proceeds from the silent auction netted about \$9,000 from such items as a \$560 roundtrip airline ticket and \$500 for an autographed football by the Dallas Cowboys.

## Good times

As he stood in the Wayside Room at Chevy Chase



Photo by Karen Krings

Wheeling residents take a look at auction items beforehand during the Wheeling Centennial Gala Saturday.

listening to the seniors, Jan Broder, 68, said all the songs made him nostalgic moving to Wheeling from Chicago 26 years ago to raise three children in a rural environment.

"We had small kids and we needed the space, so we decided to move out here. Good place," Broder said.

The seniors group sang of highlights of the village's history from "Wheeling Through the Years," a history book published by the Wheeling Historical Society.

But the good days are not gone in Wheeling, sang the group, receiving a standing ovation at the end of the song.

"The best of times is now. . . As for tomorrow, who knows, who knows, who knows. The best of times is now. . . This is the year to celebrate!"

## Attendance

The Wheeling High School New Dawns choir took the stage after the seniors to render some contemporary tunes.

Attendance at the gala event exceeded the expectations of organizers. "I'm ecstatic at the turnout — just ecstatic," said Debbie Santy, chairwoman of the Wheeling Centennial Gala.

Even local, county, state and federal politicians joined Wheeling residents in the bash, pressing flesh in an election year.

"We need more of this in town to bring everybody

**“We need more of this in town to bring everybody together. ‘When we moved here, we knew the streets, we knew the people. Then it grew bigger. You don't know people anymore.’”**

**Juanita Sachs**

together," said Juanita Sachs, a 36-year resident of the village, who with husband, Robert, have raised three grown children in Wheeling.

"When we moved here, we knew the streets, we knew people. Then it grew bigger. You don't know people anymore," added Sachs, who moved to Wheeling from Chicago.

# Lack of information on tax district irks panel

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners told village trustees Monday they have not been informed about staff decisions on developments and called for more information from village officials.

The commissioners said they're frustrated after spending three years on development requirements for Wheeling's tax incremental finance district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road and not having those standards finished yet.

The commissioners said some of their problems stemmed from not knowing how the village planning staff arrives at its decisions on development matters.

"We don't know who staff is. We don't know what went into staff's decision about what we should accept or reject," plan commissioner Steve Walenka said.

The commissioners came up with a list of five suggestions for improving communication between the staff and the village board.

The recommendations included having a trustee sit in on plan commission meetings or having Village Planner Mark Janeck discuss com-

mission issues at each village board meeting.

"Many of those things you are suggesting are radical changes in government," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "I don't think those Draconian measures have to be considered to achieve what you want to achieve."

Wheeling trustees and commissioners agreed that information could be disseminated better. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a report on the TIF district could be assembled for the commission.

Anderson also said the Illinois Department of Transportation's plan to widen a 3.5-mile section of Milwaukee Avenue through the village and other infrastructure improvement issues have delayed some village action for the TIF district.

A village plan to turn a 12-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road into a regional shopping center may have to be changed somewhat due to marketplace changes, Anderson said.

The commission is a recommending panel for the Wheeling village board that makes final decisions on developments.

## Wheeling looks back to its beginnings 100 years ago

**W**heeling kicked off its centennial year with a gala "Celebrate Tomorrow with Yesterday's Memories" last weekend at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling.

More than 900 celebrants, who paid \$18.94 a person—a nod to the year Wheeling was founded—meandered through three rooms of entertainment.

In the main ballroom, the New Odyssey show and dance band performed an eclectic selection, from Beethoven to "Achy Breaky Heart."

At one point in the evening, five couples got a quick lesson on how to do the Virginia reel from a professional dance troupe in Civil War regalia.

"We just learned in about 30 seconds," said Joel Reznick of Wheeling, who danced with his wife, Ricki. "It was crowded and we were running into hoop skirts, but it was a lot of fun."

A more sedate crowd lounged in the piano bar, while others packed the local entertainment room to hear the performances of the Senior Pavilion-Aires Choir and the Wheeling High School New Dawns.

In the silent auction room, Joanne Marion of Buffalo Grove and Kathy Woods of McHenry, who

work at the Addolorata Villa, a senior community complex in Wheeling, were on a mission.

"Our poor husbands are at the table with the nuns, and we're bidding on Reggie White's uniform for Sister Pat [Ferguson]," who is an assistant administrator at the home and a fan of the Green Bay Packers, where White is a defensive end, Marion said.

Although Marion left the auction room empty-handed, she was reflective: "Wouldn't it be nice if someone else did bid on it for her and she got it?"

Taking a break, the Cielinskis of Wheeling summed up the collective mood of the evening.

"It's like one big happy family, and you can go from room to room like you're in someone's home," said Mary Cielinski.

"Wheeling's our home, and an occasion like this comes around only once," said Jerry Cielinski.

Proceeds from the gala will fund the proposed Wheeling Centennial Fountain Plaza, tentatively scheduled for dedication in June.

"We raised \$9,000 during the silent auction and additional monies from corporate sponsors and ticket sales," said chairwoman Debbie Santy.

Susan Kubian



Photos by Michelle Litvin  
Dominick and Jane Ranallo of Hanover Park (above) enjoyed the fashion show of Ghanaian designs. Darling Taylor (left) gets ready to model.



Dominick and Jane Ranallo of Hanover Park (above) enjoyed the fashion show of Ghanaian designs. Darling Taylor (left) gets ready to model.



The Senior Pavilion-Aires Choir (top, left) entertained at Wheeling's centennial celebration. Among those attending were Keith and Diane Macisaac (bottom photo, from left) and Village Trustee Judy Abrusca.



Photos by Matt Marton

SUBURBAN REPORT

### Library steps up efforts to promote referendum

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the March 15 election day fast approaching, backers of the Indian Trails Library District tax referendum Wednesday reviewed stepped-up efforts to spread the word.

Library board members heard how volunteers will intensify efforts to promote the tax increase to fund expansion of the library at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling.

Those efforts will include increased mailings, phone banks and weekend open house sessions two weeks before the election.

"We need to target the frequent users of the library to get them out to vote," Larry Cahall, chairman of the referendum committee said.

The open house sessions will be held at the library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 5-6 and March 12-13, he said. At those sessions, board members will be present to answer questions and patrons can take tours where volunteers are expected to highlight overcrowded areas.

Library officials are hoping voters approve a property tax increase that will raise the library's tax rate from 28 cents to 44 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

That hike is expected to raise \$6.5 million to fund an expansion that will add 38,000 square feet to the 30,900 square-foot building, library officials said.

Architects have said the expansion will include increased space for meeting rooms, adult services and a covered parking lot at the two-story building.

Other methods being employed to inform district residents include a special information packet that will be mailed Friday to 275 community leaders in Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and parts of Prospect Heights.

The library's monthly newsletter will also be mailed Friday to 35,000 households in the district highlighting the referendum. A four-page brochure on the referendum will be mailed March 4, Cahall said.

Also, to reach residents, the volunteer committees are seeking people to make phone calls discussing the referendum.

A snow plow clear the way on a Wheeling street.



# A long hard winter

*Countyside 2-17-94*



Mulford tops off the saddle tank on his plow.



After working a 10-hour shift from 2 a.m. to noon, Wheeling employees Ed Wargo and Larry Brooks catch a few winks.

Scott Mulford, of the Wheeling Streets Dept. makes his way through snow-covered streets.

PHOTOS BY ROB DICKER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Employees of Wheeling's Street Division this week were praying for a break in weather, as they appeared to be running low on both salt and energy to keep fighting snow and winter storms that have hit the area.

By the end of last week, the village had barely enough salt left for one run through Wheeling streets, should it snow again, said Jeff Kopper, street supervisor. At the same time, more than 20 street and public works employees have

been chalking up overtime pay for battling the incessant winter conditions.

Officials are awaiting delivery of a total of 175 tons of snow salt over the next couple of weeks to last through the end of the winter, Kopper said. The new salt supply will be in addition to 1,000 tons they had budgeted for this winter.

"We haven't had a winter like this in a long time," said Kopper.

At a cost of \$25 per ton of salt, the village will spend more than \$4,000 for the 175 extra tons, over \$25,000 spent for the budgeted quantity.

Countryside 2/17-94

# SNOW DUTY

A snow plow makes its way through the streets of Wheeling shortly after last week's all-day snow storm. A pictorial look at the gallant efforts of the Wheeling Street Department is on.

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## Wheeling OKs lease for Palwaukee hangar

2-21-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A long-term hangar lease agreement Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners accepted from a fixed-based fueling operator won approval from Wheeling trustees, while Prospect Heights aldermen delayed deciding on it.

Prospect Heights alderman said they want a city council committee to study the lease agreement Priester Aviation offered for Hangar Three.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agreement between Wheeling and Prospect

### Heights.

Service Aviation, the airport's second FBO, contested the lease saying Preister Aviation had most of the hangars at Palwaukee leased until 1998.

Without hangars, the fledgling company would not be able to grow, said its President and General Manager Dennis P. Jans.

"We're bursting at the seams. We have no possibility for new hangars except Hangar 3," he said.

Priester leased the dilapidated hangar on a monthly basis because it was originally slated for demolition after the two towns acquired the airport in 1986.

The company paid monthly rent of half its aircraft storage revenues that ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Service Aviation offered the commission a set \$2,400 monthly rent for Hangar 3, which was rejected.

The Priester lease calls for the company to pay \$3,000 a month or 60 percent of the storage income from the hangar, whichever is greater, for four years.

The company also agreed to do some refurbishing of the structure.

Jans noted the agreement allows Priester to take up to three years to determine if it can pay for improvements saying refurbishing may not

be completed.

"You cannot lease to someone a decrepit building and expect them to turn it into the Taj Mahal as a part of the maintenance," said Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr.

Priester's attorney Larry Swibel said his client had the buildings leased years ago and Jans should have taken it into account when starting the business.

Swibel added Priester had a better offer than Service Aviation's bid.

Prospect Heights aldermen have not yet set the committee meeting date to review the lease.

## Seniors thank PACE for firm's quick help

Senior citizens in Wheeling are sending their gratitude to the PACE Transportation Service for helping out quickly in a time of need.

When Wheeling's Franklin Foods store on Dundee Road burned to the ground recently, the seniors living at 200 N. Milwaukee Ave. were left without a convenient grocery store. PACE Transportation responded to this situation, and within a week a new bus route was set up.

A mid-day route now transports the residents of the 100-unit senior apartment building to the Dominick's grocery store at Dundee and McHenry roads, and it also takes them around town to Randhurst and back. People of all ages are welcome to use the bus shelter and the new bus route. But the residents of 200 N. Milwaukee are especially grateful!



Lisa Schab  
Wheeling

2/17/94 Herald

# Airport Snow

## How Palwaukee Crews Maintain 7 Miles Of Runways

2-17-94 JOURNAL & TOPICS  
By JO NELLE ROBINSON

If you think keeping your driveway clear of ice and snow last week was a real chore, imagine the task the ground crew at Palwaukee Airport faced.

With over seven miles of runways and taxiways, airport crews have been working around the clock to insure safe conditions for aircraft using the airport.

"Safety is paramount. If there is any question of conditions, we shut the runways down," said Dennis Rouleau, assistant airport manager for operations and maintenance.

Despite the extreme weather conditions last week, the airport was only closed four hours during the height of the ice storm that swept through the area.

Airport commissioner Dan Quiry praised the airport crews for their work in extremely trying conditions.

"To tell you what it's been like, in the last 30 days, the airport has used as much urea (de-icer) as it normally does in a full year. So far, we've used over 100 tons whereas in an average year we use 33 tons," Quiry said.

The airport does not use salt on its runways as a de-icer because salt corrodes the aluminum used in aircraft bodies. Despite the additional urea needed this year, Rouleau said the airport is having no difficulty getting the de-icer.

"We're very well-stocked right now and our supplier has

been very responsive," Rouleau said.

The three full-time ground crew members — Brian Bailey, Joe Wargo and Alen Issleb — have worked long hours around the clock to keep the runways clear and ice-free. However, during a major snowstorm such as the one last week even airport manager Fred Steward can be found behind the wheel of a snow plow.

"When we have a prolonged snow event, everyone pitches in," Rouleau said.

He described one strategy that paid off for the airport.

"When weathermen forecasted freezing rain after the initial snowfall, we chose to leave the snow on the runway until the storm was finished. That way, when we plowed the snow, the ice came with it, instead of adhering to the runway," Rouleau said.

The plan saved the airport the more difficult task of removing ice from the runways.

"It's imperative that the runways be clear right down to the concrete," Rouleau said. "When planes are coming in at 120 m.p.h. they need traction to stop and prevent them from sliding off the end of the runway."

And while most people tackle their driveways with shovels and snowblowers, the airport has considerably more horsepower on its side.

"Some of the equipment we use is actually pretty unique," Rouleau said.

The airport boasts of an 18 ft. snow-broom which is capable of clearing the runways of light or slush. The snow-broom machine has a rotary brush 4 ft. in diameter and 18 ft. wide.

"It helps us eliminate use of the de-icer and keeps our costs down," Rouleau said.

The airport also has a snowblower capable of moving 3,000 tons of snow per hour. This snowblower has been used extensively in the last several weeks to clear large snow banks left from the original plowing.

"We have to be sure the aircraft wings clear the snow banks, so we have to get rid of the high snow banks left by plowing," Rouleau explained.

The 3,000 ton snowblower is capable of throwing snow 250 feet away.

"We have to be pretty careful where we throw it so it doesn't end up on any roads," Rouleau said.

Despite the bad weather, the airport is reporting similar flight activities to past winters.

"Any type of instruction activity always drops in the winter. While we may be down somewhat in other flight activity, it is more be-

cause of the weather itself keeping pilots from flying and is not due to our maintenance, which has been outstanding," said Michael Zonsius, assistant manager for finance and administration at the airport.

## Snow crews work the roads in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove

2-24-94  
By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Winter refused to loosen its grip as Buffalo Grove and Wheeling residents were forced to slip, slide and shovel through the worst snowstorm of the season.

Buffalo Grove snowplow crews hit the streets at about 10 p.m. Tuesday, within hours of when the snow started.

Those crews were relieved by fresh workers at 7 a.m. Wednesday, said Superintendent Ray Rigsby.

"We're going around the clock," Rigsby said. "We'll be here until it's over."

But as Wednesday morning stretched into afternoon, there was no way to tell when the end would come.

"Every time one storm moves out and it lets up a little, another one moves in from southern Illinois," Rigsby said. "We finish our routes, then we start all over again."

Eighteen snowplow crews in Wheeling started work at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday and planned to work through until 3:30 p.m., said Robert D. Gray Jr., director

of operations and maintenance.

Workers were then scheduled to report back to work at 2 a.m. Thursday, Gray said.

Gray reported complaints from residents about main roads that had not been plowed. Most of the roads are the responsibility of the county and the state, he said.

In Buffalo Grove, most complaints about snowplow service came from residents of cul-de-sacs, Rigsby said.

"They don't understand that every truck has about 30 cul-de-sacs, and that can take about eight hours," he said.

The good news is that the village had laid in a good supply of road salt, so there is no shortage. The bad news is that it's useless with so much snow.

"We're still trying to find the pavement," Rigsby said late Wednesday morning.

Police reported no serious accidents or unusual incidents, but said they received many calls about cars stuck in the snow and minor accidents.

Staff reporter Dwayne Wong contributed to this report.

## Wheeling backs company looking for break in taxes

2-24-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are again supporting a local company's request for a reduction in its share of Cook County property taxes.

The village board voted unanimously to support a proposal Smalley Steel Ring Co. will make to the Cook County Board to receive a reduction in its county property taxes for the next eight years.

With such a tax break, the company would use the \$1.7 million savings to build a 42,686 square-foot addition to its 56,703 square-foot building at 385 Gilman Ave.

Michael Greenhill, vice president of engineering for the company, said his company will file its request for the tax break with county officials within the next month.

The company manufactures spiral retaining rings and wave

springs and employs 124 at its Wheeling site.

With the expansion, Greenhill said, the company would add space for a warehouse, offices and manufacturing. The current lack of space at the building has also hampered the company's hiring plans, he said.

In the next three years the company will hire 25 more employees and 100 within the next decade, Greenhill said.

In 1988, the company received a county property tax break giving them \$2.25 million that it used to fund construction of its current building.

The company has purchased an adjoining property anticipating expansion.

Wheeling officials have said the village backs such property tax reduction requests for businesses as an incentive to keep them from relocating to other communities.

Wheeling trustees first reviewed the request by Smalley Steel Ring Co. on Feb. 7.

## New restaurateur receives liquor license in Wheeling

3-1-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday granted a full-service liquor license to a restaurateur who said he would only sell beer and wine in the establishment.

In a unanimous 6-0 vote, the Wheeling liquor commission granted Sung U. Park a class C liquor license for the Kawabe Restaurant in the Riverside Plaza at 73 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Park is planning to purchase the restaurant there and probably will be open for business in a week, he said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that while the village hadn't yet received background information on Park, a Federal Bureau of Investigation report did not turn up any evidence of wrongdoing.

"It's a good report. Actually, more than good," Anderson said.

Attorney Jeffrey A. Krizelman, speaking as a friend of the family, acknowledged in a letter to the village that the Parks owned a Northbrook liquor store that twice was penalized for selling to minors.

Schultz said village police would help the business comply with local liquor selling laws and that Park can ask questions if he's uncertain about the ordinances.

Krizelman said the family only wanted to sell beer and wine as a convenience for their customers.

Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski asked why the village didn't have a special liquor license for businesses where only beer and wine would be sold.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that officials found it easier to grant businesses a license that allows them to sell all liquors.

Anderson said with a broader license the business owner does not have to return to the commission for permission if he wants to expand the list of liquor sold at the establishment.

Park said the restaurant would be operated as a family venture. Previously, in addition to the Northbrook liquor store, he has owned a Chicago grocery store.

Those businesses were since sold and Park now owns a coin-operated laundry, officials said.

Park will receive the license when the village receives the restaurant's old license.

# Gun found at high school leads to 8 suspensions

By DIANE DUNGEY  
AND DAVE MCKINNEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

"Given the availability of guns, I'm not surprised this could happen at any high school anywhere. It's another wake-up call," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

The discovery of the gun Monday was the most recent in a series of incidents in which students have brought guns to suburban schools. Just two weeks ago, on Feb. 10, the Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board expelled two students after one of them fired a gun during an argument at the Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. The day after that, Streamwood High School officials confiscated a gun brought to school by a student.

Wheeling High School Principal Elizabeth Ennis told the 1,850 students about the gun incident in an announcement Wednesday, warning that the school would not tolerate the presence of firearms and telling them to find an adult immediately if they see a gun or believe

someone has a gun. The school also sent a letter Wednesday to parents, some of whom expressed dismay, but not surprise.

"I don't think I'd be surprised if a gun was found in any school," said Peg Ball, mother of a Wheeling High School graduate and a sophomore. "The only thing I've told my children is if there's an altercation, get away from it. I don't think you can walk around today and say, 'I can 100 percent protect my child.'"

Police say the weapon recovered in a girl's locker was a .38-caliber handgun. A second weapon, a .357-caliber gun, was confiscated from some members of the group of eight students, although off of school grounds. Ammunition for each weapon also was found, although again, not at school, said Michael Hermes, Wheeling's deputy police chief.

Police still were investigating re-



Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes shows a gun found in a Wheeling High School student's locker.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zart

## Firm hired to audit village funds

The Wheeling village board agreed to hire Crowe Chizek and Co., to audit village funds for the 1993-94 fiscal year.

The trustees awarded a \$17,950 contract to the firm it is hiring for the first time this fiscal year.

The trustees decided to hire the new firm after a partner from Wolf & Co., Wheeling's previous auditor, who village officials worked with extensively, left that company for Crowe Chizek, they said.

## Fund created for sidewalk construction

Wheeling trustees established a sidewalk construction fund of \$3 per square foot as part of an annual routine for setting village building costs.

A builder would have to pay the fee in cases where village officials determine a contribution is more appropriate than construction of the actual walkway, officials said.

## GUNS: Third weapon still at large

Continued from Page 1

port's a third weapon was bran-

dished in a fight late Friday afternoon that began as some of the eight students departed a bus near Wolf Road and Inland Drive.

"The word we got was that one subject on the bus had a gun, but no gun was recovered,"

Hermes said.

Hermes said that altercation began when a group of gang members confronted other gang members.

Comments went back and forth. Gang symbols were flashed, and then there was the tussle," Hermes said.

About 30 students were riding on the bus when the fight broke out, said a spokesman for National School Bus Co., which provides transportation for the school.

Police would not disclose where the guns came from, although Hermes said they did not belong to participants of the eight teen-agers involved. Hermes also would not say where the .357 was found.

"The group of eight people was in possession of three guns. Two have been recovered. If there is a third



Michael Hermes

one, it has not been recovered and it may well not be," Hermes said.

Principal Ennis said the eight students were suspended for 10 days, and hearings with their parents are scheduled for next week. Ennis then will decide whether to recommend expulsion.

Wheeling, a school of 1,850 students, expelled two students after a gang-related fight this school year, said District 214 board member David Willse. "Each one of our schools has a nominal gang problem. The question of gangs is something we've been very conscious of."

Two extra police officers were assigned to the school Tuesday when it was believed some guns were unaccounted for.

Berry, however, said the third gun, if there is one, is unlikely to surface in school.

"I don't think there's any likelihood. The students involved are not in school," he said.

Ennis and others said Monday's discovery probably is not enough to warrant metal detectors at the school's doors.

"It's premature to talk about metal detectors," Willse said. Willse said he does not want to prejudice this case, but added the board's strict dealings with students involved in gang activities or weapons will send a message to other students.

The friends and family of former Wheeling trustee and zoning board chairman Frank V. Wojek are mourning the loss of the community leader who recently passed away at Highland Park Hospital after a long bout with cancer.

During his career in public service, Wojek was a trustee in the village's zoning board of appeals from 1977 to 1982.

In addition to his involvement

Frank Wojek



By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

my dad personally would have organized and later serve as its vice president. "Anybody who would have known which he helped Dolly Hein, president of the Wheeling AARP said she also had found memorabilia of Wojek. Frank was a great guy. He was interested in people and the community.

Wojek was also a World War II veteran. He was buried at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights.

Wojek was also a World War II veteran. He was buried at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights.

Wojek was also a World War II veteran. He was buried at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights.

## Trustee remembered for leadership

Wojek served on the Zenith chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, the Wheeling Park District advisory board and the board of the AARP, which he helped found. He was also a trustee of the AARP, which he helped found. He was also a trustee of the AARP, which he helped found.



Wheeling High School, where eight teens were suspended after a gun was found in a locker, is one of many suburban schools confronting gang issues, experts say. Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

## Officer owns guns seized from high school students, police say

BY DIANE DUNGEY  
AND DAVE MCKINNEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Two guns seized from eight Wheeling High School students, including one found in a school locker, were taken from a suburban police officer who is the parent of one of the teens, Wheeling police said Thursday.

The students, who have suspected gang ties, are expected to face weapons charges early next week after a .38-caliber gun surfaced Monday in a teen-age girl's locker, authorities said.

A .357-caliber gun, along with ammunition from both weapons, was confiscated from the students off of school grounds. All eight students have been suspended and could be expelled from school.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger, while keeping a tight lid on details about the case, confirmed the guns came from one of the teen-agers' parents who is a police officer.

"They were the weapons of a

suburban police officer, (but) not a Wheeling police officer," Haeger said.

The police chief said the weapons were taken from the officer's home without permission. The guns were not reported missing by that officer, said Haeger, who declined to name the officer or the police force for which he worked.

The eight students are suspected of belonging to two rival gang factions that became embroiled in a scuffle Feb. 18 at a bus stop near Wolf Road and Inland Drive, school administrators and police said.

The students, all of whom were taken into custody that day before being released last weekend, were arrested again Monday after the gun was found in the girl's locker.

A third gun might have been involved in the dispute between the two gangs, but that weapon has not been found.

Authorities were unsure of the intended usage of the guns. The gun at school was not loaded

when it was found.

Wheeling High School Principal Elizabeth Ennis said Thursday she doubted the weapon was meant to be used at school.

"I don't think it was intended for the gun to be used here," she said. "I think it was being passed to someone else."

This case, and other recent cases like it in the suburbs, illuminates how gangs are gaining more of a foothold in all suburban schools, not just Wheeling, experts say.

Although experts say most Northwest suburban high schools, with 1,500 to 2,500 students, have fewer than 50 gang members, the problems caused by gangs are growing.

"We have rival gangs in most communities. It used to be they'd be in different towns. Now, they end up at the same schools," said Philip Herman, head of the gang-fighting Northwest Suburban Regional Action Planning Project in

See GUNS on Page 4

## Wheeling center steering youths toward unity, not violence

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Community Resource Center is trying to provide youths with an alternative to street gangs and their potential for violence that Wheeling High School confronted this week.

"We have Afro-American, Hispanic, Asian (youths). We came in with the idea of a unity-based program bringing kids together to play sports. Nothing threatening. We have 22 kids now. So far it's working; we're targeting kids at risk," said Olga Victor, the center's director.

Besides serving as an outreach center for the village and area school districts, it also houses the Regional Action Planning Project, an 11-town gang task force that includes Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

Philip Herman, project coordinator, said that with early detection, school officials can help prevent incidents such as students allegedly

bringing a gun to Wheeling High School.

"Be proactive on this. Don't wait until this is a major problem in your building. Start identifying these kids at early, preventive stages and get them into a program," Herman



Olga Victor

recommended to educators. Eight Wheeling High School students have been suspended and it is likely some will be expelled and may face criminal charges for bringing a gun to school.

Wheeling police said their alleged actions stemmed from a confrontation between gangs. The R.A.P.P. program serves first- or second-time offenders and their parents with gang-awareness education and counseling.

Only the second facility of its kind in the Northwest suburbs, the cen-

## GUNS: Weapons at school were not reported missing

Continued from Page 1

ter opened this past December as the result of a partnership between the village of Wheeling and Omni Youth Services to provide social, educational and counseling pro-

grams. The Community Center and R.A.P.P. also serve youths through open gym nights on weekends at a Wheeling Park District facility.

Buffalo Grove. Most teen-aged gang members in the suburbs, he said, have ties to gangs in Chicago.

The groups seem to have grown during the last couple of years and are pushing into suburban junior high schools, Herman said.

"Wannabes used to be at the high schools. Now they're in junior highs. We've got real gang members in the high schools and the lev-

el of sophistication has increased in the past year or year and a half," he said.

At Wheeling High School, Ennis said no more than two dozen of 1,850-student enrollment have been disciplined for gang-related activities.

Wheeling police have remained tight-lipped about their investigation, declining to offer any explanation of what caused the gang-related tensions and saying they didn't want to give publicity to gangs.

# Wheeling gala brings in \$31,000 for fountain

3-8-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Organizers of the recent Wheeling Centennial Gala told village officials the event raised \$31,000 for a commemorative fountain marking the town's century-long existence.

The Wheeling Jaycees Monday presented Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz with a check for \$31,000 to pay for a commemorative fountain that will be located on the site of the historic Koeppen farm adjacent to village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

"We set forth a plan, we dreamed really big... I don't think any of us had realized how big it had become," Debbie Santy, chairman of the Centennial Gala Committee for the Wheeling Jaycees, said.

The event, held at the Chevy Chase Country Club Feb. 5, drew about 1,000 partygoers who heard a variety of local musical groups and enjoyed food and drinks donated by local groups.

The event took more than a year to organize and drew donations from scores of businesses and civic organizations.

Organizers originally thought the event would break even and whatever money that came in above the cost of the fete would be donated for the fountain, surely not more than \$10,000, Santy said.

However, due to donations and the high turnout for the gala, the Jaycees received more than they expected.

A silent auction of celebrity items from the Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Bears, actor Robert Redford and others earned \$9,000, Santy said.

Santy credited Schultz for the idea to stage the event. Schultz said the gala was a fitting start for a year of commemorative events.

"It's been beyond our wildest expectations, too," Schultz said.

Other events planned this year include a founding day observance June 22 and a Civil War reenactment Aug. 6-7.

The fountain will be located near the park district aquatic center at 327 W. Dundee Road.

Park district and village officials hope to have the fountain in place later this year. It's being designed by the Sente & Rubel Ltd. architecture firm hired by park officials.

# Wheeling trustees give OK to grocery with carryouts

3-9-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have approved plans for a Hispanic grocery store with carryout foods at the Wolf Point Shopping Center.

The village board approved a proposal by several business people to open the Carna Riceria La Rosita grocery with carryout foods in a 5,380-square-foot space at the north end of the shopping center, 1902 S. Wolf Road.

Peter Vaca, an agent representing store operators, told village officials the grill would be located at the front of the store to cook food for sale there. The grocery will not have seating or tables for in-store dining, he said.

Having the in-store grill required the grocery's operators to obtain endorsement for a special-use exception to village ordinances by the Wheeling plan commission.

The village board approved the special-use request for the grocery.

The grocery store opening in an existing space at the shop-

ping center is a permitted use under local ordinances, village officials said.

As a part of their preparations for business, owners are making several modifications to the interior of the space, including upgrading the sprinkler system.

Wheeling officials also called for the owners of the center to make improvements such as upgrading landscaping in sections of the parking lot.

As a part of the project's approval, trustees specified that infrastructure improvements be made to the shopping center, and fire sprinkler connections be made by Dec. 31, 1994.

With 275 parking spaces available to the store, village officials said it exceeded the 175-space requirement.

The shopping center is surrounded by Prospect Heights' city limits on its south and east sides, an industrial building to the north and a railroad access to the west.

The center now has other tenants, officials said. Store owners told trustees the grocery will open later this year, after interior work is completed.

# Wheeling trustees OK plan to promote village activities

3-29-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are backing a proposal by the village's public relations consultant to highlight municipal events and activities available to residents.

The village board Monday went along with recommendations from consultant Debbie Santy to promote village programs to residents.

"My feeling is you have to make the hometown people proud first," she said.

Some of the promotional efforts could include furnishing new residents with village informational booklets and giving local businesses promotional brochures and related materials.

Officials also discussed using apartment and condominium association newsletters and the cable TV access channel for promotions.

Santy told village officials it would be difficult to provide public relations in the village because many of the residents conduct business, attend church and go to other activities outside the community.

Trustee Robert G. Todd, a former park district commissioner, said

the park district used a similar promotional approach that was successful.

"If we get this going real strong, it will snowball and spread to the outside," he said.

The trustees last week unanimously approved hiring Santy, 34, from Vernon Hills, for a \$30-an-hour retainer to help them with various promotional projects.

Santy's experience includes heading the successful Wheeling Centennial fund-raising event for the Wheeling Jaycees.

Santy retained her membership in the organization after she moved.

The event served as the kickoff for the yearlong celebration of Wheeling's Century of Existence.

Her experience includes running a consulting business from her house for two years and corporate work with the GD Searle Pharmaceutical Company.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said Santy worked on programs to help attract businesses to Wheeling.

Wheeling trustees allocated \$5,000 under the 1994-95 budget for public relations, Anderson said.

# Local social service groups ask Wheeling for money

3-15-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Local social service agencies, many of them geared toward serving youths, on Monday night made their pitches to Wheeling trustees for funding next year.

The seven agencies appealing for money from the village included five organizations that mainly serve Wheeling's children and adolescents.

Last year, the village allocated \$100,625 for social service agencies. Now, as village officials are contemplating their 1994-95 budget, the amount that will be earmarked for social services will be set when the budget is approved April 4.

The largest funding request came from Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services. The agency this year is requesting \$74,000 from Wheeling, which is 5.1 percent more than the \$70,400 it received last year.

Executive Director Harry Wells told officials that one large contributor, the United Way of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, is funding 21 agencies and is stretched thin.

The Horizons Children's Center, a child-care center at 3316 Schoenbeck Road, is seeking \$25,000, which is the same amount requested last year, founder and Executive Director Susan Sclove said.

The 214/Fighting Back group, which provides substance abuse education for students in Northwest Suburban High School District 214, requested \$2,000. Last year, the village did not fund the group.

The Shelter Inc. group, which provides temporary shelter for abused youths, wants \$5,600. The group received \$5,300 last year.

The Hoffman Estates-based Children's Advocacy Center, which provides a safe environment for children where investigations into abuses cases can occur, again is seeking \$2,500.

The Salvation Army, which has counseling centers in Arlington Heights, Des Plaines and Hoffman Estates, wants \$7,000. Last year, it received \$6,200 from the village.

The Resource Center for the Elderly, which help develops shared housing, wants \$2,600, or \$250 more than last year.

# Wheeling gives social service center \$20,000

3-22-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board Monday again backed a request from the Wheeling Community Resource Center for funding so it can continue its work with low income and minority residents.

In a 6-0 vote, Wheeling trustees awarded the center another \$20,000 grant for its second season of operation. The center, located in a store front at the Center Plaza Shopping Center, at 54 North Wolf Road, was formed from a partnership between Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services and the village.

"I think this is what the community wanted and they're getting a good service," said Bertha Sanchez, a teachers' aide at Wheeling High School, supporting the center.

Sanchez is also a member of the center's advisory group.

The center works with the police, Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and other agencies to serve its clients. Those services have included workshops in naturalization and immigration and banking and legal aid services.

Olga Victor, director of the center, said since the facility was opened Dec. 15, it has served 300 people, 90 percent of which were Hispanic and 10 percent Anglo-European and African-American. Victor also said the center receives six to eight clients daily.

Harry Wells, Omni's executive director, said his organization hopes to receive \$80,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from Cook County and \$12,000 from private donations.

Victor said that she has had to turn away people from the Wheeling center because they are not residents of the village.

Currently, there is one full-time employee and a part-time worker at the Wheeling center.



# Wheeling panel's rights policy near

4-5-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling ad hoc human rights committee is on schedule for drafting a wide-ranging rights ordinance.

It will include recommendations for formation of a mediation panel to hear discrimination complaints.

Formed last fall, the committee is nearly finished with an advisory measure that has several recommendations on how the village should handle housing, employment and general discrimination matters.

"I would say it's on schedule," said Joni L. Beaudry, assistant village manager.

Beaudry said the committee will have a draft of the ordinance to Village Attorney James A. Rhodes within the next two weeks. When Rhodes' review of the ordinance is completed, he will pass it on to the Wheeling village board, she said.

Last year, the Cook County board approved a broad-based human relations ordinance that protected residents from ethnic discrimination.

The Wheeling committee reviewed the village's existing fair

housing and human relations ordinances, both advisory measures that don't specify penalties.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, reacting to a ruling that two local building owners were guilty of practicing housing discrimination, has said that a housing panel is needed.

A U.S. District Court jury found that Ben and Josephine Fragale of Des Plaines and Georgia Concialdi of Chicago, owners of a six-unit apartment building at 304 9th St., prevented Steven and Brenda Whyte from Chicago from renting there.

The jury awarded the Whytes, who are black, \$75,000 in damages. The Northbrook-based Martin & Marbry real estate agency, which listed the apartment and later rejected the Whyte's housing application, agreed to a \$60,000 out-of-court settlement.

The violations came to light after they were investigated by the Winnetka-based Interfaith Housing Center, a non-profit housing advocacy group.

The group sent couples of different races to rent the apartment. They received different responses from the landlords.

## Wheeling village trustees adopt \$28.5 million budget

4-5-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board Monday approved a budget of \$28.5 million for fiscal year 1994-95 that is slightly lower than the current budget of \$28.59 million.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski absent, the trustees approved a spending plan that includes a \$5.1 million reduction in the bond fund.

That reduction, however, is offset by new spending in other areas, among them plans to borrow \$3.5 million for sewer and water improvements.

"The budget maintains the current level of service, along with implementing necessary capital improvements," said Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

Fialkowski noted that sewer and water improvements include the replacement of a water main on a part of Milwaukee Avenue, further work on the south receiving standpipe and pump station, the relocation of the water main at the Hintz and Wolf roads intersection near Palwaukee Municipal Airport, a fire hydrant replacement pro-

gram and a slew of other upgrades.

To partially fund the sewer and water work, village water and sewer rates are being increased. Residents will see water rates increase 11 cents from \$2.65 to \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons.

Residential sewer rates will increase 2 cents, from 41 cents to 43 cents per 1,000 gallons, in the new spending plan.

Village employees' salaries under the new budget for each village department range from nearly a 4 percent decrease to more than a 31 percent increase. Fialkowski said that because of the heavy snows last winter, the current year's budget will have to be amended to cover the overtime expenses for snow crews.

The trustees also awarded several social services agencies \$105,350 for the new fiscal year, a 3 percent increase over the \$102,189 they received this year.

Some trustees called for the 214/Fighting Back anti-drug abuse program to receive \$2,000 from the village. That measure was defeated 3-2.

## Aviation company disputes hangar lease at Palwaukee

4-8-94  
By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A fueling operator is challenging a decision made by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission to lease a hangar to another company.

Service Aviation is asking the Prospect Heights City Council to review the process that the airport commission used to award the lease to Priester Aviation and begin negotiations for a long-term agreement. The airport is co-owned by Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

Dennis Jans, president of Service Aviation, said he first approached the airport commission about leasing Hangar 3 in October of last year.

At the time he first sought the airport's business, Jans knew that the hangar had a short-term lease with Priester Aviation.

Jans said he offered to lease the hangar long-term for \$2,400 a month, which was \$700 more than the average amount. Priester paid the airport. In November, the commission asked both businesses to present bids.

"I was at a distinct disadvantage because I had already said what I was going to pay," Jans told the Community and Economic Development Committee of the Prospect Heights City Council Thursday.

In December, the commission decided during a closed session to award the lease to Priester for \$3,000 a month.

"I question what was behind that bid, whether it was an economic bid to make more money or a bid to keep us out of that hangar," Jans told the committee during the meeting.

At that point, committee Chairman Paul Richartz stopped the meeting and postponed it until April 13 because Lawrence B. Swibel, an attorney representing Priester, wanted to enter the discussion.

Richartz, who also serves as 3rd ward alderman, said he would not let the meeting continue if a lawyer was going to speak because he wanted the city's attorney to be present to help with any legal discussions.

Charlie Priester said he wanted Swibel to represent him because the nature of the arguments dictate that counsel be present.

## Wheeling group focuses on racial issues

4-8-94  
By BETH WILSON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Saying that recent racial tension and violence at Wheeling High School is indicative of the community, a New York education expert told a small group of parents, teachers and students to look within themselves to make a difference.

About 20 white, black and Hispanic youths and adults turned out to hear Dwane Hodges, associate director for school partnerships at State University of New York at Buffalo, address the issue of racial unity and education.

Hodges, who has been at the school since Tuesday, was flown in at the request of the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force following apparent racial incidents at

Wheeling High School.

In October, about seven students were suspended for fights that broke out during and after a homecoming assembly. And in January, 11 more were suspended for a lunch-time brawl. Some students and school officials say the incidents stemmed from racial tensions.

Last month, eight students were suspended after a handgun was confiscated from a student's locker and another handgun was found off school grounds.

District officials said the incidents involved some of the same students, some of whom are suspected of gang ties.

"As adults we need to set better examples," Hodges said. "You know what's going on in the schools (also) is going on in the community."

communities.

"If you're going to stop the fire, you have to change the fabric of the community," he added.

In terms of creating a more unified school environment, Hodges suggested teachers meet periodically with students to talk about problems they have.

"They need to get to know these students as people."

In addition, Hodges suggested the school create a review board comprised of both students and teachers who could examine suspected racial incidents. The body would set specific policies and punishment for certain behavior so that all students would receive equal treatment. Some students have charged different races were treated differently.

## Village to flush fire hydrants

3-31-94  
The Village of Wheeling's Water Division will flush fire hydrants throughout the eastern portions of the village between 11 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. starting April 4 until the end of the month.

Flushing is a preventative maintenance program to remove particulate matter and corrosion from the system.

Residents may notice a slightly lower pressure and discoloration of water during the flushing program, however the water will be completely safe to drink. Please check water color before laundering to prevent staining.

Signs will be posted one day in advance in areas to be flushed. For further information, contact the operations and maintenance department, 459-2624, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

## Wheeling awards contract to rehab streets in Lexington

4-8-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials agreed to refurbish 1.6 miles of streets in the Lexington Commons subdivision.

The trustees awarded a \$603,000 contract to Peter Baker & Son Co. of Lake Bluff to work on the project that is set to start sometime after May 1.

The company won the village's business over five others vying for the contract.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the work will take about two months and cover side streets in the subdivision on the northwest side of the village off Lexington Drive.

The work will include repairing curbs and gutters. Also, Anderson said the village will repair drainage areas, resurface streets and make other related upgrades.

The village board also agreed to retain the Baxter & Woodman, Inc. engineering firm from Crystal Lake for construction engineering and design services

on the project for \$59,800.

Both firms have previously done work for the village.

"This is a part of the on-going annual effort to keep the streets in good repair," he said.

Money for the project is coming from Illinois Motor Fuel Tax funds and village road and bridge funds. The village has earmarked \$103,650 for the project.

Overall, the project will cost \$663,650.

The village has a total of \$674,460 targeted for street improvements and maintenance projects.

The new budget also includes \$386,600 for capital improvement projects that covers streetscape, pavement and sidewalk upgrades.

The bid from Peter Baker & Son Co. was slightly lower than the \$604,744.40 the village's engineering had estimated the work would cost.

Village officials said under the project 8,508 feet of side streets would be repaired.

## Low water pressure gets Wheeling residents boiling

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of Wheeling residents is complaining that water pressure in its subdivision is too weak for them to do everyday activities such as washing clothes.

Several residents from the 10-home Ashford Circle subdivision on the west side of the village complained that when someone at one house in the neighborhood bathes or uses a large amount of water it lowers pressure at neighboring houses.

"It's not adequate to take showers; it's not adequate to wash clothes; it's not adequate," said resident Craig J. Simon.

Village officials said they had done tests on the subdivision's water system and found the water pressure met local requirements.

"It meets code, it more than meets code," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The subdivision was built by developer R. Franczak & Associates of Des Plaines.

Village officials told the residents that if they want to improve water pressure they should purchase a \$600 water pump.

Residents balked at the advice and added that the village didn't do an adequate pressure test on the system when neighborhood usage was at its highest.

Village officials also told the residents to state their complaints in writing about any building code violations they perceived in the houses and those complaints would be investigated.

Village officials also said that it would be less costly for the residents to purchase the additional water pump than to connect to the Buffalo Grove water system just north of the subdivision.

Residents said the subdivision has houses in about the \$300,000 price range.

Simon said the homeowners would investigate connecting to Buffalo Grove's water system.

The residents threatened to disannex from Wheeling if the village did act on their pressure problem.

3-31-94  
Countryside  
Great start

It started as an experiment last December but has turned into an astounding success story. The Wheeling Resource Center on Wolf Road opened three months ago with a minimal level of funding and a mission to help low income families, minorities and recent immigrants with tasks such as obtaining food stamps or applying for immigration or naturalization.

Staffed by the Omni Youth Services and connected with several area churches, the center has far exceeded the expectations of its organizers. Village leaders deserve praise for voting last week to continue funding for the center through fiscal year 1994-95.

The center represents a positive step in Wheeling's ongoing efforts to meet the needs of its minority population and foster racial unity. It has also become a beautiful example of joint effort by village leaders, businesses and community groups to better the community.

The Village board has committed \$20,000 from the Cook County Community Development Block Grant to keep the project going for another year. Representatives of nearly a dozen local businesses and churches have also pledged to help raise an additional \$12,000 this year through private and corporate donations and fund-raisers like golf outings to help the center meet the needs of its clients.

The center is run by a full-time director, a part-time community outreach prevention specialist and a part-time receptionist from Omni. Workshops are held regularly on immigration and naturalization, income tax preparation, banking, child safety rules, legal aid, building code violations and compliance, substance abuse and family counseling. The center also runs youth recreation programs in cooperation with Wheeling High School.

Any anxieties about the center's use were soon dispelled within the first month. Word spread so effectively that residents of Prospect Heights, who had heard about the center from friends in Wheeling, began to show up and had to be turned away. Now Omni is working with Prospect Heights to develop a center in that town to meet those residents' needs.

Once again, Wheeling has risen to the challenge of providing a good example for surrounding communities.

## Undercover investigation leads to gambling charges

3-31-94  
Countryside  
By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

An undercover investigation by Wheeling police led to the arrest of two Wheeling men on misdemeanor charges of gambling at the AmVets Post 66.

Charged were Frank R. Lipowsky, 67, of 213 W. Norman Lane, and Norman J. Bucher, 49, of 55 W. Strong Ave. Both will appear April 12 in Cook County District 3 Circuit Court, Rolling Meadows. Lipowsky, manager of the AmVets post, was

charged with keeping a gambling place, while Bucher was charged with gambling.

Wheeling police officials say the arrests culminated a six- to eight-week-long investigation that was part of an ongoing "premise examination" of licensed liquor establishments in the village. The undertaking is "in an attempt to detect illegal liquor sales, drug sales, vice and/or gambling activity," police explained in a statement issued last week.

The arrests were made after an undercover Wheeling

police officer received cash payments for wagering on video poker machines at the post, according to reports. Police seized four video poker machines, a total of \$2,713 in cash and gambling records at the time of the arrests, according to reports.

If convicted on the charges, the men could face up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000, according to a spokesman for the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

# Wheeling eyes rate increases

Water and sewer rates would increase slightly for village residents under a budget unveiled by village trustees Monday.

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents will pay 4.25 percent more in fees for water and sewer services under a \$28.5 million budget approved Monday night for the 1994-95 fiscal year.

Trustees are expected to approve an ordinance on the new water and sewer rates at their April 18 meeting before the fees go into effect possibly by June 1, according to Robert Fialkowski, director of finance.

Under the new budget, water rate will rise by 11 cents from \$2.65 to \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons of water. Sewer rate will increase by only two cents, from 41 cents to 43 cents per 1,000 gallons.

## Bond debt

The increase in water and sewer rates will help pay for a \$3.4 million bond debt in the water and sewer fund for capital improvements over the next two years. The improvements

include installation of a \$300,000 monitoring system for the public works department; relocation of a water main at the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads near Palwaukee Airport; replacement of a water main along Milwaukee Avenue; and completion of work on a pumping station near Foster Avenue and Willow Road.

Also on the expenditure side, the village will incur a 26 percent increase, or \$250,000, to pay for increases in health insurance premiums. But employees might not feel much of the increase if they stick to the approved private provider and HMO programs.

## Salary raise

Salary increase will average 3 to 3.5 percent for police, clerical and radio communications employees under contracts approved last year. Negotiations are ongoing with public works personnel for their salary package, Fialkowski said.

The 1994-95 budget includes a 3 percent, or \$3,100 increase, for six social agencies serving the village, bringing the amount they will receive this fiscal year to \$105,350 from \$102,189.

# Bike path will provide link between villages

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

After years of planning, village, park district and civic officials from Wheeling and Buffalo Grove are celebrating the launching of a new bike path that would link their two towns.

About a dozen officials from Wheeling and Buffalo Grove village administrations, park districts and rotary clubs gathered Monday to toast the groundbreaking of a new bike path system later this spring, slated for completion by the end of 1995. They met at a spot along the proposed bikeway with four bicycles and four helmets on hand for the groundbreaking of the 4.5-mile system between Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The bike path will run from the proposed Wisconsin Central Rail commuter station near Deerfield Parkway and Busch Road in Buffalo Grove to Wheeling's municipal, park district complexes on Dundee Road.

A new segment will extend the path south of Busch Road along Commonwealth Edison property, and then turn west to hookup to an existing path on Hasting Lane. The exist-

ing path runs south along Hasting to Lake-Cook road. A new segment will then extend east along Lake-Cook Road under the Soo Line right of way, and turn south along Commonwealth Edison property along Old McHenry Road. The new segment will end up at the Wheeling Municipal Center and Park District complex.

## Who pays what

In two separate actions Monday, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove trustees approved awarding the bikeway contract to Systems Design Group Architects & Engineers in Schaumburg. About 80 percent of the cost of the project will be funded through a federal transportation grant, with the balance coming from contributions by the villages of Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, their park districts and rotary clubs. Checker Restaurant in Wheeling and Computer Discount Warehouse in Buffalo Grove also made contributions.

Wheeling's share of the project will cost \$69,700 while Buffalo Grove will pay roughly \$17,000 for the bike path.

Buffalo Grove resident John Green, chairman of the Buffalo Grove Rotary Club long-range project committee, said it is "gratifying" to see officials of the two towns work jointly on a project to improve the quality of life in both towns.

"I call it an alternative transportation system because pedestrians as well as joggers can use it," said Green, whose company is the contractor. "This is another way to get around (the two towns) without having to use a car."

## Cooperation

Echoing Green's sentiments, Buffalo Grove administrator Phil Versten said the project has demonstrated "a unique kind of relationship" between the two villages.

The new bikeway will connect to an existing 35-mile bike route in Buffalo Grove that links the village with a Lake County bike system.

This "proves that, contrary to the general belief, governments can and do come together cooperatively," Green said. "There has not been anything but a cooperative spirit in this entire project."

# Village considers truss roof warning signs

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Owners of building's with truss roofs may have to post a safety sign on the exterior of their buildings for firefighters, under a measure proposed by the fire department, prompted in part by a near injury last December during a grocery store fire.

Village trustees are currently reviewing a recommendation by Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac to ask owners of commercial and industrial buildings with truss roofs to display signs with a red letter "T" on the

exterior to alert firefighters of potential danger. Such roofs are often prone to collapse during fires, he said.

## Franklin fire

In a memo to the trustees, MacIsaac explained that the life-threatening danger fire officials faced last December in fighting a fire in the former Franklin Foods grocery store at 291 E. Dundee Road prompted him to suggest the new measure. A firefighter had a close call and "narrowly escaped" from a bowstring truss roof on the structure that col-

lapsed during the fire Dec. 24 last year, he said.

"It's a structurally sound roof under normal circumstances, but when exposed to fire it is catastrophic, as was Franklin Foods," MacIsaac explained.

"The situation of firefighters working on a bowstring truss roof and the early collapse of this type of roof is not unique," MacIsaac wrote in the memo. "Within the past five years at least two incidents of a similar nature have drawn national attention to this dangerous combination (one in Chicago, the other in

Hackensack, N.J.). . . In both cases, numerous firefighters were killed as a result of being on the roof when it collapsed."

The roof of the grocery store collapsed during the fire that caused an estimated \$750,000 in damage. The fire took 80 firefighters from 15 fire units five hours to battle. The cause has yet to be determined.

MacIsaac would like to see the proposed, reflective "T" signs for truss roofs measure about 9 inches wide by 3 inches high and be placed at the height of 5 feet to the right of the front and

rear doors of the targeted structures. The signs and mounting posts would be provided by the fire department.

The new measure would serve as an additional warning to firefighters arriving at a fire scene of the dangers that might await them, the fire chief said.

According to MacIsaac, between a dozen and 20 buildings in the village have truss roofs.

Staff expects to have an ordinance drafted for review within the next 30 days, the fire chief said.

# Wheeling trustees pedal toward link to bicycle path

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

portion of the utility right-of-way planners may have to deal with in developing the path.

"We would like to run it along a Commonwealth Edison right-of-way without affecting the conservancy of the wetlands," said Green.

Under the funding agreement for the consultant, the village will pay 12.4 percent of \$43,500 or \$5,396. Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the final amount Wheeling pays could change later.

After it receives grant money and contributions, Wheeling's share of the project is expected to be no more than \$19,000, village officials said.

Scheduled to be completed by the end of 1999, the path is one of the amenities slated for a parcel that once was the historic Koepen Farm in Wheeling.

Other amenities planned for the area adjacent to village hall, which is at 255 W. Dundee Road, include a commuter station for the Wisconsin Central Ry. that could be opened as early as 1996.

Also planned for the site is a commemorative fountain marking Wheeling's centennial year.

Wheeling trustees are supporting the village's portion of a 2 1/2-mile bike path system that connects with Buffalo Grove.

In a unanimous vote, the village board agreed this week to retain the Systems Design Group Ltd., consulting firm of Schaumburg to design the path system that will run from an area near village hall of off Dundee Road to a more than 30-mile long bicycle path in Buffalo Grove.

Wheeling will serve as the lead agency for development of the mostly state and federally funded path system that has a total cost of \$660,000.

Other participating agencies include Buffalo Grove, the park districts and Rotary clubs from both towns. Some businesses also made contributions.

John P. Green, president of the consulting firm, said the proposed 8-foot-wide path should run along a Commonwealth Edison utility right-of-way in Wheeling. However, there may be some wetlands located along a



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

A psychic reading business that has opened in a home along Milwaukee Road has some residents protesting the appropriateness of such a business located along the village's 'front doorstep.'

## Psychic business draws fire

By CYRIL IBE

STAFF WRITER

Don't tell David Phillips psychic readers can tell the future.

"I think the ability of a fortune-teller to foretell the future is really fraudulent," he charged.

And if Phillips had his way, Wheeling would not be home to any who claim to use extra sensory perception, whether they be mind readers, astrologists or crystal gazers.

That's why the Wheeling resident appeared before the village board last week to voice concerns over a psychic business that opened at 231 N. Milwaukee Avenue about three months ago. Phillips argues the presence of the business — indicated by a large sign in front of the two-story home — doesn't fit the image Wheeling is striving to achieve.

### Legal barriers

To officials' knowledge, this is the only such business in town.

"I think the question is what kind

of community do we want to build," he asked.

In response to Phillips' complaint, trustees have requested the village attorney to review zoning laws for possible restrictions on psychic businesses, and whether they can be limited to a particular business or industrial district.

Schaumburg, Evanston and Waukegan have adopted some restrictions on such operations, according to Phillips.

Village Attorney Jim Rhodes told the board that there are often successful legal challenges to any laws banning psychic businesses unless evidence of fraudulent practices can be shown.

### Location

"The issue of location for this kind of activity can be done through zoning laws," Rhodes said.

"I would not like to see it here at all, but the law prohibits (legislating against) it. The shame of it is it's on Milwaukee Avenue, known for its restaurants. It's unsightly," Trustee Judy

Abruscato said.

Julia Roberts, the 52-year-old owner of the Wheeling business who does card and palm reading on site at her business, defended her skills in fortelling the future.

"I was gifted for this. God chose me to do this. I was 11 when I knew I had the gift for this," said Roberts, who ran the business for 30 years in Omaha, Neb., before moving to Wheeling with her husband, Steve, last fall to relocate a motor-home business.

Julia Roberts said a need for her services exists in Wheeling. She said residents have told her they have been going to Chicago to have their palms or cards read.

She said it would be unfair to restrict her type of business to a particular location, since the village would not consider a similar measure for other businesses, such as grocery stores.

"I'm a psychic I don't feel that somebody has to tell me where to put my business. That's like telling you, 'You cannot park in my driveway; go park over there across the street.'"

## Plan panel approves truck rental

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

A Wheeling car wash business has narrowly won the approval of plan commissioners in its request to add truck rental at its Milwaukee Avenue location.

Plan commissioners voted 4-3 last Thursday to recommend to the village board to allow America's Car Wash at 400 N. Milwaukee Avenue to rent Ryder trucks at that address. The business owned by Al Schwab, a 12-year Wheeling resident, currently rents cars along with the car wash at the site.

Village Planner Mark Janeck had asked the plan commission to consider whether the need for truck rental existed in the village before approving the plan.

"The village staff questions whether truck rental is necessary in the village, having done without one for numerous years," Janeck stated in a memo to the commissioners. "Truck rental outlets exist in the surrounding suburbs of Palatine, Arlington Heights and Prospect Heights, providing access to such services."

Janeck warned that adding another type of use for automotive establishments "provides the potential for added problems" because the existing auto businesses in the village have often "degenerated" into other uses that negatively affect adjoining properties.

But Plan Commission chairman Paul Eisterhold said, if Schwab's request was granted, the village staff must ensure that they enforce any restrictions put on the business.

"We pay taxes to enforce things. Maybe the police department, maybe the village manager — maybe they are not doing the work they are supposed to do," said Eisterhold, who broke the tie to recommend approval of the truck rental.

Eisterhold argued that to (Continued on page 12)

## Shake McGruff's paws at Wheeling Health Fair



If your child wants to be a fire-fighter or a police officer when they grow up, or runs to the window when a vehicle with flashing lights and a siren goes zooming down the street, bring them to the Wheeling Health Fair this weekend for a real treat.

The Fourth Annual Open House-Health Fair will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Village of Wheeling Municipal Complex, 255 W. Dundee Road. Visitors will be able to: meet police canine unit dogs; shake "paws" with McGruff the Crime-fighting Dog and Sparky the Fire Prevention Dog; visit the Fire Safety House; see the new ladder fire truck; watch demonstrations by the fire and police department's specialty teams; watch demonstrations and see displays by the Public Works department; and have complete tours of the police, fire, and public works facilities.

At the same time, the Wheeling Board of Health will host their annual Health Fair, featuring information from various health agencies and organizations.

For more information on this event, call 459-2600.

Herald - 4-12-94



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Carolyn Kolssak reviews a scene from the video she has created on Wheeling's history as a contribution to the Centennial. The video is especially geared for children.

## Video captures glimpses of Wheeling's history

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

"Life was not always as you know it now. Let me take you to the Wheeling that I knew." — From "A Personal Video Album," a videotape commemorating Wheeling's Centennial Anniversary celebration.

Once upon a time, Wheeling boasted of ranches, farmhouses, a restaurant row on Milwaukee Avenue, and hotels, among other things.

### CENTENNIAL

Once upon a time, the village was a rest stop for Chicago residents traveling on Milwaukee Avenue on their way to Milwaukee, Wis.

Once upon a time, Wheeling mail was picked up from the train station and brought to the post office, where residents went to collect their own mail.

Once upon a time, Wheeling's population was just several hundreds, not in tens of thousands.

Once upon a time — long before Wheeling's Aquatic Center — the Des Plaines River was the place for the population to swim and cool off on hot summer days.

Once upon a time — long before the era of 11 school buildings and average class sizes of 23 children — Wheeling had a two-room school house with no gymnasium or cafeteria.

Carolyn Kolssak wanted to paint a picture of Wheeling's past, particularly for children,

as Kolssak Funeral Home's contribution to Wheeling's ongoing centennial celebration. The 21-year Wheeling resident produced the 25-minute videotape, at a cost of about \$7,000, to provide a walk through various aspects of the village's history.

The videotape is titled "A Personal Video Album: Celebrating Today With Yesterday's Memories" and is being distributed to schools in District 21 and Prospect Heights School District 23, as well as Wheeling High School.

"When I wrote (the script for the videotape) I had children in mind," explained Kolssak, 52, who has a husband, Louis, and three sons, ages 28, 24 and 19. "I wanted them to know that life was not as it is now — with micro-

waves." Indeed, the history video, which covers the period roughly between 1915 and the early 1950s, describes what life was like for residents without modern conveniences.

"We had no frozen dinners to just pop into the microwave. Just wood to cut for the stove, ice to get for the tiny ice box, eggs and vegetables to gather from the farm and put into jars for the winter."

Kolssak said the tape has "made me sad that we are not preserving some of the historic (residences)" in Wheeling, like the Ballings home off Dundee Road. "We have not preserved a residence as most communities have."

Produced by a Portland, Ore., outfit, the Wheeling videotape was scripted by Kolssak. The idea came to her after reading the Wheeling

Historical Society's book titled, "Wheeling Through the Years," published in 1987.

With the help of Lorraine Haben, a member of the historical society, Kolssak went through the collection of old personal pictures used in the book and sought eight long-term Wheeling residents to interview. Their stories were collected and used for the script, Kolssak explained.

The two history buffs will be available to visit schools to explain the making of the video and its contents to children throughout the celebration of the centennial anniversary.

Village President Sheila Schultz has already watched the video, and was a guest speaker for a fifth grade class at Field School, where it was recently shown. She said the "greatest impression" on the youngsters was the presence of fewer cars on the roads and the narrow roads.

"There were more comments about how different things looked, how open (Wheeling was with farmlands) and how much (the village) has changed," Schultz said.

Schultz, whose family came to Wheeling from Evanston in 1956, said "almost anyone who sees it will learn something, and the better we know our community, the better for all of us."

As for Kolssak, a sociology major in college, the history project was a chance to do something different. "This is a new discovery. It beats doing funerals all the time. This can be fun," she joked.

## Court to rule on Milwaukee Road development

Milwaukee Ave.

"There's never been a situation in Illinois that a village has adopted a comprehensive plan by ordinance and then refuses to follow its ordinance by refusing to follow its comprehensive plan," he said.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the village plans to ask the judge for time to respond to Stavros' motion.

Shortly after the trustees denied the development last October, Stavros filed suit against the village. The lawsuit names village offi-

cials but does not seek monetary damages.

Wheeling trustees voted against a 22-unit town house project Stavros had planned for the site.

Neighbors of the property living in the Edgewater Drive area rallied against the town houses they said would lower the value of their single-family houses.

Both the village's planning staff and plan commission had endorsed Stavros' proposal.

The village's comprehensive development plan calls for multifamily housing to be developed on that

parcel, which now has a single-family house zoning.

Stavros' motion asks the court for a favorable judgment, that town houses are the best use for the property and that the village be ordered to change its zoning.

The development Stavros had planned included town houses selling for \$160,000 to \$200,000.

Because of the rectangular shape of the property, Stavros argued that it's difficult to develop single-family houses there. Any houses built there would have to sell for \$300,000, he said.

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County Circuit Court judge today will hear a Wheeling developer's motion to allow rezoning of his land for multifamily housing that trustees opposed.

Developer and attorney Alfred D. Stavros filed a motion in his lawsuit against the village in the Chancery Division of Cook County Circuit Court seeking a ruling from Judge James M. Hofert that Wheeling trustees violated the village's comprehensive development plan in rejecting his request to rezone a 3 acre parcel at 433 N.

# Wheeling funds resource center

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

3-31-94

Numbers tell the story of the success and impact of the Wheeling Resource Center just three months after it opened, according to director Olga Victor.

Since the center opened its doors Dec. 15, Victor said, 300 residents, primarily of low-income or minorities, have come in to seek help with getting food stamps; applying for immigration and naturalization; or complying with Wheeling's housing codes. An average of eight residents visit the center daily, Victor said.

The center is so popular that its users often spread the word to their friends in neighboring Prospect Heights, Victor added, forgetting a "minor detail that the center is only for Wheeling residents."

The Wheeling board voted unanimously last week to continue what began last year as an experiment, and award the center \$20,000 for the 1994-95 fiscal year. The fund will come from the Cook County Community Development Block Grant.

"I would look forward to getting a favorable response from Cook County in spite of financial difficulties," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Schultz added, "It sounds as though the center has exceeded your expectations," addressing Victor.

At a breakfast meeting held Friday at the resource center at 54 N. Wolf Road, representatives of nearly a dozen local businesses and churches pledged to help in raising an additional \$12,000 this year through private and corporate donations and fundraisers like golf outings to help the center in meeting the needs of its clients.

"I certainly derive (enough of) my business from this community to reinvest time and money in it. If the community declines,

so does my business," said Troy Nichols, vice president of First Colonial Bank Northwest at the meeting sponsored by Wheeling-based Hidden Valley Ranch, a salad dressing manufacturing company.

Added Hidden Ranch manager John White, "I think businesses have an obligation to spend a lot of their time and resources in their community. We draw a lot from it."

To better serve Wheeling residents, Victor said, the resource center works with local churches like St. Joseph the Worker Parish, the schools and the park district.

Pat Sordyl, a social worker at the parish said the resource center is a "godsend" in helping her church and the center to identify and serve needy residents.

"The social outreach that is done there is something that the community has long needed," said Sordyl, a member of the center's advisory board.

"I think this is what the community wanted, and it's getting a good service. I hope it will continue," urged Bertha Sanchez, who helps in tutoring programs for students at the center.

The center's clients are about 90 percent Latinos, and 10 percent Anglo-Europeans and African-Americans.

The resource center is jointly funded by Wheeling and Omni Youth Services. The center is run by Victor, the full-time director, Shari Matthews Huizar, a part-time community outreach prevention specialist, and a part-time receptionist, all Omni employees.

Several workshops are held at the Wheeling center on immigration and naturalization, income tax preparation, banking, child safety rules, legal aid, building code violations and compliance, substance abuse and family counseling.

# Village to offer disposal of toxic waste April 23

Do some spring cleaning in your garage and basement this week and contribute to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

All Wheeling residents may dispose of hazardous waste from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, at Wheeling High School, 900 S. Elmhurst Road - at the corner of Hintz and Elmhurst roads.

Products that will be accepted are: aerosol products, antifreeze, cleaning products, gasoline, hobby and photographic chemicals, insecticides, lawn chemicals, motor oil, paints, stains, finishes, pool chemicals and solvents.

These products will not be accepted: business, institutional, industrial and agricultural waste; ammunition; biological or medical waste; explosives; farm machinery oil; fire extinguishers; fireworks; gun powder; household batteries; propane and butane tanks; and smoke detectors.

For more information, call the village of Wheeling at 459-2600.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



# Improvements under way on roads near Palwaukee

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While warm weather brings spring flowers, it also heralds the start of another construction season at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Starting Monday, weather permitting, crews will be finishing construction of the new bridge on Hintz Road across the Wheeling Drainage ditch, said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr.

Stewart also said that work will soon begin on the relocation of Hintz Road north of where it intersects with Wolf Road.

Construction crews are moving the intersection 575 feet west, which will expand the safety area between the road and the airport's longest runway.

When the Hintz Road relocation is under way, a temporary lane for traffic will be created on the south side of Hintz Road, between Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"On the Hintz Road construction, there will be periods of inconvenience for motorists," Stewart said.

Construction by the airport is part of an \$83.5 million improvement project that aims to upgrade Pal-

waukee so it meets federal standards.

Officials estimate the entire project could take another two years to complete.

Work on a second bridge on Wolf Road over the drainage ditch is also expected to start this summer providing the U.S. Congress approves funds for the project, Stewart said.

As soon as funding is approved airport officials can put the contract for the relocation of Wolf Road up for competitive bidding. That work could occur later this season.

Away from the construction sites, airport officials have filed a condemnation suit against M&R Properties, Inc. of Skokie to acquire the Twin Drive-In. M&R owns the property, which is adjacent to Palwaukee.

A hearing in that case is scheduled for Cook County Circuit Court May 4.

Airport officials hope to acquire the drive-in for such uses as relocating the drainage ditch that runs through part of the property.

The airport is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The two municipalities operate the facility under an intergovernmental agreement.

# Red-letter day in Wheeling may keep firefighters safer

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As a fire safety measure, Wheeling trustees Monday required owners of some buildings to post signs on the structures noting the roof construction.

In a unanimous vote, the Wheeling village board approved requirements that obligate the owners of buildings with truss roof construction to post small signs with the red letter T on the structure.

"There are several kinds of buildings in the community that use this roof," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The trustees acted on the advice of Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac, who last month showed village officials a videotape of the Dec. 24 Franklin Finer Foods grocery fire, noting the truss roof on the building became engulfed with flames in less than a second. He also said such roofs collapse quickly in a fire.

The cause of the grocery fire, which took firefighters from 19 departments to extinguish, was never determined. The blaze gutted the building at 291 E.

Dundee Road. Under the new rule, owners of buildings with truss roofs must post the 9-by-13-inch signs to the right and above the front and rear entrances. The signs serve as a warning to firefighters in an emergency.

MacIsaac previously estimated there were 12 to 20 buildings in Wheeling with such roofs. It is sometimes difficult to identify buildings with the older truss roofs because of additions made to the structures over the years, he said.

Such roofs have wooden trusses for support, and they come in a variety of styles.

As part of a training agreement the village has with neighboring fire departments, said MacIsaac, other towns will be made aware of Wheeling's new rule. Plus, he said he will recommend to the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System organization of area firefighters that other communities adopt a similar rule.

Penalties for violating the rule, which took effect immediately, range from \$50 to \$500 per day. Trustees previously mixed having a voluntary sign program.

# Airport officials call drive-in a drain on Palwaukee revenue

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials said Wednesday the facility's revenues are being restricted because they don't own the neighboring drive-in.

Airport commissioners said because the airport does not own the adjoining Twin Drive-In at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., it cannot relocate the winding Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through both properties.

As a result, they said, the airport cannot create more land mass to place an unspecified number of new T-shaped airplane hangars. Officials lease the hangars for aircraft storage for \$175 a month.

"We've been getting requests for new hangars sooner than the airport layout plan calls for," Airport Commissioner Dan Quiery said.

The commissioners discussed revenues as a part of talks to formulate a business plan for the airport, operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling under an intergovernmental agreement.

The Wheeling drainage ditch is located just southwest of the

Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection on Palwaukee's north end.

Airport plans call for the drainage ditch to be relocated in 1996 or 1997.

Airport officials are awaiting a May 4 hearing in Cook County Circuit Court in a condemnation suit filed against M&R Properties Inc., of Skokie, owners of the drive-in. Officials want to acquire and close the drive-in, giving the airport access to the drainage ditch.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said officials had been negotiating with the drive-in owners for months before grant money to purchase the property became available.

He said talks broke off with the owners in January after the airport received a grant through state and federal officials to buy the drive-in.

The grant is part of an \$83.5 million renovation of the airport to bring it up to Federal Aviation Administration standards.

The cornerstone of the project is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection west of its current location to expand the safety zone between it and the airport's longest runway.

# WEEKLY DIGEST

## Wheeling receives financial award

*Countryside 4-21-97*  
The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Village of Wheeling by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The CAFR is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to Director of Finance Robert Fialkowski, the individual designated as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to the CAFR.

The CAFR is a non-profit professional association serving 12,625 finance professionals with offices in Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

## Historical fashion show

Celebration of the Wheeling Centennial will continue with a Historical Fashion Show luncheon, with fashions presented by Goodwill at the Chevy Chase Countryclub, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. on Sunday. Other activities for the centennial will include a Founding Day Celebration and Fountain Dedication Ceremony on June 22, a Centennial Parade on June 26, fireworks and possible concert on July 4 and a Civil War Re-enactment August 6-7. For more information, call the Centennial Gala Executive Director Sheila Schultz at 459-2600 or General Chairperson Debbie Santy at 816-9335.

# Airport improvements await federal funding

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
While some planned improvements at Palwaukee Municipal Airport are under way, other projects slated for the 1994 fiscal year are up in the air, as federal funds are still not forthcoming seven months after the period began last October.

Delays in an authorization bill in Congress for improvements at airports across the nation could hurt chances of starting several projects scheduled at Palwaukee for the 1994 fiscal year, according to Paul Kramer, program engineer in the Division of Aeronautics for the Illinois Department of Transportation in Springfield.

By the time Congress passes the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program for the fiscal year, he added, too much time is likely to be lost for bidding and construction on the safety improvements at Palwaukee.

"That's the predicament you face every where in the nation, unless you live in the southern states where there is a longer construction season. It does impact Palwaukee," Kramer said.

The airport might have a slight chance if a measure being considered by the U.S. Senate is approved, freeing the FAA to spend some of its proposed budget early during a three-month "window" to get airport improvements moving.

Palwaukee is awaiting federal funds to complete the relocation of Wolf Road and the Wheeling Drainage ditch so an extra buffer space can be added on the end of one of the airport's runways to increase safety.

Other improvements already underway include the relocation of Hintz Road about 575 feet west of the end of the runway at the north end of the airport. Two bridges that cross the drainage ditch are being moved to coincide with the relocation of

Hintz and Wolf roads. The intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads will be expanded to four lanes in all directions, and a traffic signal will replace the four-way stop sign there.

"It's been a long time coming," said Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart of the intersection improvement.

Stewart said the location of the intersection at Hintz and Wolf roads within 200 feet of one of the airport's four runways is "dangerous. It frightens people driving cars."

## Creek to be redirected

The nearby creek will be redirected through a portion of the 33-acre Twin-Drive Thru theater property. A condemnation lawsuit is pending on a portion of the 25 acres of the land the airport wants to buy for future projects, Stewart said.

But pilot Ken Riesterer said the lack of adequately maintained "T" hangers at the airport are more critical to the pilots. "We are losing lot of pilots to Kenosha, DuPage and Aurora airports," said Riesterer, who learned how to fly at Palwaukee and has been flying since 1985.

The number of pilots using Palwaukee Airport has decreased by about 50 percent to between 300 and 350 in the past several years, according to Joe Grimm, president of the Palwaukee Airport Association.

Stewart challenged Grimm's statistics. "We don't have anything to substantiate a figure like that, I doubt he does," Stewart said, adding that pilots come and go from the airport for various reasons.

Stewart said there are plans to construct more hangers in the future to add to the existing 39, but that certain steps need to be taken first, including purchasing the theater property in the northeast corner of the airport property.

# Wheeling board approves truss roof warnings

By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling village officials have approved a fire safety measure that requires owners of certain buildings to display signs about their roof materials or face up to \$500 in fine per day for violations.

Trustees voted unanimously Monday to require owners of commercial and industrial buildings with truss roofs to post red let-

tered "T" signs to alert firefighters about the potential fire hazards. Such roofs are believed to cave in easily under heat from a blaze, as did the former Franklin Foods during a fire last December.

## Reflective signs

The reflective signs must measure at least 9 inches wide by 3 inches high and be displayed to the right of the front and rear doors of

the buildings. They are designed to warn firefighters of less fire-resistant roofs in emergency situations.

Failure to display the sign will result in a fine of between \$50 and \$500 per day.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac estimates there are between a dozen and 20 buildings in the village with truss roofs.

The new law went into effect immediately. Signs will be available at the fire

department on Dundee Road within a week, and businesses have 30 days to post them before facing a fine.

## The cause

The measure was prompted by the Franklin Foods fire at 291 E. Dundee Road. A firefighter narrowly escaped from a bowstring truss roof that collapsed during the fire Dec. 24, fire officials said.

The cause of the grocery

store fire, which drew 80 firefighters from more than a dozen departments, remains undetermined. Damage caused by the blaze was estimated at \$750,000. The store has not reopened since then.

Wheeling fire officials will notify neighboring fire districts of the new local law in hopes of getting their cooperation in achieving compliance from owners of the targeted buildings.

## Centennial committee to host historical fashion show Sunday

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Centennial Committee is hosting a historical fashion show Sunday to raise funds and celebrate the village's 100-year existence.

The committee is holding the fashion show and luncheon, titled "Petticoats to Pants," at the ballroom at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., at 11:30 a.m.

"I'm hoping for 200 people attending the event. There's going to be 60 different fashions from the mid-1800s until the present time," said committee chairwoman Anne Rogers.

After expenses, the money raised by the show will be used to finance construction of a commemorative centennial fountain to be located in front of village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Wheeling officials have estimated that it will cost about \$100,000 to build the fountain.

Tickets for the show are \$15 and can be purchased at Hoyne Savings Bank, the Indian Trails Public Library District, Senior Pavilion Center or village hall.

The show is being put on for the committee by the auxiliary



to Chicago Goodwill Industries.

The event is the second Wheeling officials have held this year.

The first event was the Wheeling Centennial Gala held at Chevy Chase Country Club Feb. 5, which drew about 1,000 people.

An auction of celebrity items at that event raised \$31,000 for the fountain fund.

Other events planned during the village's yearlong celebration of the centennial include a Civil War re-enactment Aug. 6-7.

Wheeling officials hope to unveil the fountain on June 22, which is the date of the village's incorporation. The fountain is being designed by the Sente & Rubel Ltd. architecture firm.

Wheeling officials also will hold a founder's day observance on that date.

## Wheeling centennial fountain wins place near village hall

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials will place its commemorative centennial fountain in front of village hall instead of on nearby park district property.

Wheeling trustees wanted the proposed 50-foot by 50-foot fountain to be located on the historic Koeppen farm site now owned by the park district and adjacent to village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Viewing it as an enhancement for Dundee Road, village officials thought it should be placed on a 50-foot setback from the road.

"We thought if you put it too far back (from the road), it would be hard to see," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Park officials offered to locate the fountain 100 feet from Dundee Road or 50 feet from the road on the northwest corner of the property. They believed those locations would draw attention to the park being developed there.

"We wanted to draw people into the park as well as have a visual. The village just wanted a visual," Park board President

Thomas R. Webber said.

The fountain is one of the amenities along with the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station, bike paths and the park district's aquatic center and recreation center village officials had targeted for that site.

They hope to develop the site between village hall and Wickes Furniture Co. as the center of Wheeling.

Park and village officials had been meeting jointly to develop the fountain. Under an agreement that committee was considering the park district would donate the land and split landscape maintenance, around the fountain, while the village would maintain the fountain.

The estimated \$100,000 construction costs of fountain would come from donations and fund-raising events.

Anderson said even with the new location the fountain is still on schedule for its unveiling in late June. The unveiling would coincide with the village's June 22 incorporation date.

Anderson said the village and park district still could have access drives connecting their sites in the near future.

The village is blessed to have a top-notch police department.

Executive Editor: Peter Neill  
Deputy Executive Editor: Alan P. Henry  
Editor/Bureau Chief: Carol Goddard  
Managing Editor: Arnold R. Grahl

## Officers deserve praise

Police departments rarely get the recognition they deserve. Recently, organizations in many suburbs held ceremonies to honor Officers of the Year and other commendations to outstanding patrolman who excelled in their duties. It is appropriate to use the occasion to extend praise and appreciation to the Wheeling police department for the work they do in maintaining the quality of life in Wheeling.

The village is blessed to have a top-notch police department. An outstanding drug education program reaches into the schools and delivers powerful drug prevention messages to youngsters, building self esteem and drug abuse awareness to students at an early age. Aggressive patrols help reduce the number of drunk drivers on the major arteries, and extensive neighborhood watch programs have reduced the incidents of burglaries in subdivisions.

The department has also been actively involved in efforts to assist Wheeling's Hispanic population, cooperating with a new community resource center which provides help in a variety of avenues from tax advise to assistance in understanding village codes.

Although the average resident may not appreciate it, thinking instead of traffic tickets and similar incidents which make up most people's encounters with police, the impact the department has on the quality of life in Wheeling cannot be denied. Thanks goes to the department for a job well done.

# Runway work can roll on with removal of tire pile

4-23-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After months of work, thousands of old tires finally have been rolled away from Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Fred E. Stewart Jr., manager of the Wheeling-based airport, said prisoner work crews late last month removed 35 semitrailer loads of tires, or 30,800 tires, from a 1.8 acre site just southwest of Wolf and Hintz Roads.

The work was done as a part of an \$83.5 million effort by officials to upgrade the airport to meet federal standards.

With the tires gone, Stewart said plans can proceed to make the site part of a taxiway once its fuel contaminated soil can be cleaned or removed.

"When that time comes we'll have to do another study of that soil. I'm hoping the removal of the tires will reduce the levels of fluoro-hydrocarbon to acceptable levels," he said.

Stewart said work could be done in the next several years.

Airport officials acquired the parcel in late 1992 after a legal battle that lasted several years

with its former owner Frank R. Chupich.

Airport officials said when they acquired the land from Chupich under the law he no longer could be prosecuted for any contaminants found on the property.

Airport officials had contacted the IEPA about clearing the site last spring. The agency sent prisoner crews to start work at the airport toward the end of 1993.

Officials from the Wheeling-based Northwest Mosquito Abatement District last spring feared the tires could serve as a breeding ground for the deadly Asian Tiger mosquito that carries 26 viruses.

Because it was the largest collection of old tires in the area, the tire pile was regularly sprayed by that agency to prevent the insect from breeding. The site once housed a tire dealership and later became a truck terminal.

Airport officials acquired scores of parcels near the facility last year so the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection could be relocated. Officials want to increase the safety zone between Palwaukee's longest runway and the intersection.

# Wheeling officials back call for ban on assault weapons

5-3-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials Monday threw their support behind a campaign to outlaw assault weapons in Illinois.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz read a proclamation supporting a bipartisan campaign by the Illinois Chiefs of Police to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of more than 40 kinds of semiautomatic assault weapons, including the Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifle and the Uzi carbine, mini-carbine machine gun and pistol.

"This is like Eisenhower said: 'Someday the people will want peace so much the lawmakers will have to listen,'" Schultz said at Monday's village board meeting.

The proclamation says that assault weapons have no legitimate sporting purpose and that that type of gun "has a disproportionate impact on our health-care system."

The measure calls for state lawmakers to pass legislation at the spring 1994 session of the General Assembly to restrict

such firearms. Legislation banning such weapons is up for consideration by the General Assembly.

Schultz said Wheeling could be considering its own restriction on such weapons after the Northwest Municipal Conference drafts a model ordinance for its member communities to adopt.

The conference, a consortium of Northwest and North suburban communities, has a committee reviewing gun restrictions for the consideration of its member communities.

Officials in neighboring Buffalo Grove also are reviewing adoption of some form of local restrictions on assault weapons.

Des Plaines officials have passed their own resolutions backing similar firearm restrictions.

Schultz, known as "the dean" of Northwest suburban mayors because she has held office longer than many other area community leaders, said she plans to attend a news conference Wednesday at Lutheran General Hospital to underscore the public health aspects of the ban.

# Group to trap Palwaukee groundhogs

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Today is groundhog day at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport. People from wildlife advocacy groups this morning are surveying groundhog holes at the Wheeling airport to determine how many of the furry burrowers and other animals are located there.

Later, they plan to trap and relocate the animals to other areas. "They don't cause a lot of trouble, but they're tremendous excavators and if you step in their holes, it's a leg breaker," said Cindy Erickson,

chairwoman of Trailside Museum, a River Forest wildlife rehabilitation center run by the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

While the groundhogs have been a problem at the airport for years, the call to remove them came from the Prospect Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau, which is hosting the Wings and Wheels Exposition at Palwaukee June 4-5.

Fearing people might be tripped up by the holes, the bureau wanted the groundhogs removed from about a 40-acre section on the east end of the airport where parking will be located for the antique auto

and airplane event. "What we want to do is flatten the ground. And there's some holes there that can suck up a Volkswagen," said Don Miller, the bureau's executive director.

Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, within two days can dig holes 12 to 18 inches in diameter, 5 feet deep and wind around for 30 feet, Erickson said.

The bureau hired contractor Gary Zervis to remove the creatures.

As a part of preparing for the work, Zervis obtained a state permit to use carbon monoxide gas to

exterminate the animals. Animal advocates who caught wind that such a permit was issued inundated the bureau with complaints.

As a compromise, the bureau agreed to allow the animal groups to trap the groundhogs instead. Erickson estimates in that section of the airport there could be 100 of them.

Because the airport is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said such a contractor could be hired without his authorization, as was the case.

# Palwaukee commissioners push for access to memos

5-2-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are calling for Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. to make his private memos available to the panel.

Airport Commissioner Nicholas J. Helmer is calling for Stewart to make available the memos he sends to Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials along with minutes from the panel's meetings. Helmer said some of Stewart's comments on the commission's meetings were incomplete and "slanted."

"Fred has been adamant in his opinion. He has said, 'I don't agree with you folks,' but I don't know what he wrote in his memos," Helmer said.

Helmer said that he's interested in the memos because he wants full disclosure, and that his curiosity wasn't piqued by any particular memo.

Stewart said that what he says during open session ends up in his memos. "I thought I made myself very clear in the meetings," Stewart said.

Wheeling trustees and Pros-

pect Heights aldermen present during memo discussion said they had no difficulty obtaining Stewart's memos, which were furnished to them.

Airport commissioner and Wheeling Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson reads the memos and interprets them for the village board in his recommendations.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights operate Palwaukee Municipal Airport under an intergovernmental agreement. Officials in both communities must approve items for the airport for them to become binding.

Stewart said that before he makes his memos available, he will consult with officials from both communities. If officials from both towns agree, Stewart said he will release the memos to the panel.

Airport Commissioner Dan Quiry agreed with Helmer that Stewart's memos should be available to the panel.

"If there's an opinion contrary from the commissioner or elsewhere, I'd like to know about it," he said.

## Wheeling brainstorming on ideas for development

5-14-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A professional theater building and a south side river walk were some of the amenities Wheeling officials hope to attract to the village with a reworked comprehensive development plan.

In a recent joint meeting of Wheeling trustees and the plan commission, members of both panels called for a professional live theater or other entertainment business to be developed on a village-owned 14-acre site on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

"I would like to see a theater that would keep you there once you are here," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "It would be much to our success peoplewise, taxwise and give the young professionals something."

The village is seeking proposals from developers for the corner that lies in Wheeling's 122-acre tax increment finance district.

Panel members hope the corner will develop into an area with such businesses as a professional theater and coffee houses attractive to young pro-

fessionals who officials said could move to Wheeling because of the Wisconsin Central commuter train station slated for completion in 1996.

For a year Wheeling officials have been reviewing the village's comprehensive plan to specify development standards and to make more uniform zoning designations of adjoining parcels.

"I think it (the plan) works better when we have all these parcels that are (zoned) consistent than all these little parcels that run into each other," said plan commission chairman Paul Eisterhold.

The document has not been reviewed since 1985, they said.

The plan commission could start holding public hearings in July to get public input on the comprehensive plan.

Wheeling officials also said under the plan perhaps a river view or river walk could be developed for the southeast side of the village near the Des Plaines River.

"On that side of town there are no parks. A strip along the river would seem appropriate to me," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

## Wings and Wheels Expo wins Wheeling approval

5-17-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday gave the go-ahead for the first annual Wings and Wheels Expo antique auto and aircraft event slated for Palwaukee Municipal Airport next month.

In a unanimous vote, Wheeling trustees backed the three-day show set for June 3 through June 5 at the Wheeling airport.

Organized by the Prospect Heights Visitors & Convention Bureau to stimulate interest in the area, officials said the expo could bring up to 30,000 people to the airport over its three days.

During the expo, visitors will be able to purchase souvenirs, enter a drawing for airplane rides and attend a big band concert. Bureau executive director Donald K. Miller billed the expo as a "family event."

Because the airport is owned and operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement, organizers needed Wheeling's approval. Prospect Heights officials already have given their approval for the event.

Airport commissioners also previously endorsed the expo.

Most of the police, fire and emergency service protection for the event will come from Wheeling officials, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"Most of the details are being worked out to everyone's satisfaction," Anderson said.

Neither Wheeling nor Prospect Heights are funding the event, which is being paid for by the bureau. Miller said the expo's final price tag could reach \$100,000.

Early in their planning, organizers decided against holding an airshow because of safety concerns raised by municipal officials, Miller said.

The event will take place on the east side of the airport near the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.

Motorists will enter the area from an airport access road just north of the area. Pedestrian traffic will be limited to the access road leading to the restaurant, organizers said.

Admission to the expo is \$5. Children under 12 will be admitted for free.

## Airport hangar lease remains up in air

5-16-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After all the discussion about the controversial leasing of Hangar Three at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling, the facility still has the same tenant.

Priester Aviation still retains its month-to-month lease of the hangar located just north of Palatine Road even though that arrangement has been debated since last October.

Recently, the Prospect Heights city council rejected the long-term lease of the hangar the airport

commission and Wheeling trustees approved for Priester, saying the agreement should have been open to other bidders.

Because Wheeling and Prospect Heights own the airport under an intergovernmental agreement, that Hangar 3 matter is still in the air because any lease must have both towns' approval.

"Nothing happens. It's status quo. Priester has a month-to-month lease for half the revenue. It's a nothing happening until they (the commission) have direction," said Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr.

Dennis Jans, president of Service Aviation, the second fixed base fueling operation at Palwaukee, disputed Priester's lease saying it gave that company a monopoly on airport buildings.

Jans also said that his company was at a disadvantage because its offer was publicized while Priester's bid was discussed behind closed doors.

For the hangar used for aircraft storage Service Aviation bid \$2,400 a month, which was \$700 more than the average amount Priester paid under the monthly agreement.

In December, the commission awarded Priester a long-term lease for \$3,000 a month and an agreement to refurbish the dilapidated structure.

Priester originally got to lease the hangar shortly after the two communities purchased the airport in 1986. Hangar 3 had been scheduled for demolition.

Under the original pact, Priester paid half its aircraft storage revenues that ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

The airport commission is not scheduled to discuss the lease at its Wednesday meeting.

## Fountain may not be ready

Countryside  
By CYRIL IBE  
STAFF WRITER  
5-19-94

Wheeling residents might celebrate their village's centennial anniversary without the proposed water fountain, as officials remain uncertain whether its construction could be started and completed before a planned dedication in late June.

The fountain dedication, originally set for June 22, was planned as one of the highlights of the yearlong celebration of Wheeling's 100th birthday this summer.

"It's going to be real tight, no doubt about it. I hope we make it," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson. "I don't know if we are going to make it or not."

### Moving along

Anderson said Sente & Rubel, Ltd. in Northbrook, the architectural firm hired back in December to design the Centennial Fountain Plaza for about \$5,000, has not submitted final draw-

ings yet for the project, meaning that bidding for construction of the facility is still sometime off.

"We are moving along (as) expeditiously as we can. We can be done in a day, we can be done in a week," said architect Joe Rubel.

"I'm not sure the delay is coming from anyone in particular," Anderson said. "Everyone is doing what they need to do."

### Foundations

Anderson said only the foundation for the fountain might be ready by June 22, the date set for dedication of the fountain plaza and celebration of Wheeling's founding fathers.

"We are going to go ahead with our founder's celebration, regardless of what is completed at the fountain," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Schultz said representatives of Sente & Rubel have presented several drafts of the fountain design to village staff and officials, who have suggested some revisions.

However, Schultz said officials hope the project would be completed on schedule, given that it's meant to have a "fairly simple design. The basin is not terribly complicated."

### Not complex

Added Anderson, "It's not like building the Sears Tower; so it's not an overly complex project."

Features proposed for the fountain to be built on Dundee Road in front of the Wheeling Aquatic Center include pumps, lighting, benches and landscaping. The project is planned to be funded by more than \$31,000 collected from the Feb. 5 Centennial Gala donated by the Centennial Gala Committee.

Anderson said whether or not the fountain plaza is constructed, the spirit of the centennial celebration will not be diminished. "What we are really celebrating is the founding of the community."

# Village approves air show

By CYNTHIA JAE  
STAFF WRITER  
5-19-94

Wheeling trustees have given the green light to a two-day air and auto exposition to be held in early June at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Trustees voted unanimously Monday to approve the "Wings & Wheels" expo, June 4 and 5, that will showcase more than 300 vintage World War II aircraft and classic automobiles, including 1955, 1956 and 1957 Chevies.

Sponsored by the Prospect Heights Convention & Visitors Bureau for the first time, the exposition will commemorate the invasion of Normandy and D-Day, said Karen Finnelly, spokeswoman for the bureau.

It will also "create awareness about the past, which for some people, is long gone," she added.

The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 8 to 11 p.m. June 4, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 5. About 10,000 daily visitors are expected.

Admission fee is \$5 for adults and includes parking. Children under 12 years of age will be admitted free.

Food, drinks, music, automotive and craft wares, and a variety of activities will also be available for separate prices.

The exposition will be held near the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant on the east side of the airport.

Visitors to the show will enter through a main entrance south of Sunac Road on Milwaukee Avenue. Sunac Road will be used as a northbound exit only. Parking will be along Milwaukee Avenue, on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue.

Paid Wheeling police and fire personnel will be on hand to direct traffic or provide ambulance and first aid service, if needed.

The expo is funded by the Prospect Heights Visitors & Convention Bureau, which was founded in 1987.

# Airport land hearing delayed again

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

in, 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, owned by M&R Properties, Inc. of Skokie so they can relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch that runs through both properties.

That project is a part of a \$83.5 million improvement effort to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

The centerpiece of the project is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection 575 feet west to expand the safety area between it and Palwaukee's longest runway.

The airport is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an

intergovernmental agreement.

The condemnation hearing was rescheduled from May 11 to May 25 to give both sides time to respond to briefs filed by the airport.

Under the law, said Stewart, the airport could win the right to own the drive-in but its owners could accept a payment from them and still file suit challenging Palwaukee officials over a fair price for the land.

Airport officials have offered \$2.25 million for the 30 acre site.

However, M&R officials did not respond to that offer.

"We have challenged their right

to condemnation and their right to use quick claim," said M&R's attorney Lawrence B. Swibel.

Swibel said under the quick take authority state lawmakers gave airport officials, they can only gain immediate ownership of land for the intersection relocation.

The drive-in land airport officials want is not close enough to Wolf or Hintz roads so that authority does not apply, Swibel said.

With the planned renovations to the airport, Palwaukee officials would use 23 acres of the drive-in land.

# Palwaukee budget squeaks by board

By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

employees of the airport.

Richartz said he has heard many complaints from people about the way the airport is run. There should be no salary increases until questions are answered about why some people who use the airport aren't happy about the way it is run, he added.

"There have been a number of inquiries about what's going on at the airport," Richartz said.

The overall 1994-95 budget for the airport is \$1.87 million, but that includes capital expenditures and grant money earmarked for specific projects that must be spent in the

next fiscal year on specific work.

Wheeling already approved the budget as it was presented. The two communities jointly own the airport.

Prospect Heights City Attorney Donald Kreger said the council may be causing a problem for the airport's operations.

"You're running into a position where the two communities approved a different budget," Kreger said. "I don't know how this municipality can do that alone."

Fifth Ward Alderman Madeleine Monaco said that of the four Prospect Heights members of the

airport commission, three have told her they are unhappy with the budget.

Third Ward Alderman Marcia Jendreas said she is not happy that the council has not personally heard complaints from the commissioners.

"I really wish if they have a problem, they would come before us and tell us so we don't have to go through this," Jendreas said.

Aldermen said they hope to air their concerns with Wheeling officials at an upcoming joint meeting May 23.

# Palwaukee officials stress need to finish renovations

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials Monday said that until major renovations at the facility are completed, work cannot begin on projects to generate revenue.

Meeting with officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the facility, airport manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said work on an \$83.5 million project to bring the airport up to federal standards must be completed first.

"The biggest stumbling block we have to development at the airport is the Wheeling drainage ditch. It costs \$1 million to build a bridge to put airplanes over it," Stewart said.

The centerpiece of that project is the relocation of the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads to expand the safety zone between it and the airport's longest runway. The project also calls for relocation of a Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through the airport and the adjoining Twin Drive-In property at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Work on those projects is under way. The drainage ditch

cuts through some areas where airport officials could place additional hangars.

Some Prospect Heights officials criticized the airport business plan, saying it should require more revenue producing projects, such as hangars to get rental income from aircraft storage.

"I'd want to zero in on our weaknesses. Especially on the bottom of the page where it says no revenue producing projects for three years. We'd like to see something after three years," Prospect Heights Alderman Thomas Shirey said.

Airport Commissioner and former Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers said he understood the frustration over the renovations, but until they're completed, officials can't develop revenue generating projects there.

"The whole thing hinges on getting the airport out of the flood plain. We can't build anything until you move it (the airport) out of the flood plain," Rogers said.

Later this week, airport officials will be in court pressing a lawsuit to forcibly acquire the drive-in from its owner, M&R Properties Inc. of Skokie.

A Cook County Circuit Court judge has delayed ruling on a lawsuit by Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials to forcibly acquire the Twin Drive-In property.

Circuit Court Judge John A. Ward said he is taking the airport's condemnation suit under advisement and will make a ruling by June 10.

Airport officials want to acquire the drive-in, says the owners of the drive-in, M&R Properties, Inc. of Skokie, said Lawrence B. Swibel, attorney for M&R Properties, Inc. of Skokie.

The drainage ditch hampers development at the airport, officials said. The Wheeling drainage ditch cuts through both properties.

Judge has delayed ruling on a lawsuit, Wheeling, so they can relocate the drive-in at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, so they can relocate the drive-in from its owner, M&R Properties Inc. of Skokie.

# Judge delays Twin Drive-In property ruling

# Village OK's police plan

6-7-94  
Wheeling trustees Tuesday agreed to temporarily increase the authorized number of police officers in the village from 40 to 41 so that a new officer can receive training without leaving the department short-handed.

The move was prompted by the announced retirement of Officer Timothy Hillyer, a 20-year veteran of the department. Hillyer's retirement is effective Sept. 25.

In order to hire a new officer and have the officer trained prior to Hillyer's retirement, Police Chief Michael Haeger recommended that the board agree to increase the number of officers on the force from the

time the new officer is hired until Hillyer's retirement. On Sept. 25 the number of officers will return to 40.

Haeger said the new officer will be able to undergo his basic police training in June or July. The department is on waiting lists for three police academies and Haeger said it is likely an officer from Wheeling will be able to attend one of them.

Haeger said the additional officer will not have a financial impact on the department budget because of vacancies for a commander and social worker.

# Old fashioned celebration begins activities

By NICK KATZ  
STAFF WRITER

6-9-94  
Hundreds of Wheeling residents are expected to gather this month for an "old fashioned home town celebration," when months of Centennial activities kick off with a huge Founder's Day celebration.

## CENTENNIAL

Jeanne Selander, co-chairman of the Founder's Day celebration, said the June 22 event will combine the old and the new, the young and old and offer something for everyone in the village.

June 22 marks the 100th anniversary of the day the village was incorporated.

"This is an all home town celebration," Selander said. "It's an old-fashioned home town celebration. We're mixing the old with the new."

## Choirs

As an example, Selander said the day's events will include a performance by an intergenerational choir made up of children from all of the village's elementary schools and members of the Pavilion-Aires, the senior choir from The Pavilion senior center. Singers will be decked out in patriotic red, white and blue.

Activities will begin at 7 p.m. in front of Village Hall with groundbreaking for the new fountain. Although Centennial organizers had hoped the fountain would be completed in time for the celebration construction has been delayed.

"What we decided was to make it into a groundbreaking rather than rush it," Selander said.

## Color guard

Wheeling Amvets Post 66 will present a color guard with a new U.S. flag from the Capitol building, a new Illi-

nois flag from Springfield and a new POW flag. Those will be raised while Wheeling High School graduate Joey Sanchez sings the Star Spangled Banner.

## Other events

Other activities will include welcoming remarks by Village President Sheila H. Schultz, special centennial cookies from Sauer's Bake Shop and music by the Schizo-Phonics barbershop quartet.

The Founder's Day celebration will be followed June 26 by a centennial parade featuring more than 100 units. The parade will begin at 2 p.m. at Holmes Junior High, 221 S. Wolf Road. The parade route will run north on Wolf Road and west on Dundee Road and will end at K-Mart at Route 83.

The parade will feature local units such as the Wheeling High School Band, the Pavilion Senior Center group, a floats from Cole-Taylor Bank and floats from local schools. Other participants will include the Chicago Police Pipe and Drum Band and Shriner units.

Hoyne Savings Bank will take part with an 18th century Conestoga wagon pulled by Belgian Draft horses, driven by a homesteader family and accompanied by a cowboy and Indian.

## Highlights

Gov. Jim Edgar and Cong. John Porter are also expected to take part.

"This is one of the highlights of the centennial year," said Jan D'Argo, chairman of the Centennial Committee.

D'Argo said planning for the centennial has been underway for four years by the committee which has grown to include 25-30 people. "A lot of dedicated people have been working on this," she said.

# Palwaukee to stage plane crash for

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With a real fire and fake victims, the response by area law-enforcement and fire agencies to an emergency will be tested Sunday in a drill at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

The mock plane-crash emergency is being conducted at the airport by emergency officials as a part of a biannual drill they have. "Every two years we have a disaster exercise. We test our emergency plan to see if there are any problems. Now is the time to test the plan and perfect our response," said Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant airport manager for operations and maintenance. During the exercise, which

starts at 9 a.m., a stretch of Wolf Road just under a quarter-mile long from just south of Hintz Road and north of Larkin Drive is being closed. During that time, traffic will be diverted to Chaddock and Marquardt drives.

Included in the exercise will be fire departments from Wheeling, Prospect Heights, Mount Prospect, Long Grove, the Vernon Area Fire Protection District, Palatine, Des Plaines, the Countryside Fire Protection District, Mundelein, North Maine Fire Protection District, Lake Zurich, Glenview, Elk Grove Township, Rolling Meadows, Glencoe, and Northbrook.

Also participating in the event

on Econoline van  
MOUNT PROSPECT — Two tires on a 1991 Ford Econoline van reportedly were slashed between June 4 and 6 while the van was parked in a driveway the 1000 block of Grace Drive. Damage was estimated at \$300, police said Tuesday.  
Resident reports screen door cut  
BARTLETT — A resident of

## WHEELING NOTES

### Learning House School expansion approved

6-8-94  
Wheeling trustees approved the expansion proposal for the Learning House School at 5110 Capitol Drive.

Donna Brown and Mark Fisher, owners of the school, are adding 3,575 square feet onto the school, which now has 7,800 square feet.

The owners are expanding an activity area, adding classrooms and making other improvements to serve the 35 high-school-aged special education students that attend the school from area districts.

The expansion could start later in June, the owners said.

### Pizzeria plan gets go-ahead from board

Wheeling trustees approved a proposal by restaurateur Frank Tenuta to open a carry-out and delivery pizzeria at the Arlington Club Shopping Center.

Tenuta plans to open an establishment called Tenuta's at 27 Huntington Lane by the end of July.

The eatery will occupy a 1,288 square-foot space in the shopping center. Its operating hours will be 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

As a part of their approval, the trustees specified Tenuta could not park delivery vehicles at the restaurant when it is closed.

### Centennial poster winners named

Wheeling officials named 12 local children winners of its contest to make posters marking the village's centennial year.

In the first and second grade category, the first, second and third place winners were, respectively, Shawna Becker, Andrew Todd and Kevin Kolecz.

In the third and fourth grade category, the winners were Heather Schmidt, Ashley Elliot and Mitchell Brenghause.

The fifth and sixth grade winners were Nicholas Hahn, Pete Santos and Jenny Schlange.

And in the seventh and eighth grade category, the winners were Eric Schloman, Jeff Kolecz and Dan Baik.

Kindergarten student Megan Selander won an honorable mention.

The winners will have their posters displayed throughout the village.

### 9 essays to be read on Founder's Day

Wheeling officials also named nine children winners of the centennial essay contest.

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# Dominick's departure has Wheeling officials at a loss

6-8-94  
BY DAVE MCKINNEY  
AND DWAYNE WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Dominick's Finer Foods will be leaving its store of 22 years in Wheeling because of diminished sales, the grocery company has announced.

The news is jolting nearby merchants and officials in the suburb of 30,000 residents, which soon will have only one store, an Aldi food store, devoted strictly to the sale of groceries.

The store at 550 W. Dundee Road opened in 1972 and has about 24,000 square feet of sales space, about half of the space in newer Dominick's stores, company spokeswoman Cheryl Robertson said Tuesday.

"It's one of our older, smaller stores and no longer offers the variety of merchandise or services like our more modern stores offer," she said.

The company said it plans to leave the store Nov. 30. The store's 90 employees would be offered jobs at other Dominick's stores, she said.

Unlike Jewel, which last summer announced that 16 of its older, smaller stores would be converted to Oscos, Dominick's decision to close the Wheeling store is not part of a larger company restructuring, Robertson said.

"This is an isolated case," she said, noting that there are three other Dominick's within a three-mile radius of the Wheeling store.

Dominick's move to shutter its

store in the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center comes six months after a fire destroyed Franklin's Finer Foods at 291 E. Dundee Road in Wheeling.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said she finds it hard to believe the store is not profitable at its location.

"Certainly in a community of 30,000 this is a good location for them, and they have no competition there," Schultz said. "We would like for them to stay."

Once Dominick's leaves, the only stores selling groceries in Wheeling will be Aldi, 901 W. Dundee Road, and a Sam's Club, 1055 McHenry Road, a warehouse store that sells to members only.

The Dominick's closing will be a "disaster for the convenience of the people," Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

Merchants in the Lynn Plaza center said the loss of Dominick's, the center's main anchor, means the future of one of Wheeling's oldest shopping centers is in doubt.

"It's like one domino falls, then so does another. What else will go with them?" said Denise Kennedy, owner of neighboring Travel Wise travel agency and chairman of the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Economic Development Committee.

"Dominick's decision to leave is a very sad scenario in that our town can't support them. If Dominick's can't make it here, who can?" she said.

Dominick's has 84 grocery stores and 17 Omni Superstores in the Chicago area.

# Wheeling increases rates for water, sewer service

6-7-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved increases in residential sewer and water rates to partially fund village improvement projects.

In a 5-0 vote, with trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman absent, the Wheeling village board approved an 11-cent hike in the water rate, raising it from \$2.65 to \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons.

The board also increased the sewer fee by 2 cents, taking it from 41 cents to 43 cents per 1,000 gallons.

The new fees will take effect in July.

Residents should notice the increases on their September utility bills.

Village officials said they approved the increases this month to give residents time to adjust their water usage.

Village officials planned for the new increases in the \$28.5 million 1994-95 budget, and had discussed the move prior to approving that spending plan in April.

"This is primarily for the capital improvement projects un-

der way," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said about the fee increases.

Under the current budget, village officials plan to borrow \$3.5 million for sewer and water improvements.

Those projects include a fire hydrant replacement program, the replacement of a water main on a part of Milwaukee Avenue and the relocation of a water main at the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection near Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling officials also are having a new 3-million-gallon standpipe and pump station built on Willow Road at the south end of the village.

With the two increases, the average resident is paying \$3.19 for sewer and water services.

According to statistics from other nearby communities, Wheeling residents' rates for those utilities are among the lowest in the area.

"It's always interesting to see these charts and see where we are and see those rates are reasonable rates," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

# Organizers call Palwaukee Wheels and Wings a success

6-10-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Organizers are calling the inaugural Wings and Wheels Expo event held at Palwaukee Municipal Airport recently a smashing success.

The first three-day event highlighting vintage aircraft and autos brought thousands to the Wheeling airport, said Donald K. Miller, executive director of the Prospect Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau that sponsored the expo.

"We probably had between 11,000 and 12,000 people. At the stage door canteen we had more than 650 people," Miller said.

"It really was a super, super event. The weather cooperated, there were no injuries," he said.

Organizers originally estimated attendance could hit 30,000 for the event that ran last weekend.

With help from officials from Prospect Heights, Wheeling and

the airport, the bureau held the expo planned to stimulate tourism interest in the area.

Planes on display at the expo included a B-28 bomber, a replica of Charles Lindberg's Spirit of St. Louis, a World War II Japanese Zero, and the Sukhoi Su-29 Russian aerobatic plane owned by Bob Davis of Woodstock.

Also featured at the event were such classic autos as 1955, 1956 and 1957 Chevrolets.

Miller said this week that bureau officials are determining whether the event will be held again next year.

Among the possible changes eyed for a future expo are a limited airshow and shuttle service for disabled visitors where golf carts would transport them on airport grounds.

Municipal officials nixed plans for an airshow due to their safety concerns. Bureau officials said they do not yet have the final expense tally for the expo.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling hires firm to build new commuter rail station

6-14-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials inched closer Monday to bringing a Wisconsin Central Ry. commuter station to the village by agreeing to hire a firm to build the structure.

Wheeling trustees voted unanimously to draft an agreement with MTI Construction Services Inc., of Elk Grove Village, to design and build the commuter rail station scheduled to open in spring 1996.

The firm would be responsible for developing a 2,000-square-foot commuter station on the east end of Town Street, just south of Dundee Road.

The station would be one of about a dozen stops along the 53-mile commuter rail line, now under construction.

The village board chose MTI, the firm that is also building Buffalo Grove's commuter station, over the Chicago-based Homer L. Chastain & Associates consulting engineering firm.

While both firms proposed

doing the work for around \$330,000, trustees favored MTI's design/build approach.

Under that concept, which is used in private industry, a construction manager would be hired in addition to a general contractor to oversee the project.

The construction manager would then be directly accountable to the village.

Chastain, on the other hand, proposed a more traditional approach where a general contractor would oversee the project without help from a construction manager.

Trustee Robert G. Todd said using a construction manager gives the village more control over the project because that person is like "a village employee."

"It (design/build) is an advantage," said Todd.

Wheeling officials also said with the design/build concept, the project could be completed more quickly.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said an agreement with MTI would probably be inked within the next four weeks.

# Drug sting operation leads to arrest of 29

By Robert Becker  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

An eight-month investigation by Evanston police led to the arrests of 29 people Friday on charges of selling drugs, in many instances near Evanston High School.

Fifteen others still were being sought as part of the "Operation Checkmate" probe of drug dealers and gang members sparked by a Wheeling police officer working undercover, officials said.

Arrest warrants were issued for a total of 44 persons, and five teams of Evanston officers began making arrests at 5 a.m.

Police said about half of those charged with delivery of a controlled substance are gang members, with 39 individuals from Evanston and five from Chicago.

Two juveniles were among those taken into custody, according to police officials.

Of the 56 total charges filed, 26 involved sales allegedly made near Evanston High School.

Those convicted of selling narcotics within 1,000 feet of a school are not eligible for parole, officials said.

"We had a lot of complaints about drug peddling in and around the high school," said Evanston's Deputy Police Chief Frank Kaminski.

The success of the investigation turned primarily on the undercover work of Wheeling Patrol Officer Robert Pressley, who moved into a building at 2121 Darrow Ave., in what Kaminski described as "one of the areas we're having problems with."

After moving into the building, Pressley began making contacts with alleged narcotics dealers, and, according to Kaminski, "We were able to make a lot of buys as a result."

He said Pressley bought crack



Tribune photo by David Klobucar

Wheeling Officer Robert Pressley (right) addresses a news conference Friday as Evanston Police Chief Gerald Cooper listens. Pressley's undercover investigation for Evanston police led to 29 drug arrests.

and cocaine ranging in amounts of one-quarter gram to five grams.

Kaminski said that while Pressley did not wear electronic recording devices during the alleged narcotics purchases, each

instance was, "done under surveillance for the officer's safety."

"We were a little laying back because the officer was out there," he said. "We wanted to make some good cases on these guys."

# Wheeling officer aids Evanston drug probe

By Karen Berkowitz  
STAFF WRITER

Posing as an unemployed drug dealer living on Evanston's west side, Wheeling Patrolman Robert Pressley spent eight months documenting crack cocaine sales — an undercover probe that culminated in the arrest Friday of several dozen alleged drug dealers.

During the investigation known as Operation Checkmate, Pressley, a 16-year veteran of the Wheeling department, made a series of crack cocaine purchases from 44 individual dealers, including members of four separate street gangs.

The purchases were made between October 1993 and May of this year.

Shortly after 5 a.m., police officers began knocking on doors and rousing the suspects named in arrest warrants.

As of early Tuesday, police had taken 32 of the 44 defendants into custody. Most of them are charged with delivery of a controlled substance.

Nearly two-thirds of the drug transactions took place within 1,000 feet of Evanston Township High School, police said, meaning

the defendants charged in those sales will receive mandatory prison sentences if convicted.

Last fall, the 47-year-old Pressley set up residency in a Section 8 apartment on Evanston's west side and, working from tips supplied by Evanston police, managed to gain the confidence of drug dealers operating in the community.

When Pressley was asked about his role Friday during a press conference at Evanston police headquarters, he said he blended into the community simply by "socializing and talking and hanging around."

Asked if he ever feared that his cover was unraveling, Pressley said there were "moments," though he never felt his safety was in serious jeopardy.

Both Deputy Chief Michael Hermes and Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke of the Wheeling Police Department were present during the press briefing.

Pressley's involvement in Operation Checkmate was part of a personnel exchange program that enables law enforcement agencies to employ unfamiliar faces for undercover work.

# Celebration marks Wheeling's origins

By Dwayne T. Wong  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's centennial year celebration, Wednesday, June 22, carries special significance.

It is the exact date of the village's incorporation, and a Founder's Day celebration is being held to mark the occasion.

Festivities that day start at 7 p.m. in front of the village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Wheeling officials are erecting a commemorative fountain there to mark Wheeling's century-long existence.

"We'll have a groundbreaking (for the fountain), and we'll be going out for bids in the next week," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The fountain is being designed by the Northbrook-based Sente & Rubel Ltd. architecture firm. No cost has been set for the fountain.

Wheeling officials had also discussed placing a modern art sculpture of metallic wheels — donated by the Abbott Interfast Corp. — in front of village hall near the fountain. A site for that sculpture has not yet been determined.

Some of the funding for the fountain

came from the Feb. 5 Wheeling Centennial Gala at Chevy Chase Country Club that raised \$31,000.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz is expected to speak to the crowd about the progress on the fountain and other centennial-related items.

Besides groundbreaking for the fountain, other events scheduled for that day include the AMVETS Post 66 Color Guard raising flags while 1993 Wheeling High School graduate Joey Sanchez sings the Star Spangled Banner.

Additionally, the Pavilion-Aires

choir, from the Wheeling senior center, will sing special renditions of patriotic tunes.

The Founder's Day event is a precursor to the Centennial Parade being held in the village June 26.

That event is slated to feature a host of local groups and area leaders to celebrate Wheeling's past, present and future.

The parade starts at 2 p.m. from Holmes Junior High School at 221 S. Wolf Road and will travel north to Dundee Road, where it proceeds west to end at the Kmart store at 780 W. Dundee Road.



The old Union Hotel sits empty today at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling. In better days, the hotel was known for its fine food.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

## Wheeling's old buildings have tales to tell

BY DWAYNE WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Lorraine Haben still has vivid memories of the old Union Hotel across the street from her family's Wheeling Market butcher shop.

"It (the hotel) was run by a man (Felix) Rogalski and wife and they had six daughters and they served the best food in the world," she said, "Of course, all of the restaurants in Wheeling did then."

"I remember when it burned down. That was in 1925," the 69-year resident of the village said.

Haben's memories of the building owned by Arthur Buetner are in contrast to the way the empty structure at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave. is today.

With Wheeling residents looking back on the village's century of existence this year, the memories those old buildings hold become important when people review the town's history.

"There's not many of them (old buildings) left," she said.

One of the older buildings remaining in the village is the Denoyer Cabin at 440 Denoyer Trail in the Chelsea Cove subdivision.

Sitting on a 4½ acre farm site, the cabin was built in the 1930s by



One of the older buildings remaining in the village is the Denoyer Cabin at 440 Denoyer Trail in the Chelsea Cove subdivision. Area Girl Scouts help maintain the cabin today. Years ago, Girl Scouts visited the farm to camp out.

Daily Herald Photo/  
Gilbert Boucher



Philip Denoyer and Xenia (Bilhorn) Denoyer said Oliver Bilhorn, her brother, who now owns the property.

"They had the cabin built and they lived in the cabin while they had the big house built. Some of the roof is made from wood from the (1930s) World's Fair. I was a little kid then," Bilhorn, 85, said.

"The fireplace in the cabin has been built from stones from all over the world," he said.

Bilhorn said his late sister, Xenia, would regularly have Girl

Scout troops visit the farm to camp out.

Today, the site is still used by local Girl Scout troops who help maintain the cabin.

"Xenia used to have Girl Scouts camp there. There are 37 different kinds of trees on the property. She used to teach nature studies there," he said.

While Girl Scouts were learning about nature at the Denoyer cabin, activity of a less innocent nature was exhibited when the building that became the Chevy

Chase Country Club was built in the 1920s.

Built by the Knights of Columbus the popular club became a gambling den and alcohol safe house during Prohibition, said Vern Verstraete.

"It served so many different purposes in terms of gambling, in terms of storage of alcohol, the clubhouse was used for fund-raisers and theater," said Verstraete.

Formerly the golf pro at the club's golf course, Verstraete had time to become a historian of the building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. known as the Bon Air during Prohibition. That building is now owned by the Wheeling Park District.

Rumored to be a hangout for the notorious Chicago gangster Al Capone, the country club basement had a tunnel leading from its building-length basement to the outside so gamblers could escape police raids.

"There was a lot of gambling. It got itself raided a few times. As far as Capone goes, it (Chevy Chase) was not a big deal to him but he would be there," he said.

After the end of Prohibition, Verstraete said the place became an elegant property and was home to dances, theater and fund-raising events.

The Chevy Chase Country Club is now owned by the Wheeling Park District. It was the site of much activity during Prohibition days.

Daily Herald Photo/  
Gilbert Boucher



## WHEELING: Old buildings have tales to tell

Page 2

Continued from Page 1

A large theater tent was located on what is now the golf course practice green, and the building had a rooftop dance garden and swimming pool, he said.

"It later became a place of luxury with the theater, ballrooms where the biggest bands played and the pool that's now gone," he said.

In the 1940s and 1950s, Verstraete said, Chevy Chase Country Club became home to many Chicago residents who had grown used to stopping off in Wheeling on their way to Lake County des-

tinations.

"It became quite the place," Verstraete said recalling the club's previous splendor.

At the time the park district purchased the property in 1977, many Chicagoans still had memberships in the formerly private club.

The history in those old buildings, and others in Wheeling, is a part of a past people in the village are trying to retrace this year as a part of centennial celebrations.

Other events slated to mark Wheeling's century of existence includes the Founder's Day celebration June 22, the Wheeling

Centennial Parade June 26 and the Familyfest event held by St. Joseph the Worker Church from June 30 to July 4.

On the Fourth of July, the village will hold a fireworks display, and on July 31 a multicultural unity picnic is scheduled for Chamber Park.

Centennial-related events planned for later in the year include a Civil War re-enactment Aug. 6-7 at Heritage Park, the Oct. 1 Autumnfest at Chamber Park and a Nov. 12 Paddock Military Concert sponsored by The Daily Herald at Wheeling High School.

# Village awaits TIF proposals

*Countryside*

By NICK KATZ  
STAFF WRITER

6-16-94  
Wheeling officials plan to look at a range of options for development of its Dundee Road tax increment financing district.

Late last month the village sent out about 15 requests for proposals to Chicago area firms for development of 14 acres on the northwest corner of Mil-

waukee Avenue and Dundee Road. Proposals are due June 30.

"We have had previous proposals," said Village Pres. Sheila Schultz. "The decision to go out again was so we could look at all the range of possibilities and see what fits most what we want to do. We want to look at every possibility."

In 1985 the village formed the TIF district and

sold bonds to finance the purchase of property in the area. The entire TIF district includes 102 acres, said Village Planner Mark Janeck.

## TIF monies

In a TIF district additional revenue resulting from increases in property values and sales tax generated through development of the site is used to retire

the bonds sold to assist in development, rather than going to the village, school districts and other taxing bodies. Although the area has not been developed, Janeck said regular increases in property assessments have been sufficient to make payments on the bonds sold by the village.

Janeck said the village accepted a developers pro- (Continued on page 14)

# Wheeling celebrates Founders' Day

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-22-94  
Wheeling officials will mark the village's centennial with a Founders' Day celebration tonight, the anniversary of the town's incorporation.

Festivities will start at 7 p.m. at Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The highlight of the event is the groundbreaking for the centennial fountain, which is slated to be placed in front of the building later this year.

About \$31,000 was raised for the fountain at the Feb. 5 Wheeling Centennial Gala at Chevy Chase Country Club. A precise cost has not yet been calculated for the monument.

The fountain is being designed by Northbrook-based Sente & Rubel Ltd.

Sheila H. Schultz, president of Wheeling Village, is making a centennial address at the ceremony.

In addition to the groundbreaking and the speech, visitors can look forward to a lot of music.

Wheeling High School graduate Joey Sanchez will kick off the festivities by singing "The Star Spangled Banner," and the AmVets Post 66 Color Guard will make a presentation.

The chorus from Mark Twain School in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 will also make music at the event.

The Pavilion-Aires choir from the village's senior center and the Wheeling Centennial Children's Choir will sing patriotic selections, including "America The Beautiful" and "This Land Is Your Land."

The Schizo-Phonics barbershop quartet will sing old-fashioned songs at the gathering.

"What we're trying to create on Founders' Day is an old fashioned hometown event," said Jeanne Di-Vall Selander, village clerk and co-chair of the event.

A sing-along to "God Bless America" is scheduled for later in the day.

Winners of the centennial essay contest will read their works to the audience, and winners of the poster contest are having their work displayed.

## Sportmart

The request for proposals includes the property now occupied by Sportmart. Village officials, Janeck said, are unsure whether the company plans to keep the Wheeling store open.

"It's our information they are opening a new store in Deerfield. We're not sure what's going to happen to the (Wheeling) store," Janeck said.

"It's a big piece of property. It's going to solve some problems," Janeck said. "Hopefully it will come to fruition."

"It would be nice if it was a nice, clean deal and they would do something right away," Janeck said.

Schultz too would like to see development begin quickly. "We want to move it along as quickly as possible," she said.

posal for retail development eight years ago. But the project was derailed when some property owners contested the village's condemnation of their property. Janeck said those cases were settled last year.

Janeck said this time the village did not specify what type of proposal it wanted, but instead left it to developers to come up with their own ideas.

"We just asked them for a general proposal," he said. "We don't have any specific use in mind. We want to see what kind of market there is out there for projects."

"I think we'll be getting across-the-board proposals," Janeck said. "I think we'll get residential. I think we'll get commercial. I think we'll get combinations."

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling awards contracts for work on water system

6-21-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday awarded more than \$2.4 million in contracts for improvements to the village's water system.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Robert G. Todd absent, Wheeling's village board awarded a \$2.25 million contract to William A. Randolph Inc. of Morton Grove for construction of the village's south receiving pump station and other smaller water projects.

The trustees also awarded a \$183,800 contract to RUST Environmental & Infrastructure Inc. of Schaumburg for supervising the construction project.

The contracts are a part of the village's program to upgrade its water system. Director of Operations and Maintenance Robert D. Gray Jr. said the pump station and other improvements will give the village a third way to bring in Lake Michigan water and maintain even water pressure.

"It will even out the water delivery," Gray said.

Wheeling officials have allocated \$5.2 million under the vil-

lage's current budget for water system upgrades.

The south pump station is planned for an area on the southeast corner of the village at the intersection of Willow Road and Foster Avenue. The station will be connected to a 3-million-gallon standpipe now under construction at the site, Gray said.

Due to the sophistication of the new pump station, \$38,600 of the RUST contract is targeted for training village employees.

Other water system projects planned by Wheeling officials include relocation of a water main at the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads near Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

A water main also is being relocated on a part of Milwaukee Avenue on the east side of the village.

To partially fund the projects, the Wheeling village board recently approved an 11-cent increase in residential water rates, raising the cost from \$2.65 to \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons.

Residential sewer rates were increased 2 cents from 41 cents to 43 cents per 1,000 gallons.



The \$8.3 million project to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads near Palwaukee Municipal Airport also includes reconfiguring the approach roads and building two new bridges over the Wheeling drainage ditch. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

## Moving intersection makes way for signals, safe landings

BY ANDREA L. BROWN  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Right at Hintz and Wolf roads, only about 350 feet away from runway 16 at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, is an excellent spot for a close-up look at an airplane landing.

But that's a little too close for passing motorists, which is why since last summer, airport officials have been overseeing a project to relocate the Hintz/Wolf intersection north and west of its present location.

"The priority was established a long time ago to provide a better runway protection," said Dennis Rouleau, the airport's assistant manager of operations and maintenance.

And, moving the intersection will make it possible to install traffic signals at what is now a four-way stop. Signals are tall enough to interfere with the path of landing aircraft.

Moving an entire intersection, including reconfiguring the approach roads and building two new bridges in a space constrained by several existing structures, is a complicated and costly undertaking that has been six or seven years in the making, Rouleau said.

"The whole project has been based

on threading a needle," he explained. "This has been a very expensive project for us, the state of Illinois and the Federal Aviation Administration ... because of the location — the land is so expensive — and the complexity of the work."

Since last summer, crews have been concentrating their efforts on building two bridges over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and widening and relocating Hintz Road. The cost of this work is \$4.5 million.

Work to widen and relocate Wolf Road — expected to begin in August — will cost an additional \$3.8 million.

With the two bridges nearly complete and dirt work under way for the relocated portion of the roadway, the

Hintz Road project is on schedule for November completion. Wolf is slated for completion in 1995. Both roads will be widened to five lanes.

Except for portions of Hintz, at the project's east end at Milwaukee Avenue and the west end near Chadwick Drive, most of the work has been off the road and has had a minimal effect on traffic, officials said.

Still, the four-way stop has been a

trouble spot for years, and construction there has not improved matters, said Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes.

Hermes recommended using alternate routes like Palatine Road, Milwaukee Avenue as far as Dundee Road, Hintz as far as Wheeling Road, or Elmhurst Road/Route 83.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," Hermes said.

## Wheeling hires firm to design train station

By NICK KATZ  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling will be trying a new approach for the design and engineering of its commuter train station - new at least for the village.

Monday trustees authorized the village staff to negotiate with MTI Construction Services Inc. to design the new station on the Wisconsin Central line and oversee construction. Service on the commuter line is slated to begin in spring 1996.

The Elk Grove Village firm takes a design/build approach, one that Village Manager Craig Anderson said may give the village more control over the project. MTI also has performed work for the Village of Buffalo Grove and has been hired by that village to design its train station.

"Based on the experience Buffalo Grove has had it seems to work very well for them," Anderson told trustees. "They've had good experience getting the job done that way. In terms of representing the interests of the village, design/build is the way to go."

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said that with design/build the design firm develops plans for the project, but rather than hiring a single general contractor who then hires subcontractors, the village enters into its own agreements directly with subcontractors. MTI coordinates the subcontractors and oversees construction, he said.

One advantage, Klitzke said, is that the village knows up front how much it will be paying for construction management. MTI's proposal calls for a fee of \$130,000 for the

service.

With a traditional system, as offered by the other firm submitting a proposal, Homer L. Chastain, the fee is charged by the general contractor and is not known until the village goes out for bids.

The village sought a bid from Chastain because the company has been hired by Metra to handle the design and construction of its facilities at some of the stations on the new line including the one in Wheeling.

The Wheeling station is to be located at the east end of Town Street, immediately south of Meyer Material. The station will be on the west side of the tracks so that inbound passengers will have a place to wait in the morning.

Plans call for parking for 550 cars initially in two locations. The village plans to build a lot east of the railroad right-of-way on the west side of Northgate Parkway, south of the Burger King property and on the Commonwealth Edison right-of-way west of Wheeling Road.

Anderson told trustees the village will need to discuss financing for the project soon. He said that in addition to any money available from transportation grants, the village may want to sell bonds to finance the project.

In addition to the cost of construction, Anderson said the village will need money to buy land for the station and parking lot and to make improvements to streets, sidewalks and similar facilities in the area of the station.

"We're getting close to the point we'll probably need to discuss overall funding very soon," Anderson said.

### Centennial parade steps off Sunday

Wheeling residents can continue their celebration of the village centennial Sunday when more than 100 units take part in the Centennial Parade.

The parade kicks off at 2 p.m. at Holmes Junior High, 221 S. Wolf Road. The parade route will run north on Wolf Road and west on Dundee Road and will end at K-Mart at Route 83.

The parade will feature local units such as the Wheeling High School Band, the Pavilion Senior Center group, a floats from Cole-Taylor Bank and floats from local schools. Other participants will include the Chicago Police Pipe and Drum Band and Shriner units.

Hoynes Savings Bank will take part with an 18th century Conestoga wagon pulled by Belgian Draft horses, driven by a homesteader family and accompanied by a cowboy and Indian.

Gov. Jim Edgar and Cong. John Porter are also expected to take part.

*CountrySide* 6-23-94



## "GOD BLESS AMERICA"

words and music by Irving Berlin

God bless America, land that I love.  
Stand beside her, and guide her,  
thru the night with the light from above.  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
to the oceans white with foam,  
God Bless America, my home sweet home  
God Bless America, my home sweet home

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Village President Sheila Hogan Schultz  
Village Clerk Jeanne DiVall Selander  
Trustee Anthony Altieri, Jr.  
Trustee Elizabeth Hartman  
Trustee Judy Abruscato  
Trustee Lois J. Gaffke  
Trustee Robert G. Todd  
Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski

Greg Koeppen, Master of Ceremonies  
Wheeling Centennial Committee  
Janet D'Argo, Chairman  
Joyce Stemp  
Pat Todd  
Joey Sanchez  
Wheeling Pavilion-Aires  
Adelle Becker, Director  
Wheeling Centennial Children's Choir  
Mark Twain Chorus  
Jennifer Hinshaw  
Linda Schwartz, Accompanist  
Wheeling Jaycees  
All Centennial Sponsors  
Craig Anderson, Village Manager  
Joni Beaudry, Asst. Village Manager  
Christine Brady, Deputy Clerk  
Connie Gervase  
Dennis Mikosz  
Karnes Music

Lois J. Gaffke, Program Design



The \$8.3 million project to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads near Palwaukee Municipal Airport also includes reconfiguring the approach roads and building two new bridges over the Wheeling drainage ditch. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

## Moving intersection makes way for signals, safe landings

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Gov. Jim Edgar and Cong. John Porter are also expected to take part.

*Country side 6-23-94*

# Lynn Plaza seeking grocery tenant to replace Dominick's

6-18-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The management of the shopping center being vacated by the Dominick's Finer Foods store is actively seeking another grocery tenant, according to Wheeling officials.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said Chicago-based James Kaplan & Associates, the management company for Lynn

Plaza, is seeking a new grocery tenant for the store at 550 W. Dundee Road.

"They're doing what we want them to do," Anderson said of the management company's efforts to find a new grocery tenant.

The grocery chain said it would not renew its lease for the space, which it occupied since 1972, when it expires Nov. 30. Dominick's officials said the store no longer of-

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**"They're doing what we want them to do."**

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—Village Manager Craig G. Anderson

fered the services and merchandise featured in its newer locations.

Wheeling officials said losing Dominick's is a double hit for the village. Franklin's Finer Food Store at 291 E. Dundee Road closed after a

fire on Dec. 24.

Anderson said the management company is negotiating with several prospective tenants it wouldn't identify.

When Dominick's leaves the re-

maining grocery stores in Wheeling will include Aldi, 901 W. Dundee Road, Garden Fresh Food Market, 1786 Hintz Road, and Sam's Club, 1055 McHenry Road, a warehouse store that sells to members only.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said if the village were involved in lease negotiations with Dominick's perhaps the chain would reconsider moving from the center.

Abruscato said senior citizens

found the Wheeling Dominick's store convenient for their shopping.

However, Anderson noted that the chain did not give the village any prior indication it was closing its Wheeling store.

Dominick's officials noted that the chain has other locations in a three-mile radius of Wheeling. Dominick's officials said the 90 employees at the Wheeling store would be offered jobs at its other stores.

# Growth, land values drive out nostalgic drive-ins

## Wheeling screen could be latest to close

BY JIM ALLEN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Maybe it's the summer air, the starry skies or the monster screen.

It might be the barbecues, the coolers, the tailgating.

Perhaps it's the nostalgia. Or it could be the blend of two American passions — the auto and Hollywood.

Maybe it's the, ahem, romance. Whatever it is, caravans of suburbanites flock to drive-in theaters. But they're seeing this summer-entertainment staple vanish, another casualty of suburban sprawl.

Now the Twin Drive-In in Wheeling may join a growing list of operations threatened by extinction — because of a real-estate squabble, not sagging ticket sales.

Just beyond the Twin's southwestern screen, single-engine planes gently lift off from Runway

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The reason: Plans for airport expansion call for more hangars and rerouting a drainage ditch.

It's a plot line with a long history of sequels, according to Jim Kozak, communications director for the National Alliance of Theater Owners. Someone — whether the owner or an outsider — thinks of a "better" use for the land.

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seats and no sticky floors. And there's nostalgia.

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Ron Wilwers, 34, of Wood Dale, and his wife, Barbara, 24, sip cold

rural areas. But as the cities have expanded, the land beneath the drive-in has typically become really, really valuable," Kozak said.

In 1958, America hit the peak of outdoor-movie mania. There were more than 4,000 then.

Today, there are just more than 800, and the number diminishes each year, Kozak said. Although a few entrepreneurs are building new drive-ins, they are dwarfed by the many that are closing, he said.

Urban sprawl and greed are the antagonists, Kozak said.

Today in the Chicago area, only a handful of drive-ins remain, and their numbers are down by two-thirds from as recently as two decades ago.

In this area, drive-ins still thrive in McHenry, Grayslake, West Chicago, Wheeling, Cicero, Matteson and Chicago.

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Moviegoers can sit inside or outside their cars to watch films at Wheeling's Twin Drive-In. It's one of the last suburban drive-ins remaining and now is being threatened.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

Dundale, the Oasis, the 53 Drive-In, the Starview, the Crystal and the Skyhi, just to name a few.

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See DRIVE-IN on Page 5  
McHenry Outdoor, McHenry



Daily Herald Graphic/Erin Semelroth

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\*\* Airport expansion may force closing  
Sources: News reports, interviews

# Growth, land values drive out nostalgic drive-ins

## Wheeling screen could be latest to close

BY JIM ALLEN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Maybe it's the summer air, the starry skies or the monster screen.

It might be the barbecues, the coolers, the tailgating.

Perhaps it's the nostalgia.

Or it could be the blend of two American passions — the auto and Hollywood.

Maybe it's the, ahem, romance.

Whatever it is, caravans of suburbanites flock to drive-in theaters. But they're seeing this summer-entertainment staple vanish, another casualty of suburban sprawl.

Now the Twin Drive-In in Wheeling may join a growing list of operations threatened by extinction — because of a real-estate squabble, not sagging ticket sales.

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6-27-94  
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Daily Herald Graphic/Eric Semelroth

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Sources: News reports, interviews

# DRIVE-IN: Moviegoers enjoy nostalgia

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Continued from Page 1

divisions, but many owners stick to what they know and simply open year-round movie theaters with six, 10, or even 12 screens.

"Civilization has caught up with them. Everybody has caught up with them. And there appears to be a better use for the land. Well, maybe not a better use, but a way to make more money with the land."

Rising property taxes and the short season are other factors, according to 53 Drive-In Management President Jeff Kohlberg.

The Cascade, an outdoor theater in West Chicago, is still run by 53 Drive-In. But the namesake of the corporation is long gone. Kohlberg remains an avid fan of outdoor screens, or "ozoners," but he said new neighbors often prefer the outdoor theaters to close.

Over the years, the business has changed in other ways, Kohlberg said, calling a "clean, family" atmosphere a key to success.

"You used to go to the drive-in to see an R-rated movie or a little racier title or an action-type of movie that might not show in your classier theaters," Kohlberg said. "But today, it's more of a total family operation. Where else can you go and not have a baby sitter? Plus, you can see two movies for \$5 or \$6, where most theaters charge that for one movie."

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and stretches the length of the long driveway of Milwaukee Avenue. A Wednesday may seem like a slow night, but nobody told this crowd. They come with their children, Hibachis, lawn chairs, bug repellents, pizzas, blankets and other paraphernalia.

The traffic is a telling signal of why the land owners, M&R Properties, and the movie operators, Loews-Sony Theatres, are resisting the airport's eminent domain lawsuit.

The patrons root for the underdogs in this drama. Told of the lawsuit, all offer the same response: Closing the Twin would be a shame.

"It definitely signifies summer," said Karina Koules, 34, of Lake Forest, whose husband, Steven, 37, sat behind the wheel as 6-month-old son Max fell asleep in the back seat.

Like the other 150 carloads of patrons, the Kouleses are here to enjoy temperatures in the 60s and Jack Nicholson in fangs.

Steven Koules, a trader for a German banking subsidiary, said the weather and the relaxation are only part of it. There also are no small seats and no sticky floors. And there's nostalgia.

"When I was younger, we went to our grandparents down in southern Illinois, and it was always a big treat. It's like a tradition in the summer — going to the Dairy Queens and the drive-ins."

Younger patrons don't have all the memories, but they have the same observations.

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Ron Wilwers, 34, of Wood Dale, and his wife, Barbara, 24, sip cold

drinks as their children, Christopher and Courtney, munch on chips and soda on the tailgate of their pickup.

"To me it's like still being at home in the back yard. You have all the comforts of home. Plus we only get three or four months of this weather. You wait all winter for this, and this is one of the great ways to be outside with the kids. You can't beat that."

Having just spent a night watching the White Sox at Comiskey Park, Wilwers said this outing is easier on the pocketbook. Tickets aren't \$18, parking is included, and the children remain entertained without a sitter.

"And this one has memories," Wilwers said, prompting his wife to throw him a look. "No, I mean we met your family here," he quickly adds.

"But I think it'd be a shame to get rid of this."

In fact, the industry couldn't pick a worse time to see drive-ins disappear, according to some observers.

Marc Pascucci, Loews-Sony vice president of publicity and advertising, notes that Disney and Warner Brothers are both expanding their family entertainment productions, and those are the movies — combined with action dramas — that drive-in devotees love most.

Besides Disney films, this year's action line-up provides a good example of perfect drive-in fare: "Speed," "Blown Away," "The Crow," "Baby's Day Out," "City Slickers II" and more. Pascucci said as long as the drive-ins offer first-run productions, there will always be lines backing up to Milwaukee Avenue.

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"Is business down? Far from it. Attendance at outdoor screens is amazingly strong," he said.

But the downside, Kozak said, is

that many operators can't resist year-round sales and the chance to squeeze in six screens instead of one or two.

But onlookers like Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart say they can't see continued occupation by the Twin.

Asked about ticket sales and the nostalgia, Stewart admits not being too interested. "I don't know the dynamics of it," he said.

But he does know the airport needs more land for drainage.

"This didn't just come out of the griddle. Two villages studied this for years."

"That, to me, doesn't make sense, if you're not going to utilize expansive land 12 months a year," Stewart said.

In terms of the progress of the lawsuit, the owners of the land won an early round, successfully arguing that the airport and the villages could not use "quick-take" condemnation to accelerate the process. But that may only postpone the inevitable.

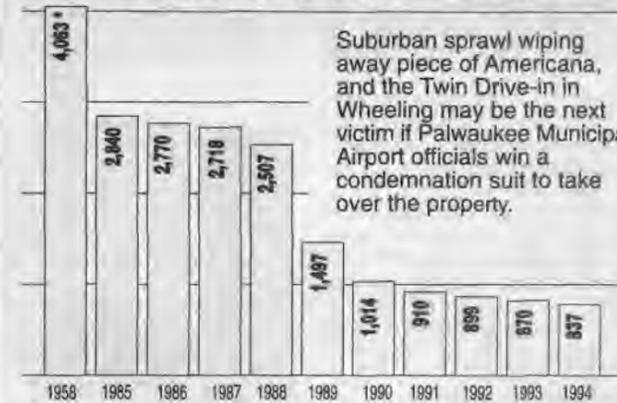
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Regardless, 53 Drive-In's Kohlberg remains optimistic.

"There will always be a drive-in somewhere, because it's a novelty," he said.

## Driving away the drive-ins

Number of screens nationwide



Suburban sprawl wiping away piece of Americana, and the Twin Drive-in in Wheeling may be the next victim if Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials win a condemnation suit to take over the property.

\* Peak year  
Source: National Alliance of Theater Owners

### Current attractions

- Grayslake Outdoor, Grayslake
- Bel Air Drive-in, Cicero
- Double Drive-in, Chicago
- Twin Drive-in, Wheeling\*\*
- Cicero Twin Drive-in, Matteson
- Cascade Outdoor Theatre, West Chicago
- McHenry Outdoor, McHenry

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Daily Herald Graphic/Eric Sorenson

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...See DRIVE-IN on Page 2



Wheeling High School is a conglomeration of different races and economic strata. But for the most part, students there were able to rise above the violence this year to get along. Here, student Julie Manuro chats with friends before classes. Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierri

DAILY  
HERALD  
6-20-94

# Not as simple as black and white

Wheeling High School's past year was one of racial intolerance, some violence, and considerable hope. How is the first truly diverse Northwest suburban high school faring?

**F**or one suburban high school, it was a year of significant tension — and a year of remarkable achievement.

With a 28 percent minority population this past year, Wheeling High School is acting as the prototype for other Northwest suburban high schools.

Being first isn't always enviable. Wheeling was awash with tension this year over several incidents, starting with a brawl at the homecoming assembly in October and ending in February when authorities found a gun in one locker.

"We got caught by surprise by the deep animosity some of these kids had," said one administrator. "There's already a lot of harmony but some of these kids aren't buying into it."

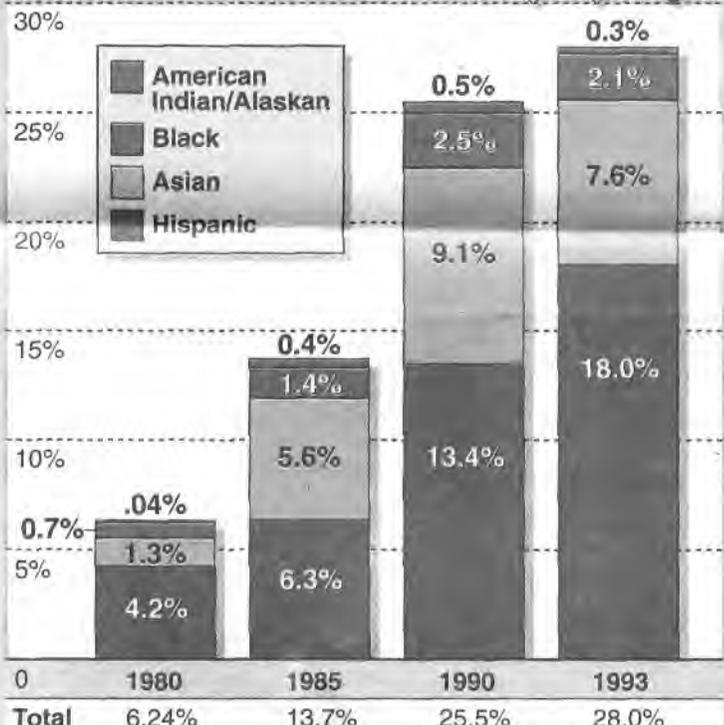
And other educators are watching.

"(Wheeling is) a real leader," said a Palatine High School assistant principal. "Other schools are learning from them."

**Story on page 6.**

## A growing movement

Wheeling's changing student population



Source: District 214

Daily Herald Graphic/Michael Hawkins

# Schools must face cultural growing pains

By BETH WILSON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Ide Chavez was 13 when his boyhood friends pelted him with pennies, called him unprintable names and wrote "traitor" on his junior high school locker.

His crime: befriending some white students.

Yet it was only four years later, this past October, when Chavez stood before his high school peers as their homecoming king, one of the first Hispanic students at Wheeling High School to be elected to the honor.

"The lights were on me and the people were clapping," he said. "It was a great moment for me."

But in the stands, a small group of black and Hispanic students started hassling each other.

As Chavez posed for pictures with his queen, Katie Perkins, the taunting turned violent.

A brawl, marked by racial slurs, ensued. More students jumped in. A teacher trying to break it up was punched in the face. Ten students were suspended, and police beefed up security that night at the football game.

The homecoming incident epitomizes the school year just ended at Wheeling High School, one of the first schools in the Northwest suburbs to have a large minority population — but by no means the last.

The year saw some serious problems: the homecoming fight, another lunchroom brawl; and, finally, several students were suspended for being involved in the bringing of a gun to school. All the incidents were race-related and illustrate the downside of the increasing cultural diversity in the suburbs.

And local educators say adapting to that change must be a top priority.

"I think it's one of the most absolutely critical issues," said John W. Ashenfelter, the incoming superintendent of Arlington-Heights-based Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

"We've been fairly used to being a homogenous community out here in the Northwest suburbs. We have to open our minds to think differently and accept differences. That doesn't happen easily."

No one may not know that better than students and staff at Wheeling High School, a nationally recognized school that tries to celebrate its diversity yet struggles with how to make 1,791 teen-agers of different races, languages and incomes get along.

This past year the school graduated one of its most diverse classes ever, dotted with students whose parents barely speak English and students whose families left Chicago seeking a safer environment.

But there were also 25 students who were suspended or expelled for an escalating series of racial conflicts that peaked in February when officials found a gun in a locker.

"There already is a lot of harmony, but there are a number of students who aren't buying into it," said Marilyn Relles, Wheeling High School's foreign language and so-



Wheeling High School students Brooke Kelley and Dharini Patel sit outside the school. "All kids are looking for a place to belong," Wheeling High School Principal Elizabeth Ennis says.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pileri

cial science department head. "We got caught by surprise in the deep animosity that some of these kids had."

The problems began with the homecoming assembly fight, which reportedly started when some Hispanic students bragged over Chavez's selection as king over a black nominee.

"The more students started fighting, the more students banded as a race," said Ananda Drake, a black honors student who graduated this month.

And at the homecoming football game that night, some students were nervous and left early.

"I don't want to take any chances," said Hispanic student Froscio Maratos that night. "It scares me because it could happen again."

After the incident, polarization increased inside the school.

Some black students in particular felt isolated. They saw that Hispanic students had an advocate who met with students over lunch and after-school acting as a tutor, counselor and friend. They also noticed there were monthly programs for Hispanic parents.

"One of the tensions in the school has been: 'We don't get these extra services. What's with us? Where's mine?'" Wheeling Principal Elizabeth Ennis said.

"We have a small minority of black students and we have listened to them this year. And I think they have a point," she said. "They're kids and they see they are vastly outnumbered by Hispanic students. And so we have these separate groups pulling."

School officials responded with a variety of tolerance-building initiatives, such as a climate improvement committee and groups for black parents and students. Ennis also pledged to hire some black teachers.

But a core group of Hispanic and black students continued to clash.

In January, another fight broke out during the lunch hours, apparently stemming from the outcome of an intramural basketball game.

A school security monitor was hit. Eleven students were suspended.

School officials said some of the teen-agers were gang members, who manipulated the tension and encouraged conflict.

"They do not want unity," Relles said. "They're using the opportunity to split kids."

Keeping conflict alive retained their stronghold as group or gang leaders, officials said.

"Some of those students were very smart," said Spanish teacher and Hispanic-parent liaison Mary Dziurgot. "The smart ones feed on the struggling ones."

Then, in February, a boy brought a gun onto a school bus where Hispanic and black students were sparring.

The next school day police confiscated a gun from a girl's locker. In all, 12 students found to be connected to the gun were expelled or en-

## High school opens door to this graduate's future

By BETH WILSON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Attending Wheeling High School may have saved the life of Franco Rodriguez.

As a freshman at Roosevelt High School in Chicago's Northwest side, Rodriguez ditched school, hung out with gang members and says he was nearly shot — three times.

One afternoon he and a friend were riding a bicycle down Kedzie Boulevard near Lawrence Avenue. The friend was wanted by a rival gang, and a car pulled alongside them in a car. One man flashed a gun.

Luckily, a squad car was nearby, and the gang car hurriedly turned down a side street. Rodriguez and his friend, who was riding on the bike's handlebars, were saved. They were both 14.

Before the school year was out, his family moved to Prospect Heights.

"That's one of the main reasons we moved out here," said Rodriguez, now 18. "For something better. And it is better."

Although he initially hooked up with some "wannabe" gang

members at the school, Wheeling High School football coach Rick Benedetto urged him to try out for the football team.

"Everything changed for me," Rodriguez said.

He spent the summer before his sophomore year attending football camp and working out. At school, his grades improved and so did his self-esteem. He made new friends and struck up relationships with the coaches.

"People believed in me," he said. "That made the biggest difference."

"My attitude toward school changed. I stayed with my grades for sports. I showed them I'm a good student."

Now as a 1994 graduate, Rodriguez plans to start taking night classes this summer at Harper College in Palatine.

It's a far cry from what would have happened in Chicago, he says.

"I know I'd be in a gang, locked up or dead," he said. "I know I would be."

"Before if something happened I didn't care. I didn't care what happened to me. Now I have more pride in myself — more respect."

grams outside the school.

"The whole year this has been escalating," Ananda Drake said.

"What did they expect to happen?"

"They brought (the gun) to school to be protected," she theorized.

"They wanted to feel like they were somebody. They were angry and they made a stupid decision."

Drake's sister Shanti, who will be a junior at Wheeling in the fall, said she knew some of the kids involved. Some black students were truly scared, she said. They felt the school saw them only as troublemakers and would offer no assistance.

"Bringing a gun to school isn't the answer," she said. "But, if you're terrified for your life and you feel there's no one to look out for you that's what you're going to do."

For Relles, the gun incident was her worst fear realized.

"I just knew it was going to happen," she said. "I just had a heavy feeling in my heart — there was going to be a gun. It happened here and it's going to happen at Buffalo Grove and Prospect and New Trier (high schools). It catches everybody. It's like throwing a rock in the water."

But, troubles aside, Wheeling High School is a school where black and white girls mingle on the cheerleading squad. Students from Brazil and Korea make policy together on

troubling Europe, Mexico and other countries play soccer.

"Everyday you see kids of different races working side by side," said Pete Ogilvie, a science teacher. "They're helping each other."

Those involved in the problems represent only a minute fraction of the school, he believes.

Twenty-eight percent of Wheeling High School students are minorities. About 323 students are Hispanic, 137 students are Asian, 37 are black and six are American Indian or Alaskan native.

As a group, bilingual students speak 40 different languages ranging from Farsi to Thai to Portuguese.

The student body ranges from students who arrive with straight A's to those who possess third-grade skills.

Some come with parents looking to start a new life. Others are well below the poverty line. Some live in \$300,000 homes while a few live in cars or shelters, struggling to support themselves.

And the school, for the most part, has taken its population change in stride, retaining high test scores and continuing to receive national awards — all while providing students an education in a real-world setting.

"We're proud of them," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said of the high school. "Certainly,

there. And diversity — it's a positive thing for the students."

This school year, Wheeling's literary magazine was named the nation's best. Its newspaper won a top state award, and its debate team continues to place among the best in the state.

Meanwhile, staff members worked to enhance the school's atmosphere with a variety of cultural-awareness programs.

A black professor from New York, Dwane Hodges, spoke to students about racial unity and self-esteem in April. He spent more than two days at the school, meeting with small groups of students and teachers.

Last month, Hispanic author Luis Rodriguez addressed students. And members of the student multicultural group, SHADES, hosted two sold-out variety shows.

As a result, neighboring educators see Wheeling High School as a model for other schools to follow and watch.

"They're a real leader," said Gerard O'Brien, a Palatine High School assistant principal, who attended a recent seminar on race relations in the schools. "I think other schools are learning from them."

Population trends indicate minorities will continue to make up a greater portion of the suburbs and schools.

"For the region as a whole, the growth is going to be in the minority groups," said Max Dieber, director of research services for the North-eastern Illinois Planning Commission.

In particular, the Hispanic population will grow the fastest, Dieber said.

Racial and socioeconomic tensions are already surfacing in the schools — often inciting violence.

As Barrington High School administrators met to discuss diversity at the school this year, more than 50 students fought in a racially fueled lunchroom brawl. Thirty were suspended.

At Libertyville High School in the 1992-93 school year, several students formed their own Ku Klux Klan club. Members were asked to pay dues to reward those who beat up blacks and so-called "freaks." The school suspended the three group leaders and held race relations seminars.

At Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, some white students wore all white clothing mimicking KKK members and sparked a series of race-related fights during the '92-'93 school year.

Wheeling educators say they found that the antidote is making sure everybody's got a stake in the school — that everybody belongs.

This means hiring minority teachers to be role models as well as teachers, using textbooks and novels that reflect cultural diversity and recruiting students for school activities.

Ennis discovered some Hispanic students' grades were dropping because they were leaving school in May — to visit their families in Mexico.

"You've got to understand the culture," she said. "You talk about family values. They're tight. Going back to Mexico to see their families was more important than going to school. We told them to put off the visits for a few weeks."

Students coming from Chicago, meanwhile, may find a different sort of culture shock.

"They have all these expectations coming to the suburbs," Spanish teacher Dziurgot said. "Then they feel lost, like nobody understands them."

Another key, school officials say, lies in the hands of parents and the community.

"Many of our parents value diversity," Ennis said. "But all students do not come to us with an acceptance of people who are different."

Chavez, the homecoming king, hasn't had luck rebuilding burned bridges.

"Still today they don't talk to me," he said of his previous friends. "They don't look at me."

But Chavez gained an inner strength. "I try to be my own person," he said.

That seems to be good enough for many Wheeling High School students who voted Chavez their homecoming king.

"Most kids don't see a color," he

"I'm not an I'd like to like everybody it's too dangerous situation to ignore don't want this come to a head somebody get  
— Wheeling paren

"We still I who do hang out with because they they're Hispanic afraid of what friends would advice to their own person. I ple are confir  
— Wheeling 1993 hom

"There are any minority honor classes made to feel That's in every system. I was slow learner grade. It took long time to self-esteem.  
— Ananda highest h from Wheeling She plans Univer

"I can't change seeds of change  
— Dwane H professor Wheel student pressure

"There are people no respect for races or religion can't change But the kids chance."  
— Marilyn R High language

"It's a major change. We no longer afford not our job multicultural curriculum multicultural  
— Wheel

"We are black on the village boards. The decisions without an  
— A H High S

"We are different every Hispanic black, not is a member  
— Wheel

"It's that my kids to  
— Wheel Benedett movie

### Diversity in the schools

Northwest suburban high schools 1993-94 minority population

High school	Percentage
Elgin	42
Maine East	35
Wheeling	28
Maine West	25
Rolling Meadows	25
Streamwood	25
Conant*	23
Palatine*	23
Hoffman Estates*	21
Elk Grove	20
Hersey	16
Fremd*	16
Stevenson	13
Schaumburg*	13
Prospect	12
Barrington	11
Buffalo Grove	11

\*Numbers are rounded school year figures



Wheeling High School is a conglomeration of different races and economic strata. But for the most part, students there were able to rise above the violence this year to get along. Here, student Julie Manuro chats with friends before classes.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierr

DAILY  
HERALD  
6-20-94

# Not as simple as black and white

Wheeling High School's past year was one of racial intolerance, some violence, and considerable hope. How is the first truly diverse Northwest suburban high school faring?

**F**or one suburban high school, it was a year of significant tension — and a year of remarkable achievement.

With a 28 percent minority population this past year, Wheeling High School is acting as the prototype for other Northwest suburban high schools.

Being first isn't always enviable. Wheeling was awash with tension this year over several incidents, starting with a brawl at the homecoming assembly in October and ending in February when authorities found a gun in one locker.

"We got caught by surprise by the deep animosity some of these kids had," said one administrator. "There's already a lot of harmony but some of these kids aren't buying into it."

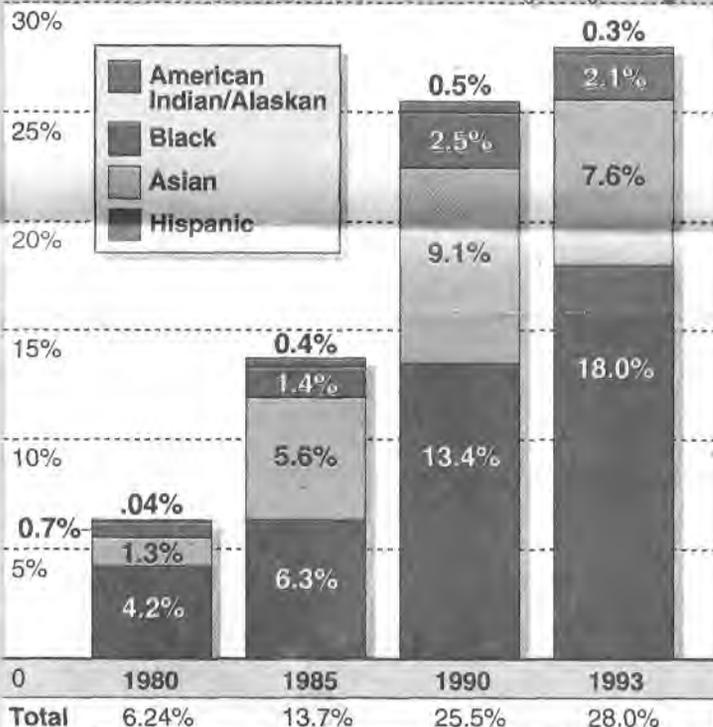
And other educators are watching.

"(Wheeling is) a real leader," said a Palatine High School assistant principal. "Other schools are learning from them."

Story on page 6.

## A growing movement

Wheeling's changing student population



Source: District 214

Daily Herald Graphic/Michael Hawkins

# Wheeling Centennial Parade attracts official attention

6-25-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With scores of public officials on hand, Wheeling will hold its first ever Centennial Parade Sunday.

Replacing the 4th of July parade, the event commemorates Wheeling's century of existence and will include participation by 100 different organizations from the area.

"People should plan to stay for at least two hours. It's going to be a pretty wonderful parade, I think," said Wheeling Trustee Lois J. Gaffke who also served as parade secretary.

Local officials expected at the event include U.S. Rep. John Porter, State Sens. Grace Mary Stern and Martin Butler, and State Reps. Carolyn Krause and Lauren

Beth Gash.

Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar also may visit the parade.

Other officials who were expected to attend the gathering include Des Plaines Mayor Ted Sherwood, Mayor Carl Couve, Schaumburg Village President Al Larson and Vernon Hills Village President Roger L. Byrne.

Police officials from Buffalo Grove, the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and the towns of Northbrook and Prospect Heights are having some of their police equipment displayed in the parade.

Northbrook, Rolling Meadows, Long Grove, Elk Grove Township, Wauconda, Lake Zurich, Prospect Heights and Mount Prospect fire officials are displaying fire equipment

in the parade.

The parade starts at 2 p.m. from Holmes Junior High School at 221 S. Wolf Road and travels north to Dundee Road, where it proceeds west to end at the Kmart store at 780 W. Dundee Road.

The parade is one of several commemorative events being held in Wheeling this summer.



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

## High note

*Countrywide 6-20-94*

Lorraine Haben, a Pavilion-Aires singer belts out a note of America the Beautiful for the crowd gathered at the founders day celebration in Wheeling Wednesday.



**PARADE REPAIRS**  
Members of the Tebala Mini-Bike group make some last-minute repairs to their bikes before the start of Wheeling's Centennial parade.

*Countrywide 6-20-94*



Four-year-old Steven Weinman, far left, Michael Gismond, 5, and Lauren Gismond, 4, sit curbside Sunday as the Wheeling Centennial Parade passes by.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

### Centennial parade captures Wheeling's spirit

One hundred years ago, Wheeling was incorporated. On Sunday, hundreds of spectators turned out to help celebrate the momentous occasion.

Onlookers, some of whom

have lived in the village all their lives, lined Dundee Road in Wheeling to catch a glimpse of the Wheeling Centennial Parade.

See story on Page 4.

## Wheeling marks 100 years with parade

By EILEEN O. DADAY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Nearly 100 years to the day after the village of Wheeling was incorporated, the town turned out for a hometown parade to celebrate the anniversary.

More than 100 units were in the parade, which drew hundreds of spectators along Dundee Road. Entries ranged from the Conestoga wagon and mounted cavalry, sponsored by Hoyne Federal Savings; to the Wheeling High School Alumni Band; to local politicians, led by Congressman John Porter and grand marshal Sheila Schultz, Wheeling village president.

"This is a wonderful birthday tribute to the village," said Lois Gaffke, a village trustee who worked with parade Chairman Bill Rogers to put together the celebration. "Many, many organizations and businesses have turned out to be a part of this."

Neighboring communities also lined up to participate in the anniversary. Ted Mathias, village president of Buffalo Grove, and Ted Sherwood, mayor of Des Plaines, rode in the parade. They were joined by village presidents from Glenview, Highland Park, Morton Grove and Northbrook.

Roger Byrne, the village president of Vernon Hills, rode in the parade with his village clerk, Kathy Ryg, who is Schultz's daughter.

Many other communities sent fire trucks to participate, including Prospect Heights, Elk Grove Village, Lake Zurich and Long Grove, while Mount Prospect sent its 1929 restored engine pumper.

"I've lived in Wheeling for 33 years; I've been a crossing guard here and worked in McDonald's. There's a lot of history for me, too, wrapped up in Wheeling."

—Resident Mary Garbus

But it was the families along the parade route who served as a testament to the village's vitality.

"My grandfather, Fred Moeller, grew up here, and I've always lived here," said Fred Moeller III, who watched the parade with his wife, Laura, and their three children, including Freddie Moeller IV.

"I've lived in Wheeling for 33 years; I've been a crossing guard here and worked in McDonald's. There's a lot of history for me, too, wrapped up in Wheeling," said Mary Garbus, who took in the parade with Anna Damrau, a 34-year resident.

"It's a good feeling; we're proud to be part of it," said Sharon Sylvester, who with her husband, Jim, moved to Wheeling in 1965 when it was a village of 11,000 people. Population now hovers around 33,000.

It was on June 22, 1894, that a group of German immigrants incorporated the village.



With 2-year-old son Joseph in tow, Tita McGuire of Wheeling watches the Wheeling Centennial Parade on Sunday.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

# Wheeling celebrates with parade

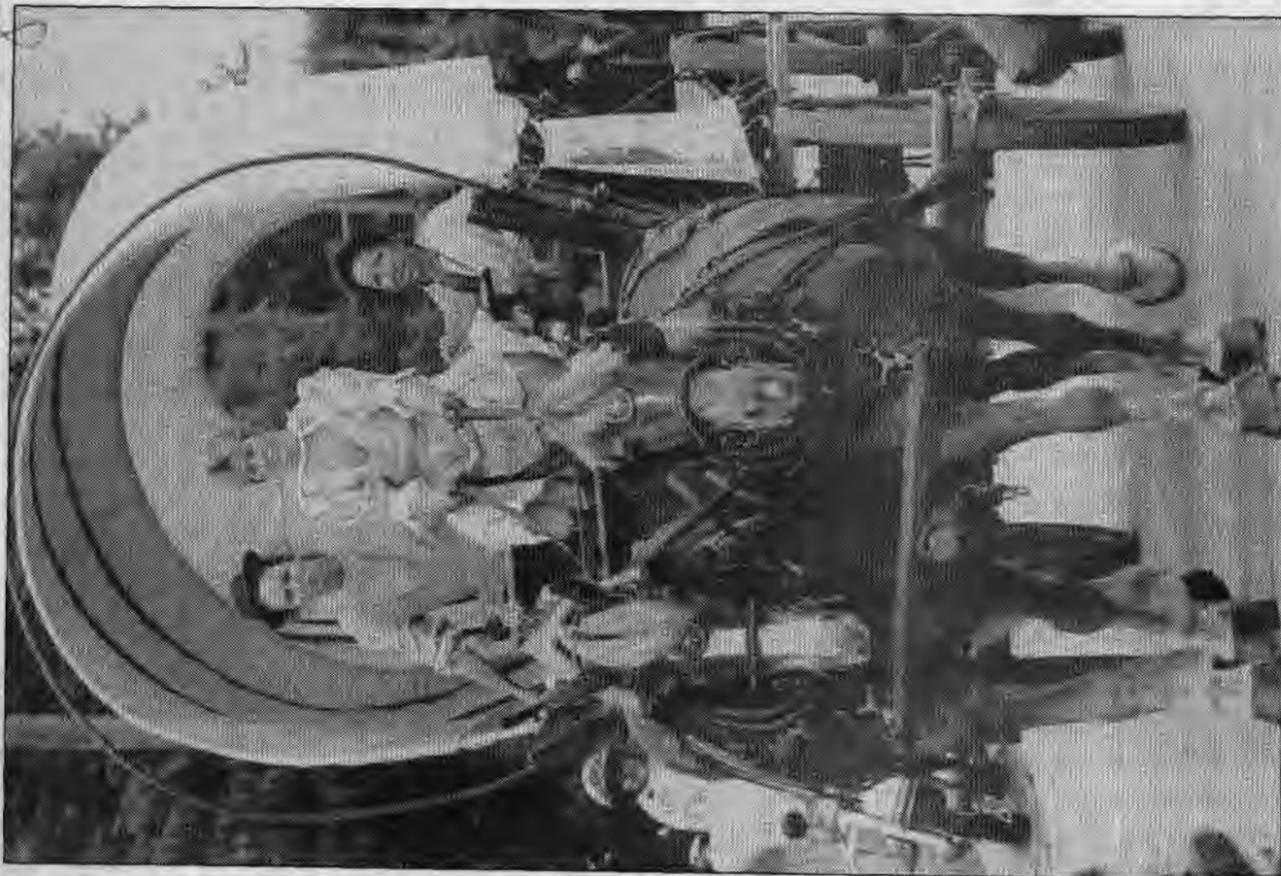
Wheeling residents continued their celebration of the village centennial Sunday when more than 100 units took part in the Centennial Parade. The parade capped a week of celebration highlighted by the June 22 Founder's Day celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of Wheeling.

Sunday's parade featured local units such as the Wheeling High School Band, the Pavilion Senior Center group, a float from Cole-Taylor Bank and floats from local schools. Other participants included the Chicago Police Pipe and Drum Band and Shriner units.

Hoyne Savings Bank took part with an 18th century Conestoga wagon pulled by Belgian Draft horses, driven by a homesteader family and accompanied by a cowboyst and Indian.



A young Civil War soldier represents one of the time periods in Wheeling's 100th anniversary parade.



An 18th century Conestoga wagon pulled by Belgian Draft horses makes its way along the parade route, sponsored by Hoyne Savings Bank.

## Downtown ideas run the gamut

By NICK KATZ  
STAFF WRITER

Although only four developers submitted proposals to develop a 14-acre site in Wheeling, those four represent a range of options for the village.

"There's everything from a totally retail commercial development to a mixed commercial and residential and one or two that are in between," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "It kind of runs the gamut."

At the same time, Anderson said he expected to receive more proposals by the June 30 deadline.

In May the village sent requests for proposals to 15 Chicago-area developers. Anderson declined to say Friday which had submitted them.

### Disappointed

"We gave them more than a month to get this in. I'm disappointed we didn't receive more," he said. "I don't know why. I think it's a super site."

The site, on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, is part of a 102-acre tax increment financing district the village formed in 1985 to finance a bond sale to purchase

the land.

In a TIF district additional revenue resulting from increases in property

**“Our time frame was to get the proposals in and have presentations to the board by some of the developers in August. Now it will take us less time to narrow them down.”**

value and sales tax generated through development of the site is used to retire the bonds sold to assist in redevelopment rather than going to school districts and other taxing bodies. Although the Wheeling TIF district has not been developed, regular increases in property assessments have generated enough revenue to make payments on the bonds sold by the village.

The village accepted a developer's proposal for retail development of the Dundee-Milwaukee property eight

years ago. But the project was derailed when some property owners contested the village's condemnation of their land. Those cases were settled last year.

### Anchor unsure

Anderson said the proposal includes the site that now houses Sportmart, but as of Friday he said he did not know if Sportmart itself is included in the plans for the area. Village officials have been unsure whether the sporting goods retailer, which recently opened a Deerfield store, plans to remain in Wheeling.

Initially the village staff planned to review the proposals and invite the developers with the best ideas to address the Village Board next month. With only four, however, Anderson said he has not decided how to proceed.

"Our time frame was to get the proposals in and have presentations to the board by some of the developers in August. Now it will take us less time to narrow them down," Anderson said.

"We'll have to take a look at them and see where to go from there," he said.

# U.S. Customs Service agent sets up shop at Palwaukee

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport will have a U.S. Customs Service agent stationed at the facility starting Friday, enabling international flights to land.

Priester Aviation, Palwaukee's first fixed-base fueling operator and charter jet service, persuaded the agency to station an agent at the

Wheeling-based airport.

"It will be an authorized port of entry, for the U.S. aircraft are required to land at an airport with customs service when they cross international boundaries," airport manager Fred Stewart said.

Previously, international aircraft first had to land at an airport with customs service before arriving at Palwaukee.

Area airports now with the inter-

national designation include O'Hare International Airport, Meigs Field, Midway and Waukegan Regional Airport.

Priester account executive Mike Pryor said the international designation makes Palwaukee more valuable to Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport.

"It's really going to enhance the value of the airport to the communi-

ties. It makes them international communities," Pryor said.

The customs agent's responsibilities will include checking freight and searching for contraband.

Stewart said the airport will directly receive additional revenue resulting from the Customs Service only if foreign aircraft purchase fuel at Palwaukee that carries the facility's tax.

Officials are uncertain if the Customs Service will increase flights

into Palwaukee.

Most of the traffic at the facility is from business aircraft, Stewart said.

Priester will pay \$30,000, about half the cost, to have an agent at the airport with other Palwaukee-based businesses paying the rest of the expenses.

Airport officials several years ago rejected having U.S. Customs at Palwaukee because they couldn't assure steady funding for it.

# Wheeling trustees OK code exception for auto boutique

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees voted unanimously Tuesday night to allow an auto boutique on Milwaukee Road to continue to function after the planned expansion of Milwaukee Avenue.

When the four-lane road is expanded, a corner of the building at 52 S. Milwaukee Avenue will be within 7 feet of the road's right-of-way.

The board decided to make an exception to village codes requiring a 25-foot front yard setback and to codes requiring a 5-foot parking setback, to allow the business to operate with the expanded road.

IDOT plans to spend up to \$10 million widening Milwaukee Avenue's four lanes and installing a median between Palatine Road and Lake-Cook Road.

The parcel is one of several that Wheeling village officials will have

to consider before the road can be expanded, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Rather than agreeing to give approval to a blanket variation to all of the businesses that will find themselves affected by the road widening project, Wheeling will consider them on a case-by-case basis.

One of the major issues the village will look at is parking, Anderson said.

"You could have a lot with 150

spaces that's going to lose two or three," Anderson said. "That's no big deal. But you could have a lot with 30 spaces that's going to lose 15. That's a big deal."

The parking lot of The Car Boutique was reconfigured to allow the same number of spots as exist now, he said.

While Illinois Department of Transportation officials have indicated that contracts for the project could be awarded this fall, Ander-

son said that no firm date has been set for the project to start.

Part of that might be because of the village's insistence that it look at each piece of property individually.

If the village does not allow variations on some parcels, IDOT might have to compensate the owners of the land for the damage their improvement did to the value of the whole parcel, rather than paying only for the land it needs for the road, Anderson said.

# Wheeling officials await TIF development plans

Wheeling officials expect a last-minute barrage of proposals for development of its Dundee Road tax increment financing district.

With the deadline for submitting proposals today, the village still had not received any as of Monday. But Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said that is not unusual.

"I expect either they'll come in Thursday or the day before," Klitzke said. "If they're anything like bids, we'll get them the day before or the day of. That's what I would expect."

Village Manager Craig Anderson agreed, saying that developers will probably drop

them off Thursday morning in time to meet the deadline.

"I expect we'll get them on Thursday. There's a lot of work to do," he said.

Developers were given 30 days to prepare and submit proposals for developing 14 acres on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. Village officials are expecting a range of proposals, from residential, to office to retail developments for the area.

Anderson said the staff plans to review the proposals once they are received and select those that seem most appropriate for the village. "We'll spend some time comparing them and looking at

them and narrow it down to those we think are worthy of further consideration."

He said developers whose plans are selected for additional review will likely be asked to give presentations to the Village Board before a final selection is made.

The village formed the TIF district in 1985 and sold bonds to finance the purchase of property in the area. The entire district includes 102 acres.

Eight years ago the village accepted a proposal for retail development of the area, but that plan stalled when some property owners contested the village's condemnation of their land.

**Thank you to sponsors of Wheeling Centennial**

The Wheeling Centennial committee appreciates the donations of all community groups, businesses and individuals that are making our Centennial events possible.

In last week's column you read the list of Platinum, Gold, and Silver centennial sponsors. Following are the sponsors qualifying for the Bronze and Copper designation.

Bronze sponsors (\$100 to \$499): J. W. Allen & Co., AM-VETS Post 66, Nutrasweet Co., Accu-Fab Inc., Mattek Business Forms, O'Hare Midway Limousine Parkway Development Co., Segertahl Corporation, Gordon N. Stowe & Assoc., Evanger's Dog & Cat Food Co., Northern Illinois Gas, and Adolorata Villa Inc.

Also, Arthur Clesen Inc., Progressive Office Equipment, J. Calvert Construction, First National Bank of Wheeling, Sunnyside Corporation, Center Plaza Video, McDonald's, Orval Kent, Roy's Barber Shop, T & M Engineering, E. L. Screw, Bank of Buffalo Grove, Block & Co. Inc., Convenient Printing, America's Car Wash, and Engels Corporation.

Copper sponsors (under \$100) are: Artley Paving Contracting, Michael N. Noles Insurance Agency, and Koepfen's Farms.

**Lisa Schab**  
Wheeling



# Truck company gets OK to expand

7-12-94  
By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling trucking company won permission to expand its facility on Chaddick Drive, despite complaints by a citizen about the number of trucks on Wolf Road.

Yellow Freight Systems Inc. plans to add to the building at 1000 Chaddick Drive and remodel the interior. The company also will expand the truck storage area and replace the center driveway with a new driveway near the south property line.

While the expanded facility will

add to traffic on Chaddick Drive and other village streets, it should not have any significant impact, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The village unanimously approved the change to the company's special use permit and site plan after Yellow Freight officials said they would instruct their drivers to avoid Wolf Road north of Hintz Road.

That promise came in response to a complaint from Wolf Road resident William Rogers, who said that he had counted 136 semi-trailer trucks on Wolf over the course of 10

hours last month.

The trucks came from a variety of sources, including Yellow and other freight terminals in the village, Rogers said.

Bob Zimmerman, branch manager of the Yellow Freight terminal, said he had not been aware of the problem and had received no complaints.

Zimmerman speculated that some drivers might be using Wolf Road to approach the site from the north because of the configuration of the corner at Milwaukee and Hintz.

That configuration makes it impossible for trucks to make a right turn from southbound Milwaukee to westbound Hintz, which drivers would then take to Chaddick.

"They just can't make the turn," Zimmerman said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the situation would be rectified when construction on Hintz is completed.

Anderson said village staff would call the other freight terminals in the village and request that they ask their drivers to avoid Wolf Road.

## Schultz leaves library job to give more time to village

7-19-94  
By NICK KATZ  
STAFF WRITER

For Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, one benefit of her retirement from the Indian Trails Public Library is that it will give her more time to read the books she's been dealing with every day for the last 20 years.

Schultz, 64, retired June 30 from her job as head of the library's circulation department.

"I'll be a regular library user," Schultz said. "Now I have time to read the books." But reading is not what

prompted Schultz's retirement. What she was looking for is time for the responsibilities related to her post as village president. Schultz is in her fourth, four-year term in that position. Her current term expires in 1997.

"I found that my commitments, the demands on my time, were such that I needed to make a decision," Schultz said. "After 20 wonderful years I decided to leave the library."

In addition to the time-consuming job of village president, Schultz serves as chairman of the Solid Waste

Agency of Northern Cook County, as a commissioner on the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, as co-chairman for the Wisconsin Central Commuter Railroad and vice-president of the Illinois Municipal League.

Schultz said her different posts "are all related to the village. It is time consuming," she said. As for the library, Schultz said it will remain part of her life.

"I'm going to miss working there very much," Schultz said. "It's still a part of the village and part of my life. I still have friends there."

## Wheeling selling centennial plates

The village of Wheeling is celebrating its 100th birthday this year and is selling special event Wheeling Centennial license plates for \$20 a pair, to commemorate the occasion. The plates went on sale on Friday, July 1. The village has ordered 200 plates from the state. The display period for the plates is two months and will be from Nov. 2 to Dec. 31. If interested in purchasing the plates, a vehicle registration card and payment should be brought to the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 West Dundee Road, Wheeling. Village office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. *Countyside 7-14-94*

## Wheeling considers request for special zoning exemptions

7-13-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A paving company owner Monday asked Wheeling trustees for special zoning exemptions to allow him to upgrade an industrial storage yard and maintain its current use.

Michael Hardin, owner of Hardin Paving in Melrose Park, is seeking a special use zoning designation that would allow him to install landscaping, resurface the parking lot and make other physical improvements at a storage yard at 165 W. Hintz Road because he is planning to move his business to that site.

The 4.7-acre site is near the Wisconsin-Central Railroad tracks in an industrial area.

Last month, the Wheeling plan commission did not recommend his plan because of concerns over storage of construction materials and the two buildings on the property that are about three feet from its property line. Village codes require buildings to be set back 17½ feet from a property line.

The site has been an industrial storage yard for 50 years,

said attorney Robert J. Di Leonardi, representing Old Kent Bank N.A., a trustee of the property Hardin is purchasing.

Di Leonardi argued that there wasn't a redeeming public interest to moving the buildings. He also said that without the requested zoning the value of the site would be hurt.

"We're not adding anything to the village that hasn't been there for five decades," he said.

Wheeling trustees were concerned about how items such as concrete pipes and casings would be stored so that piles of materials weren't strewn about the yard.

"Our concern is that it (storage) be done in an orderly fashion and that there's emergency vehicle access," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Di Leonardi said that the company would comply with any storage requirements specified in the zoning agreement.

Plan Commissioner Terry Steilen lauded the company's proposal for storing materials.

The trustees could vote on the zoning request Aug. 1.

## Lessons in how to build a railroad

grading the tracks and rail crossings, there will be none of the hassle or expense of acquiring right-of-way and starting from scratch—making the projected cost of \$61 million a bargain for this kind of project.

The critical factor was the enthusiastic response of the communities along the line, as they recognized the potential and worked with Metra in planning. And they—with the support of local businesses—agreed to foot part of the bill by building stations and parking lots. That kind of collaboration helped make it possible to get generous state and federal funding.

This ought to serve as a blueprint and inspiration to Metra to get another similar project off the back burner: a projected 28-mile service between Barrington and Aurora on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway freight tracks. It would be unique among commuter rail lines in the region because it would link suburbs to suburbs, which increasingly is the way people are moving these days. And it would intersect with a number of downtown-bound lines, creating a variety of convenient commuting possibilities.

It, too, has generated a lot of enthusiastic response, but is stalled in part because of the obstinate opposition of Barrington-area communities that don't want their tranquility disturbed. It may be too much to hope that the Barringtons will join the 20th Century, but Metra should press on, with the knowledge that rail travel is alive, well and entering a new future.

There was a celebration of sorts the other day when Metra took a load of suburban officials on a train ride. It was a celebration not just of the impending birth of the region's first new commuter rail line since 1926, but of the uncommonly cooperative effort that will make it possible.

The ride was a preview of what is to come: a 53-mile trip from Antioch near the Wisconsin border to Union Station in downtown Chicago, with 10 stops—initially at least—in Lake County and northwest Cook County. If all goes according to plan, the first passengers will board in April 1996, and with an estimated 5,400 riders a day, there will be enough business to make it worthwhile.

Not many years ago, after cars had driven numerous rail lines out of business, this didn't seem possible. But it is a testimony to the rediscovered value of rail travel, as the region copes with increasingly congested roads, existing train stations too distant from some of its largest communities and a booming suburban job market. And this new line will be one more useful tool in meeting the mandate of the 1990 federal Clean Air Act to get more cars off the roads.

It also is testimony to how it all came about. In that respect, actually building the line may be the easy part because of the innovative deal Metra worked out with the Wisconsin Central to use its existing freight tracks. Though there will be substantial work in up-

Schultz has picked a good time to devote more energy to the village.

*Country side 7-14-94*  
**Library's loss  
 village's gain**

**W**heeling's Sheila Schultz wears many hats. In addition to serving as village president, she sits on a number of regional commissions, and serves as co-chairwoman of the Wisconsin Central Commuter Railroad with its proposed station in downtown Wheeling.

There is one hat, however, that Schultz has recently set aside. After 20 years with the Indian Trails Library, she retired June 30 as head of the circulation department.

While the library will surely miss her talents, Schultz's goal is to spend more time steering the village through an important crossroads in its history. And as her leadership has been exemplary to this point, the village can only stand to gain from the extra attention.

Schultz's presidency has spanned 13 years, during which time she has set the standard for professionalism on the village board. Under her leadership, the village has begun to move forward on plans to revitalize the downtown area around Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. Schultz has also been instrumental in securing a train station for the village along the proposed Wisconsin Central line.

In addition to the time-consuming job of village president, Schultz serves as chairman of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, as a commissioner on the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, as co-chairman for the Wisconsin Central Commuter Railroad and vice-president of the Illinois Municipal League.

Schultz has picked a good time to devote more energy to the village. Key issues that will shape the village's future face the board, now that developers have submitted their proposals for the downtown TIF district, and the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun its plans to widen Milwaukee Avenue.

The library's loss is the village's gain.

*7-14-94*  
**Milwaukee Road  
 project to affect  
 area businesses**

By NICK KATZ  
 STAFF WRITER  
*Country side*

An automobile boutique granted a zoning variation last week by the Wheeling Village Board is only one of about 20 businesses that may be affected by a Milwaukee Avenue improvement project being planned by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

At its July 5 meeting the Village Board approved a variation for the Car Boutique, 52 S. Milwaukee, from the village's requirement that there be 25 feet between the building and the street as well as a required parking lot setback. Property IDOT plans to acquire for road improvements will reduce that setback to 6.5 feet at the southeast corner of the building and will entirely eliminate the five-foot parking lot setback.

The variation will allow the business to continue operating without meeting those zoning requirements.

"Several businesses will be affected to one degree or another," said Village President Sheila Schultz. "Fortunately in this case we could accommodate their request without a lot of changes."

**Road widening**

IDOT is in the process of acquiring property on the west side of Milwaukee south of Dundee Road for its planned improvements including widening the roadway and construction of curbs and gutters.

"A lot of businesses are affected to a lesser or greater extent. IDOT has to take more property from some than others," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "That's why we're looking at each of these on an individual basis."

"We've worked with the business community to be sure it would have the least impact on business,"

Schultz said. "Some can absorb it and some will have a harder time."

In addition to setback

**'We've worked with the business community to be sure it would have the least impact on business.'**

**Sheila Schultz**

problems, Anderson said one of the village's main concerns is a reduction in parking that may occur at some businesses. Those too will have to come before the village Plan Commission and Village Board.

"In a few instances it will have a significant affect on parking. That's one of our chief concerns," Anderson said.

As an example, Anderson said one office building may lose as much as half of its parking. "That could have an impact on their ability to operate that business in that location," Anderson said.

The village has specific parking requirements, Anderson said, based generally on the type of business, size of the building, number of employees and number of customers.

"If a place with 170 parking spaces is only going to lose three or four, that won't have an impact," Anderson said. "But it's a problem if you have a business with 30 and they're going to lose 15. There are a few that are like that."

Anderson said IDOT is in the process of acquiring land for the project, but no specific date has been set for construction to begin.

"We had heard they were going to let bids early this fall," Anderson said. "That's not etched in stone."

*7-16-94*  
**Greek culture theme of planned Wheeling nursing home**

million. The home could open in early 1996 if it receives state approval based on need in the area. The project would create 120 full-time jobs and about 40 part-time positions, said Psiharris. The proposal is expected to be reviewed by village trustees Aug. 1. Two similar projects have been proposed for Wheeling in the last two years.

large Greek populations in the Northwest suburbs. The home would provide services such as occupational and rehabilitation therapy for residents whose stay may last from only a few months to years, he said. Architect Arthur P. Salk of the Northbrook-based firm of Shaymain, Salk, Aronson, Sussholz & Co., said the project could cost \$11

language and Greek Orthodox religious practices. "The focus will be on providing a Greek atmosphere and catering to Greek clients, but it will be open to the community," said John Psiharris, a committee member and executive director of the community services organization. The group chose Wheeling, in part, because it is near towns with

build a 90,000-square-foot, 204-bed nursing home on a 7½-acre Wolf Road site, at 199 N. First St. It is east of Chamber Park and west of the Pavilion Senior Center. Officials of the committee, which originated from the Chicago-based Greek American Community Services Organization, said they want a facility where senior citizens would have access to Greek food, Greek

A Greek-American social service organization is proposing to build a four-story senior citizens nursing home in Wheeling. The non-profit Greek American Nursing Home Committee won unanimous backing from Wheeling's plan commission this week to

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

*Herald 7-19-94*  
**Centennial Committee  
 lauded for stellar effort**

We can't get through the month without giving a hand to the Wheeling Centennial Committee for the fabulous fireworks display on the Fourth of July.

Despite the looming clouds and rain showers, it was the best fireworks display the skies of Wheeling have carried in years. (The special addition of "Mother Nature on lightning bolts" also added to the spectacle!) What a great way to celebrate our centennial. Thanks to all who have helped and are still helping to create this commemorative year.



# Pal-Waukee now a port-of-entry

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 7-17-94

By Sarah Talalay  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The tiny Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport, nestled between Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has officially gone international. But don't expect to see hordes of passport-toting, camera-wielding foreign visitors hitting the tarmac at the airport, which is home to small private and corporate airplanes.

"International" simply means

a U.S. Customs inspector is stationed at the airport full-time and on 24-hour call to inspect flights that can now fly to the 390-acre general aviation airport—Illinois' third busiest behind O'Hare and Midway—from points outside the United States. The arrangement will allow individuals and local companies, such as General Aviation Services Inc., an importer and exporter of turbo prop and jet aircraft, to fly from Canada or

Europe or Africa directly to Pal-Waukee, rather than first having to stop to go through customs at O'Hare, Midway or Waukegan airports, or, as General Aviation does, Rockford.

"We're going to be their best customer probably," said Dan Dickinson, president and owner of General Aviation, which flew the airport's second international flight last week. The plane was South African Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's private

plane on its way here to be sold. "The problem is going into O'Hare is impossible. What we've been doing is using Rockford. It makes it difficult and it costs us a lot of extra money in fuel," Dickinson said, adding that his company expects to make two to three international flights a month. "When I found out we were going to have customs, I thought we had arrived in the 21st Century."

Under an agreement between

Priester Aviation, which provides airport support services, including fuel, ground travel and baggage handling, and 10 flight departments of corporations based at the airport, the facility became international July 1.

Priester and others felt there was demand for the service, particularly with the airport's proximity 25 miles from downtown

SEE CUSTOMS, PAGE 3

## Customs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chicago and to northwest suburban businesses and industries, said Michael Pryor, a Priester account executive.

"It's located in a high industrial area. Many corporations are based in the area and use Pal-Waukee Airport, which provides access to the community and allows people to fly in and do business in the area," Pryor said. "This is going to enhance the value of the airport to the communities."

Priester picks up 50 percent of the \$60,000 cost of the customs operation and the flight departments chip in evenly for the other half, Pryor said.

The facility is what's known as a "user-fee" airport, meaning that companies or individuals making international flights must pay for the customs services. At Pal-Waukee customs service costs \$100 to \$300, depending on the size of the aircraft.

Weston Armstrong, a 16-year veteran customs inspector, is setting up a computer system and doing paperwork to prepare for international arrivals, which he will oversee for three months until a permanent Pal-Waukee inspector will be brought in.

When an international flight arrives, Armstrong walks the aircraft checking for contraband and illegal fruits and meats. He also checks luggage and the pilot's and passengers' travel documents.

The airport with four runways—the longest measuring 5,137 feet—has only seen two international flights so far: one from Canada brought to Pal-Waukee for maintenance work and the second brought by General Aviation Services from South Africa, by way of Canada.

Priester officials, however, said when word gets out, they expect 1,200 international flights a year at the airport that sees 170,000 to 250,000 takeoffs and landings annually.

Even so, the idea that Pal-Waukee is now an international airport elicits chuckles from some.

"Actually we do have a lot of traffic, but it's not like O'Hare... You think of international as big, bustling, like O'Hare, Atlanta, LaGuardia," said Craig Anderson, village manager of Wheeling, which along with Prospect Heights has owned the airport since 1986. "I don't think we're planning on changing the name. Nobody's really requested it."

Prospect Heights City Manager Ken Bonder, however, said the in-



U.S. Customs Inspector Weston Armstrong is setting up shop at Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport.

international title brings a whole new dimension to the 65-year-old previously privately-owned airport and its surroundings.

"It gives it that aura that it's not just a sleepy little airport, but it's a viable business entity," Bonder said.

In addition to the big-city international airports, nearly 20 smaller airports throughout the nation have user-fee customs services, including Allentown, Pa., Casper, Wyo., Ft. Myers, Fla., and Yakima, Wash.

In order to be considered a "port of entry" airport, in which the U.S. Customs Service pays to provide the service, airports must have one or a combination of the following: 15,000 international air passengers a year, 2,500 cargo shipments valued at more than \$1,250, or 2,000 scheduled international flights, customs officials said.

They also must be within a 70-mile radius of an area with a population of at least 300,000 residents.

Waukegan Regional Airport obtained customs services in 1989 after several corporations chipped in to pick up the approximately \$55,000 cost. The user-fee airport has 120 to 130 international flights a year, but sees the service as a plus.

"The corporations based on our field would rather come back here," said Waukegan airport manager Neil Otterbacher. "It's not only a nuisance, but if you take into account the people's time versus coming straight home, it does get expensive."

# Wheeling approves plan to turn home into house of worship

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor church in Wheeling had a reason to rejoice Monday.

Wheeling trustees approved their request to convert a single-family house at 624 McHenry Road into a church, giving them a permanent place to worship.

"We had been praying for a long

time for God to show us when is the right time to have a church," said Federico Carvallo, a Sunday school teacher at the Southern Baptist Church.

Currently, the church, which has about 60 members, meets at the First Baptist Church of Wheeling at Elmhurst Road and Edward Street.

The 7-year-old congregation, whose name translates to The Good

Shepherd Baptist Church, was started by First Baptist as a mission project to reach the village's Spanish-speaking residents.

Before giving their approval, the only question trustees had about the church was if its members would mind meeting next to the AMVETS hall at 700 McHenry Road since it serves alcohol.

Church officials did not object and were happy to win approval to move

to the 2-acre site just southeast of the intersection of Lexington Drive and McHenry Road.

"A church or school can locate near a liquor license-holder if they wish," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said, reciting the village's code.

Before moving to the site, church officials hope to expand the 2,460-square-foot house to 2,900 square feet to include two classrooms, a

lobby area, restrooms and office space.

The house is surrounded by single-family homes, multifamily residences and vacant property, according to reports.

The church owns the property and rents it as a residence.

The church's minister, Patricia Regalado Enriquez, said that "by faith," he thinks the move will be done before the winter of 1996.

# Wheeling board OKs restaurant plan

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a close vote, the Wheeling village board approved a drive-through fast-food restaurant some officials said is too small for its Milwaukee Avenue location.

In a 4-3 vote, with Village President Sheila H. Schultz casting the tie breaker, the Wheeling village board approved a proposal from Rod and Susan Bartha for a fast-food restaurant at 310 S. Milwaukee Ave. near its intersection with Strong Avenue.

The couple wants to build a

1,000-square-foot building on the 13,870-square-foot site that was once a gas station but has been vacant for a decade.

Some trustees echoed the sentiments of the village's planning staff who said the site was too small for its location on busy Milwaukee Avenue and motorists would experience difficulties leaving the eatery to get back into traffic.

"It's going to be difficult to get out if you want to make a left turn from Strong Avenue to Milwaukee Avenue," Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said.

Acknowledging the intersection has congested traffic, the couple noted they had discussed those problems with the village and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"We think it is the most positive solution for this site," said Howard P. Zweig, an attorney for the couple.

IDOT has plans to widen a stretch of Milwaukee Avenue and take 14 feet of the Barthas' property for that project.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig

G. Anderson said the Barthas could ask IDOT to reconsider its plans to take about 14 feet off the front of their property for Milwaukee Avenue widening.

Even though the village's planning staff raised objections about the site, the Wheeling plan commission backed the proposal.

The couple said the restaurant would include seating for 12 to 15 people.

The restaurant would serve a variety of fast-food items including hamburgers, hot dogs and soups, they said.

# Palwaukee commissioners reject plans for new hangars

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission Wednesday nixed two proposals to build new aircraft hangars at the facility but agreed to consider other plans.

The commission rejected proposals from Service Aviation, a fixed-base fueling operator at Palwaukee, to build 25 hangars in an area near the Palatine Road frontage road on the Wheeling airport's southwest corner.

Airport officials said the area, slated for offices, is too small for hangars.

"The two proposals put forth by Service Aviation are unworkable, but if they have any others we'd be willing to listen to them," said Commissioner Anthony Altieri Jr.

Previously, Prospect Heights officials have pressed the commission to develop hangars to generate aircraft storage income from Palwaukee. The airport is run by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement.

"Why should we keep that land for offices when we need

hangars now?" Service Aviation President Dennis Jans said.

A second proposal by the company, for hangars on Palwaukee's east side by Milwaukee Avenue, was rejected because it would uproot a parking lot built with federal government funding.

Airport officials have said space at Palwaukee is limited. They said to create more usable land the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through the facility and the adjoining Twin Drive-In property must be relocated.

Airport officials have filed a lawsuit to forcibly acquire the drive-in, at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., from its owner, M&R Properties Inc. of Skokie.

The commission agreed to discuss next month placing hangars in an area near Sumac Road.

The commission said it would stick to its \$83.5 million long-range renovation plan to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

That project includes relocating the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection 575 feet west to expand the safety area between the roads and Palwaukee's longest runway.

# Ruling from Army Corps on balefill expected today

By KRISTY BAIRD  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The bitter battle over a proposed garbage balefill near Bartlett will reach a turning point today, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces a decision on the fate of the controversial project.

Following about 20 months of deliberation and paperwork, Corps officials will issue a verdict on the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's permit application for its balefill proposal.

SWANCC, a consortium of 23 suburban communities, wants to build the facility at West Bartlett and Gifford roads in Hanover Township, where compacted bales of garbage would be buried.

The agency has been hoping to construct the facility for about nine years, but it has been slowed by a maze of complicated regulatory processes, legal maneuvering and opposition.

"This is more or less the climax of many, many months of waiting," said Mary Byrne, president of a balefill opposition group in Bartlett. "It's the time I

refer to as the emotional roller coaster — your hopes are going up and down, up and down."

Evaluation of the 14-volume permit application has included the review of four public hearings on the issue, studying of the balefill's impact on the area and the evaluation of about 10,000 comments from area residents and government agencies.

Both SWANCC and its opponents said Wednesday they trust Corps officials to make the right decision and are hopeful for a verdict in their favor.

"I'm confident we have responded to every issue that has been raised by the Corps," said Sheila Schultz, chairwoman of SWANCC's board of directors. "We've always asked to be judged on the merits of the project."

Balefill opponents will hold a news conference at 3 p.m. today to discuss the decision, slated to be announced at 1 p.m.

"I have every confidence that the Army Corps has a full understanding of their charge, and that is to protect the environment," said Bartlett Village President Catherine Melchert. "I'm real optimistic."

# Airport project holding Countrywide

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

The final phase of construction to move the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads farther from Palwaukee Municipal Airport may begin later this summer.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said relocating the intersection to the west, as mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration to provide more runway clearance, is a long-awaited project that will improve safety for both drivers and pilots.

"The way (the intersection) is now, we can't have traffic signals," Schultz said, adding that signals will be installed once construction on the project is completed, possibly late next year.

## Accidents

The busy intersection, now controlled with a four-way stop, has been the site of some minor accidents in the last few years, Schultz said. "It gets to be a bit of a bottleneck," she added.

Fred Stewart Jr., manager of Palwaukee Airport, called the intersection "a big accident generator" and agreed that safety will improve once the project is finished.

"The ultimate result is that the existing intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads will be relocated 750 feet west of its current location," Stewart said.

"It's strictly an improvement for the safety profile of the airport. It will remove vehicles from the safety area around the runway. It will extend runway safety which is solely needed," he added.

## Delays

Stewart has not received official word from the Illinois Department of Transportation that the project

will begin this summer. Once construction starts, he expects it will take two construction seasons to complete.

"We were hoping to be well under way by now," Stewart said, explaining that Congress delayed the project because it postponed action

on the Airport Improvement Program. That program allows the FAA to release funds for airport improvement projects, such as the intersection relocation near Palwaukee.

The federal government is paying 90 percent of the cost, with the state and municipality supplying 5 percent each, Stewart said.

The construction of two new bridges and relocation of Hintz Road, also part of the safety improvement project, began last summer and are nearly complete, Stewart said.

Officials forecast safer conditions for pilots using Palwaukee Municipal Airport soon thanks to a new weather tracking system being installed there.

Construction work is in the final stages at the Wheeling-based airport on the Automated Surface Observation System being installed by the National Weather Service and the Federal Aviation Administration.

With the new system, a specific weather forecast for Palwaukee

Municipal Airport will be developed from sensing equipment that takes a reading every minute, said Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr.

"For the first time they'll (pilots) be able to get the weather for Palwaukee by telephone," he said.

The new system will give pilots a variety of weather information including wind speed, wind direction, temperature, cloud height, visibility, barometric pressure and other data needed for flying.

The ASOS is connected into a radio system that pilots can use, officials said.

Currently, the airport receives its weather forecast from the Glenview Naval Air Station. However, that facility is scheduled to close in September, 1995.

Ron Fields, manager of the National Weather Service's Rockford station, and local point in Illinois for the ASOS, said Palwaukee's system could become operational next year.

Work for the installation of the system at the north end of the airport began at Palwaukee last year. The installation and maintenance of the ASOS at Palwaukee are being paid for entirely by the federal government, Stewart said.

Data generated by the ASOS is also fed into a computer and distributed to airports nationwide as well as the National Weather Service computer in Washington, D.C., Fields said.

The system Palwaukee is receiving is one of 1,200 being installed by the federal government nationwide.

The airport is operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement.

# System to help airport gauge weather

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Continued from page 5

# Agency faces long odds in Bartlett balefill fight

BY DAN ROZEK AND KRISTY BARD  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The latest setback for the proposed Bartlett balefill doesn't seem to have shaken proponents enough to reconsider their nine-year commitment to the controversial \$23 million, high-tech landfill.

"Personally, I don't believe so," said Brooke Beal, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, a 23-suburb consortium pushing the balefill, after the U.S. Army of Corps of Engi-

neers denied a permit for the project. "There's always a point, somewhere, where you reconsider. But there just isn't any other site."

A wide spectrum of opponents argues just the opposite, saying the corps decision — the second time it has refused to approve the project — should finally persuade suburban leaders to pull the plug on the balefill.

"Stop suing, stop appealing, stop refileing," Scott Palmer, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. J.

## BALEFILL: Federal court may have final say on site

Continued from Page 1

Dennis Hastert, a Yorkville Republican, urged agency officials. "It's time to start spending tax dollars on something that will work. There are alternatives."

Added Bartlett Trustee Sally Hodge: "No matter how you look at this project, it doesn't make sense. It never has — not for nine years — and it never will. It's time to move on to find a new solution."

Solid waste agency leaders, who have already spent more than \$10 million promoting the project, have several options available, including reapplying with the corps, filing a federal lawsuit to overturn the decision or looking at other sites or alternatives.

Board members will meet Monday about what action the group might take on the stalled project, although officials would say little about possible courses of action.

"There's been no decision made," said Hoffman Estates Village President Michael O'Malley, an agency board member. "But there's an awful lot at stake."

Officials argue that with dwindling landfill space, something must be done with the garbage generated by 700,000 suburban residents.

Discarding the Bartlett site leaves suburban residents with no apparent alternatives, one agency official said.

"No one has said, 'here is a viable site,'" said Sheila H. Schultz, board chairwoman of the solid waste agency and village president of Wheeling.

If proponents intend to fight for the balefill, their options appear to be limited.

Reapplying to the Army Corps seems unlikely, while winning a federal lawsuit against the corps would be difficult, attorneys and environmentalists say.

"The Army Corps has lost cases, but it's an uphill battle," said environmental attorney Norman Berger, a partner at the Chicago firm of Holleb & Coff who is not involved in the balefill battle. "The courts usually will defer to agencies' decisions if they're somewhat reasonable."

The courts are more likely to rule against a government agency if justices believe regulators' actions were "arbitrary or unfounded," Berger said.

And balefill opponents are quick to argue that's unlikely to happen in this case because the

Army Corps has twice refused to issue permits for the project.

"I think it's going to be a real tough nut to crack since they looked at it twice," said Joanna Hoelscher, program director for Citizens for a Better Environment, a Chicago-based environmental group that has opposed the balefill.

The corps' ruling confirms what opponents have long believed, some balefill foes say: Solid waste agency officials should look for a different, better site, rather than for ways to win approval for the Bartlett site.

"There's no amount of engineering that's going to compensate for a site that's inherently terrible," Hoelscher added. "I think they should look elsewhere."

In its decision, the Army Corps said the balefill plan didn't comply with parts of the federal Clean Water Act and could threaten underground water supplies and nearby wildlife.

The 142-acre balefill site sits close to the St. Charles aquifer, which provides drinking water for residents in neighboring communities.

"They cannot continue to deny that this is a bad site," opponent Mary Bryne said. "It's sheer stupidity for them to continue to pursue it."

Balefill backers, however, do just that, insisting the site is the only one available in Cook County and brushing aside other suggestions offered by the Army Corps.

One possible alternative cited by the corps, Schultz said, is inside Elgin city limits — a political consideration that would doom the project — and would require expensive steps like relocating roads.

Shipping suburban garbage to a downstate landfill near Peoria, another option, would be prohibitively expensive and philosophically indefensible, Schultz argues.

Schultz and others are furious about the Army Corps decision, contending the agency reopened issues balefill backers thought were already settled, delayed proceedings and disregarded information that supported the project.

She believes a lawsuit, if the agency pursues one, could succeed.

"I'd like to think we could go into the courts on the merits," she said. "Whether there's a way to do that, we'll have to talk about that."

# Corps puts foot down on balefill plan

## Officials reject permit based on hazard to residents

BY KRISTY BARD AND AMY McLAUGHLIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Thursday dealt a major blow to plans for a proposed garbage balefill near Bartlett, denying the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County a necessary permit for the facility.

Saying the balefill could pose a significant risk to the public, Army Corps officials rejected the permit application for the controversial project following about 20 months of deliberation. It was the second rejection the Army Corps has given the project.

SWANCC, a consortium of 23 sub-

urban communities, has been trying for nine years to build the balefill in Hanover Township, where compacted bales of garbage from its members would be buried.

But in a long-awaited decision, Army Corps Lt. Col. David M. Reed said the balefill plan failed to meet certain guidelines of the federal Clean Water Act and could be hazardous to area residents and surrounding wildlife.

"We don't believe this is the least damaging practical alternative," Reed said. "I think the site is a poor site for the balefill."

The decision brought elation and relief in Bartlett and surrounding communities, which have long been battling the project. Roughly \$1.79

million has been spent fighting the facility.

"How sweet it is. We hope we can keep this feeling for a long time to come," said Mary Byrne, president of a balefill opposition group in Bartlett. "After nine years of so many ups and downs you just don't really know how to act anymore."

The application rejection was met with shock and anger by SWANCC,

See PLAN on Page 4



Mary Byrne, left, president of Citizens Against the Balefill, celebrates with Bartlett resident Mary Masheris after hearing the Army Corps of Engineers rejected the proposal. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

# PLAN: Corps notes threat to drinking water

Continued from Page 1

which already has spent \$10 million developing the project.

Agency leaders criticized the Army Corps and said their reasoning for the decision was without merit and reflected a lack of knowledge about solid waste issues.

"We're outraged at the decision. We think it's a real injustice," said agency board chairwoman Sheila H. Schultz, who also is village president of Wheeling. "For anyone to claim victory on this decision, with such a flawed (decision) document, would be an embarrassment."

While it's unlikely the Army Corps' decision means the end of SWANCC's balefill project, Corps officials suggested that garbage in-

**"We're outraged at the decision."**

- Sheila H. Schultz,  
Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

stead be sent to the Gallatin National Landfill, roughly 150 miles south of Chicago.

They also recommended that the agency consider alternate locations for the facility, although SWANCC officials said Thursday they believe the 142-acre parcel in Hanover Township is the only practical option.

One new feature of the Army Corps' denial that differs from the first rejection of the plan was that they noted the site is closer to the St. Charles (Newark Valley) Aquifer,

than federal officials originally had thought.

"Now, new scientific information has indicated that this aquifer would be threatened," said Corps spokeswoman Carol Massar.

The aquifer is a source of public drinking water for residents in many neighboring communities, including South Elgin, Batavia and Geneva.

Despite their decision, the Corps did express concern about what the 700,000 residents of SWANCC communities will do with their trash. The

issue is of particular concern as area landfills are rapidly reaching capacity.

"They (SWANCC communities) certainly have a need to dispose of garbage," Reed said. "Does that outweigh the need of the people who drink from those aquifers? I submit it does not."

Despite the setback, agency leaders vowed to continue their quest for a cost-effective and environmentally-sound solution to the garbage crisis.

They will meet Monday to examine their options, which include a lawsuit against the Army Corps.

"It (the waste disposal crisis) is not going to get any better, and someone has to solve it," Schultz said. "The problem isn't going to go away, and the impact on the municipalities isn't going to go away."

## The proposed Bartlett balefill

■ **Proposed location:** 142 acres on a 573-acre site between Bartlett and South Elgin

■ **Cost to build:** \$23 million

■ **Use:** Would hold garbage produced by about 700,000 residents from 23 suburbs

■ **How it would work:** Compacted bales of garbage would be stacked and buried

■ **Lifespan:** Between 18 and 22 years

■ **Appearance when completed:** 90 feet high, with lowest elevation at 35 feet

■ **First proposed in Hanover Township:** December 1985

■ **Amount already spent promoting the project:** More than \$10 million



Source: Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Daily Herald Graphic

## History of the balefill

Already 9 years old, the saga of the Hanover Township garbage balefill project is expected to continue well beyond Thursday's decision

- **1985:** Site west of Bartlett picked for balefill
- **1990:** SWANCC submits first balefill permit application with Army Corps
- **1990:** Years of legal battles begin between SWANCC and its opponents
- **1991:** Army Corps denies application
- **1992:** SWANCC submits revised permit application
- **1993:** Army Corps holds public hearings on the application
- **1994:** SWANCC opens its first garbage transfer station to compact trash intended for the balefill
- **1994:** Illinois Supreme Court agrees to hear two balefill-related lawsuits filed against SWANCC; cases are pending
- **Thursday:** Army Corps denies permit application a second time; SWANCC leans toward fighting the decision

Source: Daily Herald records, interviews

Daily Herald Graphic

# 9-year controversy expected to continue as sides plot next battle

By KRISTY BARD  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The wooded property slated for a garbage balefill near Bartlett virtually is unchanged today, despite the nine years of paperwork, millions of dollars in expenses and bitter controversy surrounding the site.

And even with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision Thursday to reject a permit application for the balefill, it's likely the nine-year saga will continue long into the future.

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County board members plan to meet Monday evening to evaluate the Corps' rejection and discuss

their options for the future.

Despite the major setback to their project Thursday, SWANCC leaders said they are unwilling to admit defeat and will continue working toward a cost-effective and environmentally-safe method of waste disposal.

While they have not formalized their next moves, possibilities include applying a third time to the Army Corps or abandoning the project.

Given SWANCC's outrage at the permit application denial, a more likely option would be to sue the Corps in federal district court, officials said.

The proposed site in Hanover Township near West Bartlett and Gifford roads remains the only

practical location for a balefill in Cook County, said SWANCC board chairwoman Sheila H. Schultz.

"The reason we went into this in the first place, those reasons are still valid," Schultz said. "To say we'll look at something else just doesn't make sense at all."

Meanwhile, the issue also is tangled in a complicated web of lawsuits, which are pending with the Illinois Supreme Court.

The high court could hear the case in September at the earliest, followed by a verdict several months to a year later, according to

the court's clerk's office.

And while balefill opponents say they hope Thursday's decision means the end of years of legal maneuvering and battles, they vowed to continue fighting SWANCC as long as necessary.

"We will never give up. We haven't given up nine years of our lives and families for nothing," said Mary Byrne, president of a balefill opposition group in Bartlett. "To put that much energy and time into something of this nature, your conscience would never let you walk away."

## Village approves eatery

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling village trustees split 3-3 on whether to allow a drive-through restaurant to locate at the corner of Strong and Milwaukee avenues.

Village President Sheila Schultz broke the tie in favor of the restaurant at the board's July 18 meeting.

The Plan Commission voted to recommend, staff did not, the village manager did," Schultz said, noting that traffic congestion was the main concern among trustees voting against the project. "Obviously, there were mixed feelings," she added.

The property owners, a Riverwoods couple, have requested that only right turns be made from Milwaukee into the lot, Schultz said.

The restaurant will serve various foods that can be easily eaten in a car, she said, adding that the restaurant is not part of a major franchise. The owners have not yet said what the restaurant would be named.

Schultz said approval of this project makes it the first drive-through restaurant on Milwaukee from Route 22 to Willow Road.

The owners now have to apply to IDOT for approval because Milwaukee Avenue has been designated a Strategic Regional Arterial route.

Schultz said IDOT would prefer no access from Milwaukee but will review the project now that the village has granted approval.

In addition to a drive-through, Schultz said, the owners are planning some indoor seating.

The property, site of a former service station, will have to undergo soil testing before restaurant construction can begin, she added.

Schultz said the site has been vacant for 10 years and believes the restaurant will be an asset to the community.

# Agency will continue the battle to build a balefill near Bartlett

By Ted Gregory  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The leaders of a municipal agency proposing a controversial landfill near Bartlett said Monday night that the organization will continue to push for the facility, despite a critical setback last week.

"This is the best plan ever presented in the state of Illinois, probably in the United States, for this type of disposal," said Sheila Schultz, board chairman of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, an organization of 23 north and northwest suburbs planning the landfill in unincorporated Cook County.

"We are committed to going through with a solid-waste plan that includes transferring waste to that site," Schultz said at the agency's monthly meeting at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

Schultz and about 20 other representatives of SWANCC met in private for two hours to discuss the Army Corps of Engineers' rejection of the plan Thursday. The 143-acre site contains several wetlands, which the corps is responsible for regulating.

The group took no formal action Monday, but Schultz said staff members will make a detailed analysis of the corps' 107-page report in preparation for SWANCC's September meeting.

SWANCC has two options in light of the corps' rejection: filing a third application or filing a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court.

A group of about 15 people showed up to monitor SWANCC's meeting, but they were turned away when the agency went into executive session. The residents protested their removal and are threatening to contact the Cook County state's attorney's office to charge SWANCC with violating the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The estimated \$23 million balefill, where garbage would be compressed into rectangular, 1½-ton shapes before being buried, could handle the garbage of the SWANCC municipalities for up to 22 years.

Originally proposed in 1985, the balefill has drawn strident opposition from Bartlett, South Elgin and a group called Citizens Against the Balefill.

The corps has twice rejected the proposed balefill, which would be at West Bartlett and Gifford Roads. The first proposal, filed with the corps in February 1990, was rejected in January 1991.

At that time, the corps said the proposal would have inflicted "unmitigable impacts to the aquatic environment and associated habitat." The agency also said SWANCC failed to show that it had analyzed and rejected alterna-

tives to the balefill.

Last week's rejection stated similar reasons, adding that the balefill plan, although scaled down, would pose "potential risk" to underground drinking water supplies for Batavia, Elgin, South Elgin, Geneva and nearby areas.

SWANCC had filed its second application in 1992.

Though balefill opponents praised the rejection as a victory for the environment and citizens, SWANCC called it "a true example of inefficiency in a government bureaucracy."

Schultz and SWANCC Executive Director Brooke Beal continued to criticize the corps' report. Beal said it was "replete with factual errors and misstatements." He also accused the corps of establishing an adversarial relationship and posing ambiguous issues during discussions throughout SWANCC's second application.

He said the balefill has the approval of Cook County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the support of the Illinois Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

He added that SWANCC had examined the corps' suggestion that the agency haul garbage to Gallatin National Landfill in Downstate Fulton County, but that SWANCC determined the landfill was too far away and too small.

## Annual picnic to celebrate township's ethnic diversity

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In the middle of Wheeling's celebration of its centennial, the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force is holding its picnic recognizing ethnic diversity.

The group that promotes racial harmony is looking for another large crowd to attend its third annual Multicultural Unity Picnic at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

"It's to provide an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to share music, art and fun. ... It's a real community event," said Kamal Zaretsky, president of the organization.

This year's event will include music from Underworld Productions, El Viento Canta, a Peruvian band, the Baha'i Youth Workshop and Inca, a Native American ensemble.

The groups will perform a variety of rap music, dances and skits for the picnic, Zaretsky said.

Organizers said food donated by El Famous Burrito, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and the Pita Inn restaurants will again be avail-

able for visitors at the event. The picnic is free to the public.

Organizers are encouraging visitors to bring food from their own ethnic backgrounds to share with others.

Local residents will also be exhibiting their art at the picnic.

Local officials expected to attend the picnic include Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz and Trustee Judy Abruscato.

Zaretsky said last year's picnic held at Heritage Park brought out a crowd of about 200 for family-oriented activities.

Organizers have said they hope the event would grow to become a popular annual outing among the residents.

The centennial theme prevalent at other village events won't be emphasized at the picnic. However, the historic church and museum on the Wheeling Park District site will be open then, Zaretsky said.

Wheeling officials have been paying attention to issues related to ethnic harmony, and an advisory human relations ordinance is slated to be unveiled by them later this year.

## Lions club donates ink drawing

The Wheeling Lions Club will present a framed ink drawing to the village of Wheeling during the Aug. 1 Village Board meeting. Club members purchased the Marshall Balling drawing by silent auction during the village's centennial gala in February.

The late artist, Balling was a longtime Wheeling resident and Lions Club member since 1951, one year after the club was founded, said Lions Club President Tom Martin. Balling died in October 1990 at the age of 81. Martin, his wife and other Lions members decided to purchase the drawing when they saw it at the silent auction. "Charles Balling (Marshall's brother) donated it as one the auction items. We saw it and decided the Wheeling Lions ought to buy it and donate it," Martin said.

Originally, Martin said, the Lions had planned to give the drawing to the Park District to hang in their new facility, but park officials decided they didn't have an appropriate place to showcase the drawing. Instead the Lions are donating it to the village, where it will hang in the board room of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

## Task Force holds unity picnic

Wheeling Township Unity Task Force will hold a multicultural unity picnic from 2 to 5 p.m. July 31 at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling. Celebration of Wheeling's diversity coincides with the village's 100-year celebration and is open to the public free-of-charge.

Food will be donated by El Famous Burrito, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and Pita Inn. Residents are encouraged to bring food from their own ethnic backgrounds to share. Music will be provided by Underworld Productions, El Viento Canta, the Baha'i Youth Workshop (rap, dances, skits) and Inca (a Native American ensemble). Art by area residents will also be on exhibit.

## Mobile Health clinic comes to town

The Cook County Department of Public Health's Mobile Adult Health Clinic, the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) van, is scheduled to visit the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24. Eligible suburban Cook County residents can receive high school and employment physicals. Appointments can be made by calling the Cook County Department of Public Health at 445-2530 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

WOW services are available to suburban Cook County residents who qualify financially (i.e. school lunch; Women, Infants and Children (WIC)). Appointments are necessary and can be scheduled by calling 445-2530, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. At the time an appointment is scheduled, financial screening will be done. Persons needing accommodation for a disability should contact 445-2530 or TDD for the hearing and speech impaired at 445-2406.

# New Wisconsin Central line passes test run

By MICHAEL ULREICH  
STAFF WRITER  
7-28-94

Like a recalcitrant cow blocking the tracks, the rear end of a freight train stood in the way of a test run July 13 on Metra's planned Wisconsin Central commuter line.

The trip from Chicago's Union Station to Antioch was supposed to last about an hour and 15 minutes. But the journey — which will take 90 minutes when trains are in operation — stretched to almost three hours.

Suburban mayors and officials along for the ride found themselves staring at the backside of a boxcar on TV screens set up in each car to monitor the train's progress.

"This is like a field trip," said Libertyville Mayor Jo Ann Ecklund. "It adds another dimension to all the planning we've done on this project."

"We're here to show support for a much-needed line, to get together with people who were instrumental in planning the line, to satisfy our curiosity and to find out first-hand what the problems may be," said Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney Mathias, as he waited out the delay. "Our first problem may be this freight train blocking our way."

Primarily a freight line, the Wisconsin Central will carry riders between Antioch and O'Hare Airport and O'Hare to downtown Chicago when it goes into service in April 1996.

Metra officials hope that last week's delay will be the last glitch in the eight-year drive to renew service on the old Soo Line, which once had stations in Lake Villa, Grayslake, Mundelein and Wheeling and went out of service in 1965.

The new Wisconsin Central line will reintroduce that service, with stops in Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Prairie View, Vernon Hills, Mundelein and eventually Grayslake and an additional stop in Libertyville.

"We've said from the beginning, don't expect the same service you're going to get in Arlington Heights," said Metra spokesman Chris Knapton. "The condition of the railroad right now is not appropriate for a commuter railroad."

The as-yet-unnamed commuter line will not have to dodge the 16-to-18 freight trains which use the line every day on their way to Wisconsin and Michigan.

In the beginning, only

three trains will leave Antioch in the morning and return at night and only one will go in the reverse direction, from Chicago to Antioch and return at night.

While pleased with another public transportation option for residents, some suburban officials said they would like more trains bringing workers out in the morning.

The installation of a second track will allow Metra to provide that service, by "the turn of the century," Knapton said, or soon after the U.S. Congress appropriates the \$30 million Metra says it needs to build the extra set of tracks.

"You can't build 30 miles of railroad overnight," Knapton said. "Our hunch is the way development is flocking to Lake County, it's got to be a double-tracked railroad before too long."

"Every time we come up here north of Mundelein it seems like another subdivision has magically appeared," said one Metra planner.

As last week's exhibition ride showed, only a grassy knoll in Antioch, farm fields in Libertyville and Grayslake and vacant land bordering a concrete company in Wheeling stand where the commuter stations are planned.

Buffalo Grove, at least, has built a parking lot. "Build the lot and they will come," said one village official.

The train would then deposit some of its riders somewhere southeast of O'Hare Airport, rumble slowly through the train yard in Schiller Park and stop at River Grove's station on Cumberland Avenue before proceeding downtown.

By the time the line is ready for passenger traffic, Metra will have invested some \$21 million in track and signal improvements, \$8 million for a coach yard in Antioch and \$5.5 million for engines and cars. Local communities, responsible for building their own stations and parking lots, will have spent \$14 million, including \$1.3 million by Buffalo Grove and \$603,000 by Grayslake and Libertyville.

Buffalo Grove residents now have to drive to Deerfield or Arlington Heights to access a train line downtown. In an opposite situation, Libertyville already has a station, but Ecklund said residents of Grayslake and other nearby communities now flock to Libertyville's lone station, located in a cubbyhole off Milwaukee Avenue with very limited parking.

# Dominick's to extend stay in Wheeling by four months

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling shoppers should have a little more time to cruise the aisles at the local Dominick's Finer Foods store thanks to a tentative agreement to extend the lease for an additional four months.

James Kaplan, president of James Kaplan Companies Inc., management company for Lynn Plaza, said Wednesday his company and Dominick's are close to an agreement on a four-month extension of the grocery chain's lease for the store at 550 W. Dundee Road.

"We've agreed in principle that would be a good idea for everyone involved," Kaplan said.

Dominick's announced earlier this year it would not renew its lease for the Lynn Plaza space it occupied since 1972.

Kaplan said with the extension Dominick's lease would end Feb. 28 instead of by its original Nov. 30 expiration date.

Dominick's officials said the store no longer offered the services and merchandise it is able to feature in

its newer stores.

Dominick's officials also said the chain has other locations within a three-mile radius of the village to serve its Wheeling customers.

Kaplan said he persuaded officials of the grocery chain to remain at the shopping center throughout the winter holiday season to take advantage of increased sales then and to help other retailers at Lynn Plaza.

Kaplan also said that his company is involved in talks with "two leading independent (grocery store) wholesalers who have identified retailers with strong interest in the market."

Working with wholesalers has been used previously in the local grocery industry; sites are developed by getting food suppliers to attract retailers to a site.

A similar business practice was used last year to attract Eagle Food Stores to some Northwest suburban locations.

Kaplan said the soon-to-be-vacated Dominick's site has attracted interest from other area grocery store chains.

# Congregation to have new home

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

After 12 years of sharing space with another congregation, parishioners at Iglesia Bautista el Buen Pastor in Wheeling now have a place to call their own.

Wheeling village trustees voted July 18 to issue a special-use permit allowing the congregation to convert a single-family residence at 624 McHenry Road into a church.

Parishioners of the church, whose name translates into Good Shepherd Baptist Church, had been meeting at First Baptist Church of Wheeling, said

begin its remodeling.

"We're looking for donations and volunteers to come and help out" with the remodeling project, Regalado said, adding that he hopes any construction would be finished by winter.

## Growing population

Regalado said the church regularly attracts between 50 and 70 parishioners for its Sunday worship services. When Regalado began working as the church's pastor two years ago, he said, about 20 people attended the Sunday services.

"Each day the Hispanic population is growing in

Wheeling," Regalado said. "There are a lot of challenges for us here" to reach out to that growing population, he added.

Sunday worship services are spoken in Spanish while children's programs, such as preschool and youth groups, are bilingual, he said.

"I think we are in good shape now," Regalado said of acquiring the house and necessary variance.

"We're looking forward to the future. I believe God will provide the resources" to remodel the house, he said. "We are working by faith."

## Mission project

Good Shepherd's pastor, the Rev. Pat Regalado.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said the congregation plans to remodel the house and build a 400-square-foot addition which would give the church a total of 2,900 square feet for classrooms and a sanctuary.

Schultz described the church as a "missionary project to meet the need of Spanish-speaking residents."

Now with the village's permission to move into the former house, the church is searching for money to

# Wheeling to take part in Night Out

8-2-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the fifth straight year Wheeling residents will demonstrate their control over their own streets by participating in a national crime prevention program.

Tuesday Wheeling residents will again participate in the national Night Out campaign to show they, and not criminals, own the local streets.

Residents, business owners and others are being encouraged to leave their lights on from 7 p.m. to

9 p.m. and spend time outdoors getting to know their neighbors.

Wheeling Police Department crime prevention officer corporal John Teevens said this year activities for the evening will be held in the Dunhurst East neighborhood in the 100-block of West Wayne Place and in the Tahoe Village neighborhood.

At 6:30 p.m. police will introduce police dog Nitro to Dunhurst East residents. Nitro is going to show how he subdues criminals in a "bite demonstration" with a padded officer.

At 7:30 p.m. Nitro will repeat his performance for Tahoe Village residents.

Police said Nitro is the top dog at the training academy and is replacing Officer Laiser, the police dog who retired after working for the department for several years.

Tahoe Village residents will also see police demonstrate a drunk driving arrest, Teevens said.

Additionally, police and fire officials will discuss different aspects of public safety for residents of those neighborhoods.

A police squad car will be on display as well during the night's activities.

The annual crime prevention celebration is being sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, a national public safety organization.

The nationwide event is in its 11th year and is celebrated by millions, officials said.

Other Northwest suburban communities participating in Night Out celebrations includes Bartlett, Maine Township, Schaumburg and Streamwood.

## Wheeling board selects firm to design rail station

8-2-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday named an Elk Grove Village firm to design and oversee construction of the village's Wisconsin Central commuter station.

In a 6-0 vote, Wheeling trustees awarded a \$332,895 contract to MTI Construction Services Inc. to oversee the project, which is scheduled to be completed by early 1996.

Village officials favored the firm over another one vying for Wheeling's business because, they said, MTI's proposal would give Wheeling officials the most direct influence over the project.

"This is the firm that will be doing what the village needs done with the project," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

MTI Construction Services will make recommendations on subcontractors for the project and will work directly with those subcontractors.

Because the company will be reviewing bids from subcontracting companies for the

commuter station work, its final fee could be slightly higher or lower than the approved amount.

The 53-mile commuter rail line is under construction from O'Hare International Airport to the Wisconsin border.

Some stops along the line will feature full-service commuter stations with restrooms, waiting areas, ticket booths, concessions and other amenities.

Other stops, meanwhile, will have only platforms. Wheeling is slated to have a full-service station.

The company, which is designing stations for other communities along the rail line, also will design and supervise construction of parking areas for the Wheeling station. The station will be located in the center of the village off West Dundee Road near the village hall and Wickes Furniture Co.

The Wheeling commuter station is one of a number of projects planned for that area. Other proposals include a bike path and a fountain commemorating the village's 100th anniversary.

## Civil War 'soldiers' to camp on Heritage Park grounds

8-2-94 Herald  
Don't be alarmed if you see war troops setting up camp in our village this weekend. "Confederate" and "Union" soldiers will be spending a couple of days on the Heritage Park grounds at 222 S. Wolf Road as part of the Wheeling Centennial Year celebration.

Civil War re-enactors will be present in their blue and gray uniforms, and tents will be erected for living or for caring for the injured. You'll see the infantry, cavalry, artillery, cannons and more. "Battles" will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6, and Sunday, Aug. 7.

There is no admission charge for this event (donations will be accepted). Refreshments will be for sale. Guests are asked to park at Holmes Junior High School, just across the street from Heritage Park.

For information, call 537-6912.



Lisa Schab

Wheeling

Zytko.

For information on the anniversary party or other Pavilion events, call 459-2670.

## Anniversary party

The Pavilion Senior Citizen Center in Wheeling reminds members that the center's Ninth Anniversary Party will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, at Pavilion, 199 N. 1st St. The "Time-Steppers" dance group will entertain, and anniversary cake will be supplied by Sauer's Bakery in Wheeling. Seating is limited, so register early.

Pavilion welcomes these new members this month: Miriam Adler, Charlotte and Sam Chidekel, Marion Hennessy, Mary O'Brien, Susan Schimmel, Mae Sweeney and Henrietta

## Wheeling village board OKs more seating for restaurant

8-3-94 Herald  
The Wheeling village board approved changes for the proposed East Side Mario's Restaurant that would give it more seating.

The trustees approved changes that would let the restaurant, slated for the northwest corner of Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue, to have 325 seats instead of the 305 originally allowed.

Company officials had requested the change because they found in their other locations customers would have to wait in line about an hour before being seated.

## Police, fire board changes approved

The Wheeling village board also approved changes in procedures for the village's police and fire board.

The changes the board approved dealt with a number of areas, including testing, physical requirements for police and fire department jobs, and rules of conduct.

The changes came about after a yearlong comprehensive review of those procedures, village officials said.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Village to purchase new equipment

Wheeling trustees awarded a \$65,000 purchase agreement to Casey Equipment Co. Inc. for a loader/backhoe.

The Arlington Heights-based company did not have the lowest bid, but was the lowest bidder meeting specifications, officials said.

The company won Wheeling's business over three others vying for the order.

### Board approves tag days request

The Wheeling village board agreed to allow the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to hold fund-raising tag days in town on Aug. 12 and Aug. 13.

Village officials said the organization has previously worked in Wheeling without incident. The organization will work at the Dundee and Elmhurst roads intersection on those days.

## 2 companies express interest in Wheeling grocery stores

8-3-94  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials said Monday they are talking with two companies about establishing grocery stores at two vacant store sites in the village.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said officials are talking with the Certified Grocers Midwest Inc. of Eden Prairie, Minn., about occupying the vacant Franklin's Finer Food Store site and soon-to-be vacant Dominick's Finer Foods location.

"We've contacted everyone we can think of on those sites.... What I can honestly tell you is there is strong interest in that (Dominick's) site," Anderson told a resident group at Lexington Commons Clubhouse. Certified is a wholesale grocery store supplier.

The Franklin Finer Foods store at 291 E. Dundee Road in the Wheeling Shopping Center has been closed since it was gutted in a Dec. 24 fire.

Officials of the Dominick's Finer Foods grocery chain announced recently the company

would close its store at 550 W. Dundee Road in Lynn Plaza when its lease expires in November.

The company later signed a lease extension but still plans to close the Wheeling store, which it's had for 22 years, by Feb. 28.

Anderson said both companies, independent grocers not connected with a large chain, have expressed an interest in both locations.

Some residents said they were disappointed over the Dominick's decision and mounted a petition drive to raise 15,000 signatures to persuade the company to keep the store open.

"I've been here since 1955 and we've lost Jewels, Nationals and Dominick's. How come we lose these stores?" asked resident Don Wennerstrom.

James Kaplan, president of Lynn Plaza management company, had said his company was talking with wholesale grocery suppliers about attracting another grocery tenant to the shopping center.

Village officials didn't announce a timetable for finding tenants for either site.

# Towns take 'Night Out' to fight crime

8-3-94

By KELLY WOMER  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Stuart Sosin threw hot dogs on the grill and took a bite out of crime. Mixed with music, food and friendly chatter, Sosin and more than 80 of his neighbors marked the national Night Out campaign Tuesday with a tough message that they are standing up against crime.

"We want to unite everyone on the block and inform people what's going on," said Sosin, who lives in Wheeling's Dunhurst East subdivision. "We keep an eye open for each other and try to keep crime from even starting."

Throughout the Northwest suburbs, residents from Bartlett, Streamwood, Hanover Park, Maine Township and Schaumburg also participated in the 11th annual Night Out by turning their lights on from 7 to 9 p.m. and holding events ranging from a flashlight walk to neighborhood spirit contests.

Nitro, Wheeling's police dog, even demonstrated how he helps combat crime while police and fire officials encouraged residents to al-



Wheeling resident Sue Layden visits with new police dog "Nitro" and officer Randy Olsberg during Night Out. Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

ways meet their neighbors. "You watch out for people more when you know them," said Sue Majkowski of Wheeling, who

brought her 2-year-old twins Chloe and Steven to pet Nitro. "It's good to have camaraderie with your neighbors."

# Wheeling looks at 344-unit development

By CHERI BENTRUP

8-4-94  
Contiguous

Construction could begin next spring if Wheeling agrees to annex 18 acres at Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road so a developer can build a 344-unit condominium on the site.

Representatives of RSC Partnership, Glenview, presented drawings of the proposed development to the Wheeling Plan Commission July 28.

If Wheeling would confirm a pre-annexation agreement, Stephen Powers of RSC Partnership said he would like to begin construc-

tion in the spring.

8-4-94  
Contiguous

The land does not lie within village boundaries, Wheeling Planner Mark Janeck told commissioners. If annexation were agreed to, Janeck said, the developers have indicated they would pay to extend water and sewer services to the land.

Powers did note that the southwest end of the site is contiguous to Wheeling which is necessary for the village to annex the property. RSC Partnership is working to acquire more

land at the corner of Milwaukee and Hintz and, Powers said, the plan could easily be altered to accommodate additional land purchases.

Plans for the site show several condominium buildings, two, three and five stories high, Powers said.

"These are all buildings we have built in the past and have been very successful," Powers said. The condominium would include one- and two-bedroom units ranging from about \$80,000 to \$140,000.

"The different building types will appeal to a much

wider market," Powers said.

## No children

The typical condominium buyer is a young couple or a senior citizen who wants to stay in the community but no longer wants to care for a home, he said. Of the various communities in which RSC Partnership has built, Powers said, the projects have yet to contribute a child to a junior high or high school.

One request RSC Partnership had for the village is to expand its zoning to allow for planned unit developments, Powers told the Plan

Commission. Janeck explained that a PUD is a classification that mixes retail and residential uses.

"We're looking at a PUD (planned unit development)," Powers said. "Maybe we could be the first one as we're annexed."

"I think a PUD would be the way to go on this," agreed Paul Eisterhold, chairman of the Plan Commission.

Powers and his partner, Richard Lettvin, were told their next step is to approach the Village Board to discuss a possible pre-annexation agreement.

# 'Soldiers' to set up camp in Wheeling

8-4-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When the shooting starts, Wally Stryzyk will be happy.

For more than 2 years Stryzyk has been coordinator for the Wheeling Centennial Committee's Civil War re-enactment, which will take place Aug. 6-7 at Heritage Park in the village.

When the mock war takes place, Stryzyk's job will be completed.

"As of Sunday I'm through," the 37-year resident of Wheeling said.

The event includes artillery, can-

nons, wounded being dragged off the field and other activity to make history real for its viewers.

Just days away from its start, the event is drawing volunteers from the area to play Confederate and Union soldiers plus other figures from the era, he said.

Stryzyk expects up to 150 re-enactors from Des Plaines, Palatine, Lake Villa and other nearby communities to participate in the event.

Included among the re-enactors is a player, portraying a doctor, who carries authentic surgical

tools dating from the 1800s. Other re-enactors portray President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary.

The volunteers hear about the events through word-of-mouth and the Reenactors Journal periodical.

Besides the battle action, the re-enactors also will stay in character and have camps set up at the park at 251 N. Wolf Road.

Also expected at the event, said Stryzyk, are 20 mannequins outfitted with various Civil War costumes that will be used to explain the period to visitors.

Away from the event, Stryzyk is organizing breakfasts and a military-style ball for the event's unpaid participants.

Besides the assistance of his wife, Rita, who also serves on the centennial committee, Stryzyk has been assisted by such local groups as the Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus and AMVETS.

The event is costing the village \$5,000 to stage.

The committee is accepting contributions to defray the cost of the re-enactment, Stryzyk said.

## Wheeling trustees approve

555-1888  
FUNERAL HOME  
OEHLER  
253-5423  
Arlington Heights  
2000 E. Northwest Hwy.  
FUNERAL HOME  
& OEHLER  
LAUTERBURG  
537-6600  
Wheeling  
189 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
FUNERAL HOME  
KOLSSAK  
640-0566

Dear,  
miss you so very much. I think  
at you day and night. In my  
noses you still and always mar-  
after 48 years of a happy mar-  
life.  
I hear your voice, I hear your  
best your voice, I hear your  
Istie.  
Tr. Gellert was a music and Ger-  
in teacher with District 214. He  
d a master's degree in music  
m Northern Illinois University.  
played the violin in the Festival  
chestra of Austria.  
Tr. Gellert left behind his devoted  
e Helene, his sons Bruno  
bbie) and Rick (Karen), and his  
ndchildren Ryan, Andrea, and

# Balefill proponents weigh options, lawsuit

By DORIS FOLKL  
STAFF WRITER

8-4-94  
*Countryside*  
Member communities of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County met Monday to consider their next step. The Army Corps of Engineers rejected July 21 their plan to use a disputed landfill near Bartlett for a balefill site.

Members asked for a cooling-off period to consider possible litigation against the Corps and other options.

SWANCC Board Chairman and Wheeling Mayor Sheila Shultz called the corps' decision flawed and its 22-month study process adversarial.

"There is litigation through it (the report) and an adversarial process through it," Schultz said. "The general sentiment is that the process was flawed, with the corps setting up a moving target of changing issues."

Park Ridge City Manager Gerry Hagman, who is a

There was a unanimous determination to review the report and at the same time not jump to conclusions this evening. A key point is that millions of dollars are at stake. It's a complicated issue and needs more time and analysis."

Gerry Hagman

member of the agency's executive committee, said the general feeling of agency members is that "the corps was philosophically against us from the start."

"There was a unanimous determination to review the report and at the same time not jump to conclusions this evening," Hagman said. "A key point is that millions of dollars are at stake. It's a complicated issue and needs more time and analysis."

In issuing its decision — the second denial of an application for SWANCC'S balefill permit — Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Col.

David M. Reed said the project "poses potential risk to the St. Charles (Newark Valley) Aquifer, and it would have adverse and unmitigatable impacts on the habitat requirements of area-sensitive species."

Reed said the Corps cannot issue a permit for any project that is contrary to the public interest or that does not meet the guidelines of the federal Clean Water Act.

Agency plan calls for building the landfill on 410 acres at West Bartlett and Gifford Roads in Hanover County in unincorporated west Cook County.

Agency officials said the landfill, where garbage in 1.25-ton rectangular bales would be buried, would handle waste from its 23 member communities for 18 to 20 years.

But Mary Byrne, who heads up Citizens against the Balefill, which has been fighting SWANCC over the Bartlett site since 1985, called the agency's meeting procedures Monday "highly improper and outrageous," when the announced public meeting, attended by about 20 balefill protesters, went immediately into closed executive session and was ended abruptly without comment.

Robert Sherman, best known as a civil rights activist fighting the use of religious symbols on municipal property, loudly protested the closed meeting, telling SWANCC members and officials the discussion involved "options" open to the agency after the corps decision and should be open to the public.

## Lots of questions

Schultz also criticized the corps for recommending the Gallatin National Landfill in Fulton County, southwest of Peoria.

"It's very inappropriate for the Army Corps to push a privately owned company," Schultz said. "I have a lot of questions about that. Does it make sense?"

Gallatin owner and former state senator Roger Keats, who attended the meeting, said he was asked by the corps to answer questions and make comments on the SWANCC application throughout the examination process.

Although the landfill agency has called Gallatin too small and too far away to meet the demands of its 23 member communities,

Keats said Monday he looks forward to working with the agency and predicts he could save the collected group \$15 million over the life of a 20-year contract.

But SWANCC Executive Director Brooke Beal protested that doing business with Gallatin would cost the agency \$115 million over a 20-year period.

Beale called the Bartlett site the "best site" for a landfill in Cook County.

"It's ours, and it's permitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Cook County," Beale said. "It meets every requirement for a landfill. If the water wasn't there, the Army Corps would not have been called in."

Meanwhile, U.S. Congressman John Porter,

It's ours, and it's permitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Cook County. It meets every requirement for a landfill. If the water wasn't there, the Army Corps would not have been called in."

Brooke Beale

R-Deerfield, said he was extremely disappointed in the corps' decision, calling it contrary to earlier findings about the site's environmental fitness and design.

"The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers had reviewed the environmental impact of the balefill earlier and in 1990 reported to Congress there was virtually no risk to the ground water there," Porter said. "The review by the IEPA determined the project could be completed without causing water pollution at all. The latest decision conflicts with these earlier findings."

The site in western Cook County is a gravel pit that was closed 50 years ago and is now heavily wooded, containing finger lakes and ponds.

Beale said the agency's next meeting will in September, when a decision will be announced on future actions.

# Wheeling's centennial celebration to enter the Civil War

8-6-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Today the climax of the centennial year in Wheeling begins with the Civil War re-enactment at Heritage Park.

About 125 volunteers playing soldiers, settlers and other characters from the 1860s will be on display at the park at 222 S. Wolf Road.

"The whole day will be a highlight if they've never been to one," said Walter Strzyzyk, coordinator of the event for the Wheeling Centennial Committee.

Opening at 10 a.m. today and Sunday, the re-enactment will feature open Union and Confederate soldier camps, cavalry and artillery demonstrations taking place throughout the day.

From the time visitors cross the

bridge at the park they'll be transported to the 1860s, said Strzyzyk.

At 3 p.m., the Civil War battle re-enactment occurs. Bleachers have been set up on the west side of the park for visitors to view the action.

The re-enactment is the highlight of the yearlong celebration of Wheeling's century of existence. It took the committee about two years to get the event organized, Strzyzyk said.

The whole day will be a highlight if they've never been to one"

— Walter Strzyzyk

Participants in the recreation of

the era come from towns throughout the area and downstate Illinois.

Throughout the day, the participants will be in character and actors will portray Abraham Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd.

Visitors to the event are encouraged to speak with the re-enactors.

Admission to the event is free, and the committee will have a

table there for information donations.

Refreshments will also be sold at the event.

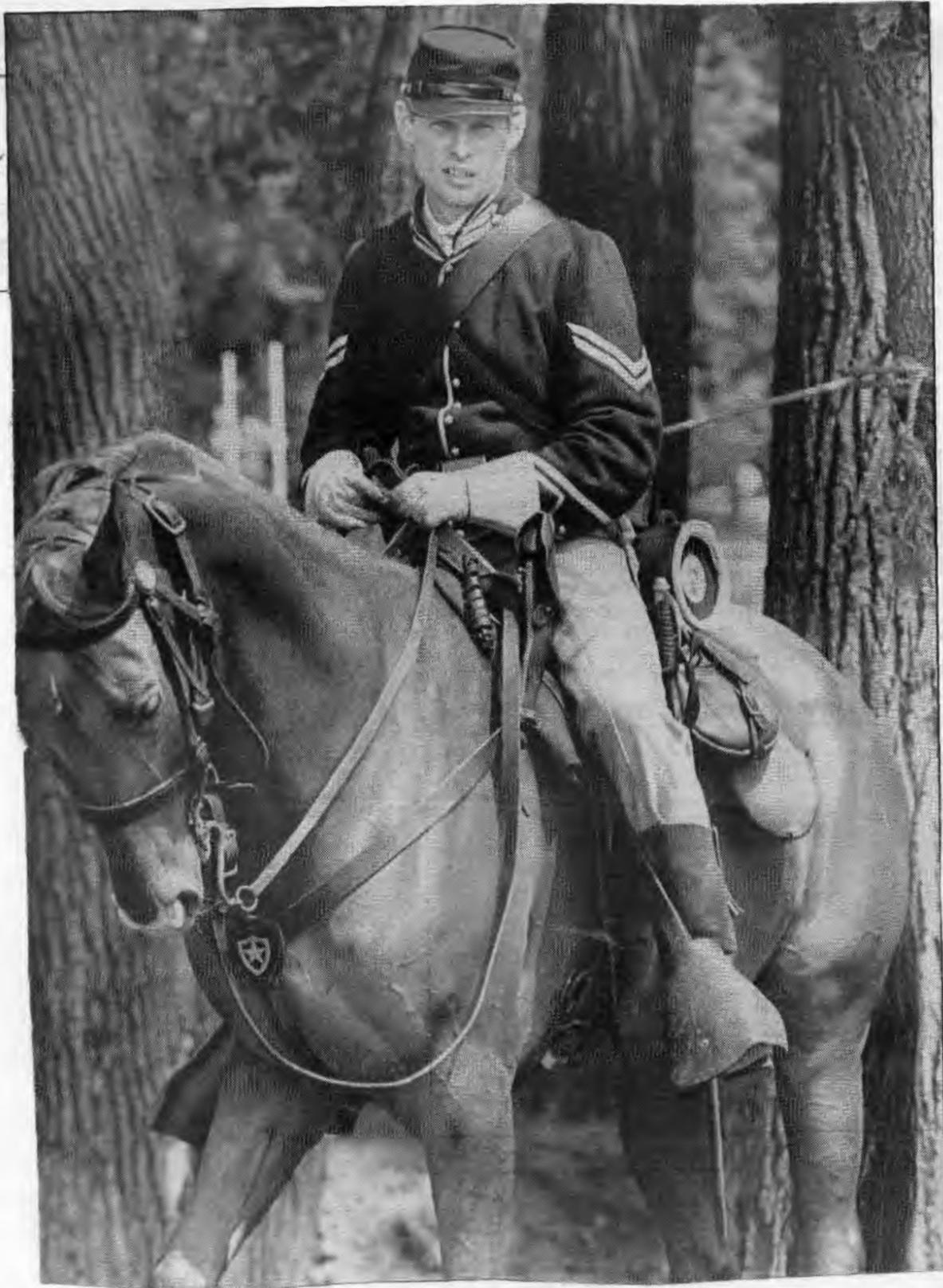
Parking is available at nearby Holmes Junior High School at 221 S. Wolf Road.

The last two main events in the centennial year celebration include the Centennial Autumn Festival Oct. 1 and the Paddock Military Concert Nov. 12.

**BACK IN TIME**

*Countryside*  
Dr. Steve Rohrback of Wheaton rides his steed through Heritage Park during Civil War Days Saturday. Another photo on

**PAGE 5**



**Life in a military camp**

Derick Hudgins and Jared Lange of Ashland, Ill., roll musket rounds Saturday in Heritage Park. Part of Wheeling's ongoing

*Countryside* 8-11-99

Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

Centennial celebration, Civil War Days took participants back in time to view life in a Civil War military camp.

# Civil War 'soldiers' fight battles in Wheeling

8-11-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



Ensuring Honest Abe is telling the truth, Anne Knack, 7, of Wheeling, tests the beard of Max Daniels of Wheaton at Wheeling's Civil War re-enactment.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

More than 1,000 people watched a page of American history unfold before their eyes during a lifelike Civil War re-enactment in Wheeling recently.

"It went great. Everybody that was over there was pleased," said Walter Strzyk, coordinator of the event for the Wheeling Centennial Committee.

The event at Heritage Park represented the climax of Wheeling's centennial year celebration.

Greeted by a sign that read: "As you pass this bridge you enter into American history," visitors entered a replica of a 1860s war camp.

Union soldier sentries stationed at the bridge asked visitors if they were North or South sympathizers and warned them about the presence of spies.

The 80 participants who dressed in period costumes also showed visitors how people ate, fought and treated their battle wounds during that era.

They even used fake blood to make the demonstration as real as possible.

The event also included "visits" from former President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd.

Strzyk said visitors had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the those who performed in the re-enactment. The program came



Perry Bresenbach, a doctor in Wheeling's Civil War re-enactment, performs a battlefield operation on Katie Bresenbach.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

to life through planning that began in 1992, he said.

During the two-day affair the North won the mock battle on Saturday while the South prevailed the

following day.

The centennial committee received more than \$500 in donations from visitors, prompting Strzyk to ask that the village hold such a re-

enactment annually.

The last two events in the centennial year celebration are the Centennial Autumn Fest Oct. 1 and the Paddock Military Concert Nov. 12.

## Wheeling shops for grocers

Wheeling village officials are shopping for grocery stores.

The village hopes to attract grocers to the former Franklin Foods site, 291 E. Dundee Road, which burned down this year, and to Dominick's, 550 W. Dundee Road, which plans on leaving the village when its lease expires early next year, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Two companies, Certified Grocers and Super Value, have expressed interest in Wheeling, Anderson said.

"We've also made contacts to some independent stores in the area," he said.

Both sites have appeared to work well as grocery stores, Anderson said, adding that the community would like to keep at least one grocery store in its boundaries. "They seem to meet the needs of a lot of people in the community," he said.

8-18-94

# Panel hears Milwaukee changes

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Picking up where they left off two weeks ago, Wheeling plan commissioners tonight will hear the remainder of changes planned for Milwaukee Avenue.

The proposed changes are being announced as the Plan Commission works to update the village's comprehensive plans.

Residents and business owners packed the board room for the commission's July 28 meeting, saying they were worried the village would eventually force them from their homes and businesses by rezoning their property and therefore putting them in a non-conforming use.

"Right now we're concentrating on Milwaukee Avenue," Wheeling Planner Mark Janeck said at the July 28 meeting.

"The Plan Commission and the Village Board have been discussing these changes. It is change in the thought of what could be done with these parcels," he said.

## Rezoning

Janeck said the plan includes rezoning the east side of Milwaukee Avenue

south of Lake Cook Road to a planned unit development, or PUD.

"It appears to us it would be better land use there as a PUD than office" space, he said. "A PUD provides for mix use. It could be residential, a mix of residential and commercial or just commercial." Wheeling's zoning code currently does not provide for PUDs, he added.

On the west side of Milwaukee and a bit farther south, Janeck said, sites that now house Vivian Lee's, Car-X Muffler & Brake, Old Munich Inn and America's Car Wash would be rezoned to light industrial business and office use.

"There is some industry there now," Janeck said. "It does not allow for heavy manufacturing but would include light manufacturing, offices and storage. We've had numerous requests for industrial land."

A third section, consisting of parcels on the east side of Milwaukee north of Dundee Road, is mostly vacant, Janeck said.

## Concerns

"The village owns most of the land there," he said. "Now it's all (zoned) commercial. We are planning for a PUD. We have received some proposals

from developers for commercial and mixed uses" there.

Several times during the meeting, residents voiced concerns that zoning changes would decrease their property values or leave them with unmarketable property.

"I think what we're trying to do is take this strip and make a comprehensive plan that will work," said Commissioner Ellen Butor. "The needs today for Wheeling are more residential, more people are coming to our town."

Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold told residents they have no reason to be concerned that they could lose existing businesses.

"This is an attempt, I think, to foster some redevelopment where it's not being done because the (zoning) classifications are not correct or conducive," Eisterhold said. "It's not going to have an immediate impact."

Any zoning changes would have to be approved by the Wheeling Village Board, he added.

Tonight's commission meeting will reveal more possible changes along Milwaukee Avenue, including multi-family housing and another PUD.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the board room at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

## Carwash owner agrees to further talks for proposal

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling carwash owner agreed to further talks with village officials rather than have trustees reject his proposal to add truck rentals at the business.

Al Schwab, president of America's Car Wash, agreed to continue talks with village officials to iron out differences the two sides had over the addition of a Ryder Truck Rental operation to his business at 400 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Wheeling officials said they objected to the proposal because almost the entire front of the property is proposed for entering and exiting the site. They also said they objected to a lack of landscaping on the property.

However, Wheeling officials said even though the board was prepared to reject the project, it was open to a compromise with Schwab.

"I'm not concurring with the thought that this can't be worked out. I'm concurring with the denial (of the proposal) at this time," said Wheeling Village

Manager Craig G. Anderson. Ricky Ament, Schwab's attorney, noted there hasn't been a major accident at the property in 12 years. He also said with the changes officials recommended the business would be affected due to its front being somewhat obstructed to vehicle traffic.

"I understand staff's concerns, but they've never operated a carwash," he said. Ament argued that the village board approved the site plan for the property they were debating in 1982.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that the developer's initial refusal to discuss further options for the property left the village with a "take or leave it situation."

Wheeling Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman noted that if the village didn't grant Schwab's request he would still have a business that has been in place for years.

The developer subsequently agreed to discuss the matter further with village officials to address the concerns they raised.

The matter will be discussed again by the board Monday.

## Airport commission agrees to look at more hangar plans

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission Wednesday agreed to look at more proposals for building more aircraft hangars at the facility.

The commissioners agreed to review the plans to help the airport owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights more quickly generate rental income.

One of the proposals they are considering is replacing 42 tie-down areas for light aircraft near the Palwaukee Motor Inn on the southeast side of the airport with 44 T-shaped hangar structures that would command higher storage fees.

However, some commissioners also called for the panel to review placing hangars at other locations on the airport, including on one parcel at the southwest corner near the Palatine Road frontage road.

"We should look at alternatives. If that alternative looks bad, fine. Let's look at other alternatives," said commissioner James V. Nickel.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. reminded the panel that

the airport has a development plan that calls for development of more hangars at the facility. He also noted that there would be some difficulties building in some sections of the airport.

Airport officials hope to relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch, which cuts through Palwaukee and the neighboring Twin Drive-In property at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., to create more buildable land for development.

However, the airport is trying in Cook County Circuit Court to forcibly acquire the drive-in from its owner M&R Properties Inc. of Skokie.

Some officials have said they want the airport to generate more income more quickly than is called for in the facility's development plan.

Commissioners also noted 51 small aircraft owners are seeking space to store their planes at Palwaukee.

The commission agreed to leave locations along Milwaukee Avenue and other "high-profile" roads for corporate hangars.

The proposals will be discussed further by the panel on Sept. 21.

## Wheeling to sell 10 vehicles at annual auction on Sept. 10

Wheeling trustees approved the sale of 10 village vehicles at an auction to be held at village hall Sept. 10.

The village annually participates in an auction sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of area communities, that is holding the event in Wheeling this year.

## Lions Club to conduct fund-raising tag days

Trustees also approved a request by the Wheeling Lions Club to have tag day fund-raising events in the village Oct. 14-15. Village officials said the organization previously has held tag days in Wheeling without incident.

## Trustees approve variety of projects

The village board authorized the use of \$53,620 of its Illinois Motor Fuel Tax revenue for a variety of local projects.

The board approved spending \$12,420 for maintenance of traffic signals throughout the village. Another \$31,200 was earmarked for road salt purchases for the winter driving season.

## Trustees OK money for random drug tests

The village board agreed to earmark \$1,040 for random drug testing of its employees who are required to have commercial driving licenses.

The village allocated the money to comply with federal regulations it recently received. About 15 employees are required to undergo such testing.

## Board waives rules for senior home fest

Trustees also waived the surety license requirements for Friends of the Addolorata Villa so they can hold a festival Sept. 18.

The event is being held for residents of the senior home and their families. The trustees also approved their request for a temporary liquor license and to hold a raffle.

## WHEELING BOARD NOTES

The trustees also approved \$10,000 for sealing cracks in the roads in town.

8-17-94

8-13-94

8-18-94

8-11-94

# Work to begin on centennial fountain

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

8-18-94  
*CountrySide*

Wheeling's Centennial Fountain could be completed in less than two months if the weather cooperates.

Village trustees recently hired the low bidder, Guse Erickson Co. of Oakbrook Terrace, to build the fountain for \$129,400. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the contractor could break ground at any time.

"We've already done some preliminary work," Anderson said, which included relocating a sewer. "I hope they start soon."

The fountain will be built in front of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

## Wheel logo

Plans for the fountain show a 30-foot diameter bowl which will hold the water, with water spraying into the air between 10 and 12 feet, Anderson

said.

"It's going to be round and pick up on our wheel logo," Anderson said. "There will be features in it (the pool area) to look like spokes."

A brick walkway around the fountain will expand the project site to about 50 feet in diameter, he said.

Finishing touches will include decorative lighting, landscaping and benches.

"We hope it becomes a place where people will come to eat lunch, look at the flowers and watch the fountain," Anderson said.

## Brick sale

The village's Appearance Committee has reviewed the plans and offered some suggestions on how the benches should be arranged and what trees should be planted.

"It will be a nice addition to our landscape" of Village Hall, Anderson said.

The idea to build a fountain in front of Village

Hall has been discussed for years, Anderson said. With 1994 celebrating the village's centennial, trustees decided this was the year to go ahead and build the fountain, he added.

Wheeling Jaycees held a gala earlier this year and donated \$30,000 of their proceeds to the fountain fund, Anderson said, while the village itself budgeted \$100,000.

"It's working out well," he said of covering the \$129,400 construction contract with available funds.

Residents and firms also can donate to the fountain's construction by "purchasing" a brick that will be used in the walkway surrounding the fountain.

Anderson was not certain what each brick will cost, but estimated it at \$30. Each brick will include two or three engraved lines for a saying of the donor's choice, he added.

For information about buying a brick, phone Village Hall at 459-2600.

# License plates capture centennial spirit

Special Illinois license plates commemorating Wheeling's centennial were unveiled last week and are on sale at Village Hall.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents can show their hometown spirit by displaying special license plates commemorating the village's centennial.

The license plates can be displayed on cars in place of regular plates from Nov. 2 to Dec. 31. Plates cost \$20 for the pair and are available at Village Hall.

So far, 50 of the 200 commemorative plates have been sold, said Village President Sheila Schultz.

"I think that as it gets closer to the time when they can be displayed, there will be more of a rush" to purchase the plates, she said.

## Color scheme

The plates feature Wheeling's centennial logo in yellow, green and blue ink on a white background.

"They are really attractive plates," Schultz said, adding that she has already reserved a pair of plates for herself.

"Some people may not

even put them on their car," she said, explaining that residents may buy the plates for their collector or souvenir value.

Most of the people Schultz knows who have already purchased plates do plan on displaying them on their vehicles, she said.

"It's been a good mix of elected officials, appointed officials, (centennial) committee members, village staff and several citizens," Schultz said of those buying the plates.

## Low cost

The cost of the special plates, \$20 a pair, was set by the village, Schultz said. The village has already paid the Secretary of State's Office for creating the plates, she said.

"We thought \$20 was pretty reasonable," she said. "It's not a big money-making effort."

Rather than raise money for the village, Schultz said, she preferred to keep the cost low to make the plates more available to Wheeling residents.

Plates can be purchased at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday.



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

Wheeling's Village President Sheila Schultz displays one of the special license plates on sale at Village Hall commemorating the village's centennial.

# Nursing home for Greek seniors gets Wheeling's OK

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
DAILY HERALD STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees Monday night gave their stamp of approval to what is being billed as the nation's second senior citizens nursing home primarily for people of Greek descent.

In a 7-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved plans for the 90,000-square-foot, four-story Wheeling Care Center proposed by the non-profit Greek American Nursing Home Committee. The facility would have room for 204 beds.

If plans are approved by the state, the nursing home, which is scheduled to be open by early 1996, will be built on a 7.7-acre parcel on Wolf Road east of Chamber Park and west of the Pavilion Senior Center at 199 N. First St.

The \$11 million facility, which would be open to people of all ethnic backgrounds, would give senior citizens access to Greek food, Greek language and Greek Orthodox religious practices. The only other such facility in the nation is in Boston, according to officials with the non-profit group.

Trustee Judy Abruscato noted

that developers in the past have promised to build such homes in Wheeling, only to back out of the commitments.

"Once this is approved, what are we looking at? One year? Two years? What are we actually looking at (as a completion date)?" she asked.

Architect Michael Craig Aronson noted that the group is going through the state licensing review for the facility and that it had to prove it could financially support building the home.

Concerned that the non-profit organization would not be paying property taxes to Wheeling, trustees called for the organization to work out a fee agreement with the village for emergency medical calls to the building.

Former Trustee William A. Rogers complained that the development would hurt taxpayers because it would be exempt from paying property taxes.

"The taxpayers would like a little better deal than we would be getting from this institution coming into the village," he said.

Village officials noted that the facility would bring 120 jobs into Wheeling.

## Wheeling was always a good place to dine

*Tribune 8-7-94*  
By Larry Mayer  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

**T**here are dozens of establishments in present-day Wheeling where you can wet your whistle, but the options were a bit more limited in the town's early days.

Filkin's tavern and hotel, built in 1837, was Wheeling's first commercial enterprise. Located on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, it quickly became a popular stop for weary stagecoach travelers.

Travel was difficult in those days, and Milwaukee Avenue was the main road from Chicago to the lands north of Wheeling. It consisted of the trails of Indians and paths beaten into the ground by herds of buffalo.

### Yesterday

The success of Filkin's tavern eventually led to the growth of "Restaurant Row" along Milwaukee Avenue. It's a legacy that continues today, even though the superhighways of the 1950s resulted in a decrease in the traffic through Wheeling.

As settlers descended upon the area, other businesses followed. In 1838, two blacksmith shops were opened, one by Orestin Shepard, the other by Ascher Skinner. Lumber for the shops was supplied by a mill located on the Des Plaines River.

Adding to the industry of the area was a flour mill, erected on the west side of the river, directly across from the saw mill.

James Parker opened Wheeling's second hotel in 1840. Two years later, stores owned by John Rothschild, John M. Schaffer and William Vogt were built, as was another blacksmith shop by E.K. Beach and a hardware store by Albert Fassbender.

In 1845, Wheeling's first school was erected. A larger school followed in 1861, but it was destroyed by fire in 1870. In 1871, a new two-story school was completed on the south side of Dundee Road, just west of Milwaukee, on the site of what's now a shopping center.

## Students step to beat of city to help cause

*Tribune 8-17-94*

**■ Wheeling:** When 15 Wheeling High School students boarded a Metra train bound for Chicago, they had a greater purpose on their agenda than shopping along North Michigan Avenue.

Accompanied by their dance and fine arts teacher, Diane Rawlinson, the girls devoted their day to assisting a cause they hold close to their hearts—Dance for Life, a fundraising concert for Stop AIDS Chicago last weekend.

"It's really exciting to get a chance to see a show from both sides by helping behind the stage," said 17-year-old Elly Carlson, a senior at Wheeling who is a dancer in her school's performing group. "We are doing volunteer work for a good cause. [AIDS] has gotten to be a big problem, and someone has to do something about it."

Carlson joined forces with a group of teens which, under Rawlinson's guidance, traveled on foot across city neighborhoods, hanging posters announcing the fundraiser, which was held at Navy Pier's Skyline Stage. The funds raised will be used to promote AIDS prevention education.

"The girls seemed to have a ball, doing something good and important," said Danny Kopelson, a spokesman for Stop AIDS Chicago. "They are learning how a dance concert and benefit is put together."

In addition to promoting the concert through posters and mailings, the students were on



Tribune photo by Chuck Bernier

Elly Carlson, 17, is among the Wheeling High School dance students who helped Dance for Life, a fundraiser for Stop AIDS Chicago.

hand at the concert, sharing the excitement of being a part of a production featuring the talents of dancers from renowned companies: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ballet Chicago and Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago.

"The girls did a lot of grunt

work, but it was an experience in itself," Rawlinson said. "This has given the kids a chance to be more than passive observers ... to get beyond standing on the stage by helping out with a great cause."

Karen Cullotta Krause

## Potential firefighters tested on knowledge, dedication

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nine north and northwest suburban communities will test firefighter candidates Saturday at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

The test is being sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of area communities, and it is used to assess the general knowledge and dedication to public service of the candidates, said Keith S. MacIsaac, former chairman of police and fire testing for the conference.

"When we come out of the written test, the idea is to get a candidate who is public-service-oriented and has reasonable intelligence and can pass state firefighter, emergency medical technician and paramedic exams," said MacIsaac, who is also Wheeling's fire chief.

Wheeling is one of the towns testing potential firefighters, along with Arlington Heights, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Park Ridge, Rolling Meadows, Skokie, Wilmette and Winnetka.

MacIsaac said the test is in two parts and will take the can-

didates at least three hours to complete.

After testing is completed the consortium will average the candidates' scores on both parts, giving them their rank on the eligibility lists.

The consortium requires that job candidates score at least a 70 percent average in order to take a physical skills test that will be given a few weeks later. That test involves performing such fire fighting tasks as extending a ladder and opening a fire hydrant.

MacIsaac said about 2,500 job candidates attended a recent orientation session for the test at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights.

From that applicant pool, the list of eligible candidates will eventually be trimmed down to between 400 and 600 people.

After the applicants complete the consortium's tests, the individual towns will conduct interviews, polygraph tests, medical tests and background checks on them, MacIsaac said.

Not all the towns have fire fighting openings, but they are required to update their hiring lists every two years.

*Herald - 8-20-94*

### Wheeling goes downhill

Wheeling is about to come into its destiny. Our one and only full line grocery store (bottom line) Dominick's is closing! Are we about to become the village where one must walk three miles to buy a loaf of bread? It was bad enough to have to defend our swimming pool filled with sand for 20 years, not water. Now, I'm torn between writing about real estate taxes that have increased 30 percent in the last 15 years or attacking a policy of TIF for everyone but residents. Our village board loves tax incentive programs and supports, encourages, codifies, and pampers applicants (business). Oh boy, do we love TIF!

How about a tax incentive for Dominick's so we residents can buy Twinkles in our own town? Maybe if we are a designated historically correct community we can TIF horses and get over to Buffalo Grove to spend our money.

Years ago when I moved to Wheeling many friends were a bit dubious about my choice. Now, I can say with grace — "It was a mistake. I thought I was moving to West Virginia, the land of good neighbors."

P. Walsdorf  
Wheeling

### Northwest briefing

*Tribune 8-22-94*

### Nursing-home project approved by trustees

**■ Wheeling:** Village officials have approved plans for the construction of a nursing home in town.

The Greek American Nursing Home Committee, a non-profit organization that represents more than 150 Greek Orthodox groups in metropolitan Chicago, plans to build a 91,000-square-foot building on about 7 1/2 acres at 199 North First St.

The 105-room building, to be called the Wheeling Care Center, will be four stories and house up to 304 elderly patients. Cost, including land acquisition, is estimated at \$10 million.

Because the village will not receive property taxes from the non-profit organization, one resident objected to the nursing home.

"Is this going to mean we're going to have to pay more taxes?" resident William Rogers asked the board.

But Village President Sheila H. Schultz said no one else is interested in the vacant site.

Greek American officials hope for construction to begin in fall 1995 and be completed a year later.

Carrl Karuhn

# Customs service helps Palwaukee

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

If preliminary statistics are any indication, the international aviation community is taking to Palwaukee Municipal Airport because of its customs service.

So far in August, the first month the U.S. Treasury Department has had a customs inspector at the Wheeling airport, 23 international flights have arrived.

Customs Inspector Westron Armstrong says that the number of international flights that have arrived at Palwaukee puts it in line to equal the numbers

Waukegan Regional Airport averages and near to the volume Midway Airport encounters.

"It appears that Palwaukee is picking up faster than anticipated. It appears there will be quite a lot more," Armstrong said.

He added that once the word spreads among area businesses about Palwaukee's customs service, the number of international flights arriving there will increase.

Officials at the Waukegan airport couldn't provide a monthly average of the number of overseas

flights they receive, but said their volume parallels Palwaukee's. Officials at Midway said 60 to 70 international flights arrive there monthly, but that amount includes Meigs Field's air traffic.

Armstrong said most of the planes he inspects are corporate flights from area companies. The planes are checked to ensure they aren't bringing in contraband or illegal immigrants.

Armstrong, a customs agent for 16 years, says he has not yet encountered a plane violating immigration or contraband rules.

As an official international port of entry, the airport now can accept aircraft arriving from overseas that previously had to first land elsewhere before transferring to Palwaukee.

The customs inspector arrived at the airport after Preister Aviation, Palwaukee's first fixed-base fueling operator and charter jet service, persuaded the U.S. Customs Service to station an inspector at the airport.

Priester pays \$30,000, about half the cost, to have an agent at Palwaukee. Other businesses there pay the rest of the expenses.

## Judge dismisses case against Wheeling AMVETS post

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County judge dismissed gambling charges against two Wheeling AMVETS officials, saying they were arrested improperly.

Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Pope dismissed misdemeanor gambling charges against Frank R. Lipowsky, 67, of Wheeling, the post's president, and Norman J. Bucher, 49, a bartender at the post.

An Evanston police officer working undercover said that on two separate occasions she received a payoff for winning on a video poker machine at the Philip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66, 700 McHenry Road.

Police said she visited the post 12 different times.

However, Pope ruled Monday that if the officer witnessed illegal gambling she should have immediately arrested the men and then obtained a warrant to search the post.

Pope determined that after the of-

ficer witnessed the alleged illegal gambling, she discussed the matter with Wheeling police who later arrested the two on March 16 and searched the post without warrants.

"This wasn't a felony, no one was dangerous, there was no chance evidence was going to be destroyed, no one was going to leave the jurisdiction. These men are veterans from the community. The law does not favor warrantless arrests," said Bucher's attorney, David Borenstein, who filed a motion to dismiss the charges.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said Wheeling police will ask the Cook County State's Attorney's office to appeal the judge's decision.

"We're disappointed by this judge's decision and confused by its basis," Haeger said.

Haeger said police had been making routine checks of local liquor establishments and determined illegal gambling had been occurring at the post.

## Wheeling urges developer to rethink town-house plan

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday told a developer they would prefer houses instead of town houses as proposed for a site just east of Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road.

The trustees said they hoped the Joseph Freed And Associates, Inc. company in Wheeling could develop single-family houses on a 7.1-acre parcel near the Des Plaines River.

"I personally think the coverage of the site is a little dense and I would like to see single-family homes there," said Trustee Lois Gaffke.

The company had proposed building 51 raised-ranch town houses on the site, saying its location along Milwaukee Avenue and just south of Lake-Cook Road made it undesirable for single-family development.

"I know I can sell a single-family attached product here, but I'm nervous about single family," Ira Frank, Vice President of the company said.

The developer proposed developing the units that would have asking prices in the mid-

\$150,000 range to \$175,000. The units would be 1,650 to 1,775 square feet in size with two or three bedrooms and an attached two-car garage.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said another reason the village should have single-family houses on the parcel is because it's near the Des Plaines River which she said is a valuable village resource that is underutilized by local developers.

The site is also near a section of the Cook County Forest Preserve.

Frank added that people may be reluctant to buy a house in that area because it's close to large tracts of undeveloped land that could be used for office buildings.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said Wheeling officials would carefully review developments proposed for neighboring parcels and that other single-family houses could be targeted for the area.

The developer agreed to return to Wheeling officials at a future board workshop with a proposal for single-family houses at that site.

## Village OKs nursing home

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

As part of the Greek American Nursing Home Committee's process for acquiring a certificate of need from the state, Wheeling village trustees last week unanimously approved plans for the committee's proposed nursing home.

Plans call for an \$11 million, 90-square-foot facility to be built on 7.7 acres east of Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, and west of the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the committee needed approval from the village as a prerequisite for the state to issue a certificate of need.

The certificate will be awarded if the state determines that more nursing home beds could be utilized in the region, preventing saturation and unnecessary construction, she said.

### Mid-'96 opening

"We're quite confident they will be able to get that (certificate)," Schultz said. "If all goes well they were talking mid-1996" to open the 204-bed facility.

Though the nursing home would be exempt from property taxes, trustees agreed that the advantages of the development outweighed its lack of revenue for the village, Schultz said.

"The general point of view, the same as any not-for-profit (agency), is that they're providing for the public good. It will provide 120 jobs in the community," she said.

Schultz also noted that the nursing home will bring outsiders to the community as they come to visit friends and relatives.

The nursing home will be a nice addition to the community as preliminary plans show an attractive building, she said.

The site, she said, was approved for construction of a nursing home, several years ago but that project never progressed.

The Greek American nursing home, which will be four stories tall, is smaller than what was initially approved, she said.

Because the home will be built in a flood plain, it cannot have a basement which makes an additional above-ground floor necessary, Schultz said.

## Wheeling gives carwash OK to rent Ryder trucks

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees accepted changes proposed by a local carwash that would allow the owner to also rent trucks at his business.

In a 7-0 vote the Wheeling village board approved a proposal by Al Schwab, president of America's Car Wash at 400 N. Milwaukee Ave. to have a Ryder Truck Rental operation at the business.

The board originally objected to the proposal because almost the entire front of the property was proposed for entering and exiting the site. They also said the site needed more landscaping.

Schwab subsequently made changes to his proposal that includes adding landscaping and aligning the front of the business with the traffic flow on Milwaukee Avenue promoting easier access.

In return, the trustees withdrew measures to reject the project they originally intended to approve.

Wheeling Village Manager

Craig G. Anderson said he wanted to ensure improvements to the site were all made at the same time.

Schwab said he wanted to wait until the Illinois Department of Transportation completed its widening of Milwaukee Avenue before moving a sign on the property.

Schwab said he didn't want to relocate the sign highlighting the business's location to a spot that would cause motorists to suddenly "slam on their brakes" to enter the site.

Because IDOT is negotiating with Schwab to purchase some of his land for the widening project, the trustees gave him until May 1, 1995 to complete some improvements they requested.

Those improvements included the relocation of the sign, purchasing a new sign and adding some landscaping to the site.

Schwab said he would pay for those improvements with the money he received from IDOT for a part of the site's frontage land.

# A gambling charge, a friendship strained

## Police raid shakes relationship between town, vets' group

By DAVE MCKINNEY  
AND DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Most village governments have a cozy relationship with their veterans organizations, and that certainly is true in Wheeling.

Look no farther than the marquee in front of village hall, which now advertises a weekend festival sponsored by the local AMVETS post. There also are the annual parades the group has put on at Independence Day and Memorial Day as proof.

But for the moment, the good will is on hold between village govern-

ment and the upstanding civic member, whose membership rolls even include village trustees.

In fact, the one-time mutual adoration between the group and the village has shown unprecedented signs of strain because of a dispute that has had each side talking to one another through attorneys in a Cook County courtroom.

The argument stems from an undercover raid last March on the organization's McHenry Road social club. A plainclothes officer allegedly saw a bartender paying out winnings from four video poker machines — which, by state law, constitutes gambling. And that, police

say, is illegal.

As a result of the raid, four machines were seized. The post's manager and a bartender were arrested. And now, the village is poised to make some kind of punitive move against the AMVETS' coveted liquor license.

"The veterans are asking me why the village is trying to come down so hard on them," said attorney David Borenstein, who is representing the two AMVETS members who were arrested.

"It would be tragic if this dispute begins a chain of events that causes a permanent rift between the veterans, the police department and the

village," he said.

This week, a Cook County judge threw out the village's case against the AMVETS organization, faulting Wheeling police for making arrests without arrest warrants and seizing evidence without search warrants. On Wednesday, the judge upheld that stand.

Associate Judge Michael J. Pope also ordered the confiscated machines and \$2,700 in alleged gambling proceeds be returned to the group.

The AMVETS aren't saying whether or not gambling has oc-

See GAMBLE on Page 4



This video poker machine was among four seized by Wheeling police in a gambling raid on an AMVETS post.

Daily Herald Photo/John Kourantaras

# Airport to utilize measures for combating diverse wildlife

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials have found that, unlike pilots, animals don't file flight plans detailing their activities.

Officials at the Wheeling airport recently highlighted the unpredictability of wildlife around Palwaukee noting animals may be responsible for thousands in damage to safety equipment and buildings in addition to with causing hazards of aircraft landing there.

"We've had coyote, we've had foxes, we've had deer. That's why we put up 25-foot high fences. We've had geese. It seems in the fall their activity is the highest," said Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant airport manager for operations and maintenance.

Rouleau said groundhogs that often chew through the cables for runway lights may have caused a June electrical fire resulting in \$15,000 worth of damage.

He also said groundhogs often burrow through and damage hangars, building foundations and drainage areas at the air-

port.

Also causing problems are geese, sparrows and other birds who fly around Palwaukee without announcing their departures.

Rouleau said airports nationwide, including O'Hare International Airport, experience problems with animals. Palwaukee have had problems with wildlife for years, officials said.

Palwaukee officials are uncertain of the exact cost of the overall damage caused by animals at the facility or which species are the most active.

Aggravating Palwaukee's problem is its location directly across the street from a branch of the Cook County Forest Preserve.

To combat the problem, the airport hired a company that utilizes humane traps to capture the groundhogs and release them in a more natural area.

Additionally, airport officials asked officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to visit Palwaukee to make recommendations on how to control the wildlife. Those measures may include using devices that make noises to scare birds from the runways.

Wheeling police, however, initially refused to return the items, saying they were evidence for a Wheeling Liquor Control Commission hearing to consider punitive action against the post's liquor license.

"There's also a constitutional question whether you can introduce evidence that's ruled in violation of the Fourth Amendment for one proceeding into another proceeding," he said.

Pope ruled the arrests were illegal because police did not have arrest or search warrants. He also ordered the seized evidence returned to AMVETS officials.

David Borenstein, the attorney representing the two AMVETS officials, said he may file an injunction to block introduction of that evidence.

Wheeling police Thursday returned video poker machines and other evidence to the AMVETS veterans group after a Cook County judge ruled police had seized the items illegally.

This week police filed charges with the commission against the AMVETS for alleged illegal gambling on five separate occasions. The commission, which comprises the Wheeling village board, will have an evidence hearing Sept. 26.

## Police in Wheeling return poker machines to veterans

SUBURBAN REPORT

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police Thursday returned video poker machines and other evidence to the AMVETS veterans group after a Cook County judge ruled police had seized the items illegally.

This week police filed charges with the commission against the AMVETS for alleged illegal gambling on five separate occasions. The commission, which comprises the Wheeling village board, will have an evidence hearing Sept. 26.

Associate Judge Michael J. Pope on Monday dismissed misdemeanor gambling charges against two AMVETS officials stemming from a March 16 raid when four video poker machines, \$2,713 in cash and gambling records were seized from their post. Police said a plainclothes officer saw a bartender pay out winnings from the machines, which state law defines as illegal gambling.

"So we do have exhibits to show the commission and in case the state's attorneys would appeal. And we hope they do," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger.

Pope ruled the arrests were illegal because police did not have arrest or search warrants. He also ordered the seized evidence returned to AMVETS officials.

David Borenstein, the attorney representing the two AMVETS officials, said he may file an injunction to block introduction of that evidence.

Continued from Page 1

curred in the post. However, after Wednesday's court hearing, post manager Frank R. Lipowsky said nothing goes on in his post that does not also go on in other bars in the area.

In spite of having criminal charges thrown out by the court, the AMVETS case does not stop there. The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission, which is made up of the Wheeling village board trustees, plans to hold hearings this fall to possibly suspend or revoke the group's liquor license because of the alleged transgression. A date for hearings could be set at a Sept. 6 village board meeting.

"AMVETS is an excellent organization. But if our ordinance says no gambling, we need to address the gambling," says Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato.

Trustee Anthony Altieri finds himself in a ticklish situation since he is a vice commander at the post.

"As a trustee, I want to see the laws upheld. And as a member of AMVETS I want to see they're dealt

with fairly," he said.

Wheeling police Chief Michael Haeger says justice must run its course, even if it means taking on a popular civic do-gooder such as AMVETS.

"This was gambling in its purest sense, with a lot of money being transacted," Haeger said. "The fact we're dealing with AMVETS has not entered into our thinking. A violation is a violation."

Haeger, who says the village will turn over the group's money and machines today after photographing them, does not believe the dispute has hurt the village's relationship with AMVETS.

"It's not like we're picking on this particular organization," Haeger said, noting the spring raid came after similar undercover vice unit searches in a dozen other Wheeling taverns.

Still, some post members aren't so sure about that, though they acknowledge part of the burden of repairing a possibly tarnished image rests with the group itself.

"We've got a bad name against us," member Don Berkhoff said, "and we've got to straighten it out."



The Wheeling Centennial Committee's Civil War reenactment took volunteers about two years to execute. It included a mock battle between the Union and Confederate soldiers. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

## Volunteers pull off events with civic pride

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Over the past few years of planning large events for Wheeling, things happened to Jan D'Argo she could not have imagined.

For the last three years, D'Argo, 64, has headed up the Wheeling Centennial Committee, which is charged with planning the year-long celebration of the village's century of existence.

During that time, the committee has planned and executed parades, parties, a Civil War reenactment and numerous fund-raising and promotion activities, all as volunteers.

D'Argo and other volunteers endure the endless work and stress of planning community events because they say they are paid back with pride and personal growth.

"Before, I couldn't talk in a microphone without throwing up. This was a great step for me to handle this. I have definitely grown," D'Argo said.

"It took me awhile to learn how to do it, but I had guidance and I'm very comfortable running meetings," said D'Argo who was

appointed a few years ago to head the Centennial committee.

Like volunteers on other long-term civic projects, D'Argo, a former Wheeling village clerk, got involved to help the community and develop community spirit with other residents.

One of the big reasons people gave up hours of their free time for no compensation is people, the volunteers said.

For example, Lil Floros of Mount Prospect chaired her town's 75th Anniversary Committee a couple of years ago and found working with people to be the most enjoyable aspect of the job. Her service included running a committee meeting every month for two years.

"People working with people in town — it was an exhilarating experience," she said. "You could call on people in town. You could call on them to give their time and money and resources to an event. People didn't say no."

As a result of the experience, Floros and her husband, Leo, a former trustee, are considering heading a special events committee for Mount Prospect.



Jan D'Argo, Walter Stryzyk and Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, right, talk in front of Chamber Park, where the Centennial Autumn Fest event will be held in October. The three have been instrumental in event-planning this year.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

D'Argo's experience mirrored those others heading volunteer panels have had.

"When we would have our next meeting after an event, we would

all stand up and applaud that chairman and see the light beaming from their faces," D'Argo said. "Those were special moments."

See CENTENNIAL on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

"They got a little modest and look down, but you could tell they were excited."

The sense of mission is important for the volunteers on committees taking on large civic projects. That sense seems to keep them from cracking under the strain of the countless small problems arising just minutes before an event starts and handling them expediently and tactfully.

Donna Moder, 42, of Hoffman Estates is a volunteer heading up the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, the village's Fourth of July event committee. She also helps with the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. She says from her first

volunteer event onward, she learned to handle pressure caused by last minute screw-ups.

"I found you wing it and go on to plan B," she said. "The first year I ran the St. Patrick's Day parade, I had all my notes and was ready. And we had a blizzard. The guy who headed the parade said we're winging it and it turned out fine."

Walter Stryzyk of Wheeling, who headed the committee for the Civil War reenactment, said despite having to address last-minute items, such as finding out how many reenactors would show up at the event, he found it enjoyable.

"I'm pooped, I'm tired, but if someone wants to do it again, I'm with them down the pike," he said about the event, which took two

years to plan.

Even though volunteers aren't compensated for their extended service, that does not mean their work lacks rewards. After weeks and months of planning and last-minute problems, a successful event itself is enough for many volunteers.

"We put on a parade that was magnificent," Floros said. "When you're putting on a parade with elephants and bands, of course you're going to have a lot of glitches. But you have to smile and be nicely persistent."

While many people volunteer for major community events for personal reasons, most say the most basic reason for doing it is civic pride.

Moder said she gets involved in her community as a way of ensuring it's a good place to live.

"I enjoy it," she said. "I like working with the people and I like to have a good time. I like to party. I want to change the world. I want it all. If I can't have it all, I want a little piece of it."

D'Argo said she enjoyed the experience and realized how rewarding it could be while watching an extended Fourth of July fireworks show over Wheeling.

"Any way I figure I can improve my community is going to be a plus for me personally and the children around me," D'Argo said.

"I was glad I was at those fireworks. I thought 'Oh, boy, I had a part in planning this.'"

## Crime in Wheeling for the first half of 1994

	1993	1994	Percent change
All Criminal Complaints	1,916	2,228	+16.2
Murder	0	1	+100
Criminal Sexual Assault	6	2	-66.7
Assault (all categories)	11	12	+9.1
Robberies	2	3	+50.0
Burglary	27	45	+66.7
Vehicle Burglary	55	94	+70.9
Theft	232	221	-4.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	16	8	-50.0
Arson	2	2	0

## Wheeling police predict drop in rate of reported crimes

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police said that according to six-month crime statistics they compiled, the village's 1994 crime rate may end up being lower than last year's.

"If we can keep going as we've been going, we're on a down trend for crime," Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said.

According to the study compiled from police incident reports, rapes and motor vehicle thefts are down for the six months from January 1 to June 30.

The report also says the number of arsons remained unchanged while one murder was committed in the first half of 1994. One more robbery occurred in Wheeling than happened in the same period last year.

There were no murders in Wheeling in 1993.

Police also attribute increases in some categories at the half-year mark to the number of youths on summer vacation and to improved enforcement by the department.

For example, Hermes said, 11 the 52 reported vehicle burglaries of \$300 or more occurred in June. Incidents in that category are up 136.4 percent from the 29 reported in 1993's first six months.

Under the department's gang activity category, incidents increased 65.3 percent, to 81 from the 49 reported last year.

Hermes said that category includes the surveillance and investigation by police of suspected street gang members for a variety of misdemeanors and felonies. Arrests of gang members would be recorded in different crime statistic categories, he said.

The category shows increased en-

forcement activity by police, Hermes added.

Police said not all crimes committed by youths would appear under juvenile categories because adolescents 17 years old and older are considered to be adults under state law.

Another category reflective of stepped up enforcement, Hermes said, are the number of misdemeanor arrests. Because most of those incidents involve police-initiated traffic stops, it shows they're aggressively patrolling the village.

For six months of 1994, there were 791 misdemeanor arrests — an 8 percent hike over the 725 arrests made by June 30 of 1993.

Both last year and more recently, police attributed decreases in crime in the village to increased patrols by beat officers and plainclothes tactical officers in unmarked vehicles.

Wheeling police officials have also said that the department is better able to track street gang members through a regional computer system that provides intelligence information on their movements.

Other overall statistics of note include felony arrests of adults and juveniles for 1994, which are more than 30 percent below last year's levels.

## Company wants tax break to expand Wheeling plant

9-7-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Tuesday once again considered a company's proposal to bring 20 more jobs to the village in return for lower property taxes.

The Wheeling village board reviewed a request by Anderson Die Castings at 1720 S. Wolf Road to back the company's request before the Cook County Board for a reduced property tax rate for the next several years.

The company would use the money it saves on property taxes to fund construction of a 19,500-square-foot addition to its facility that is currently 42,000 square feet on a 3.2-acre parcel, said company President Patrick Tang.

Tang said he looked at sites in Lake County and Wisconsin but company officials preferred instead to expand in Wheeling.

However, after seeing the building's property taxes rise from \$67,000 in 1991 to \$79,437 in 1993, Tang said the company needs tax relief to stay.

"We need additional plant space. We certainly would prefer

to build an extension in the same space so we don't have to move," he said.

The company, which makes aluminum die cast component for automotive and industrial equipment manufacturers, now employs 115.

With the expansion, which Tang said could cost \$450,000, the company would increase its workforce to 135 employees.

Wheeling officials have in the past backed such requests to keep companies from moving.

The company will add space for its manufacturing, warehouse and office operations, Tang said.

Wheeling trustees will formally vote on the company's tax break request Sept. 19.

Over the years, the county property tax reductions backed by the village have resulted in creation of more than 900 jobs and construction valued at more than \$40 million in Wheeling.

Wheeling trustees last supported a company's tax break in February when Smalley Steel Ring Co. sought an eight-year reduction to raise \$1.7 million for its expansion.

## Countryside 9/01/94 Developer looks at costs of single-family homes

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

A Wheeling developer may be determining whether it would be economically feasible to build single-family residences along Milwaukee Avenue rather than the townhomes he proposed.

Developer Joseph Freed & Associates wants to build 50 attached townhomes on 7.5 acres east of Milwaukee,

**"We consider the (DesPlaines) river a real amenity."**

**Village President  
Sheila Schultz**

opposite the Wolf Road extension and just north of the Forest Preserve property.

However, village trustees, who first heard the proposal Aug. 22, asked whether it would be possible to build

detached homes instead.

"We consider the (DesPlaines) river a real amenity," Village President Sheila Schultz said, noting that residents in that area would have access to the river.

### No comment

"They're going to look at it (building single-family homes) again and come back with a conceptual plan that might work," she said.

Ira Frank, vice president of Joseph Freed & Associates, would not comment on any possible changes to his proposal.

"It's been my philosophy and my policy to interact and cooperate with the village as possible," Frank said.

Discussing possible changes is "premature," he said.

The Wheeling Plan Commission began a public hearing on the proposal Aug. 11 and residents there agreed

that they would prefer single-family homes be built on the site, said Village Planner Mark Janeck.

The hearing was continued to the commission's Sept. 8 meeting.

### Lane changes

Other residents said Milwaukee Avenue, which the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to widen to five lanes, generates too much traffic for any residences in that area, Janeck said.

"I think the site plan as designed works," he said, adding that the plan shows just one entrance/exit from Milwaukee Avenue.

Development, whether townhomes or single-family homes, would help that area of the village, he said.

Homeowners in this area would have easy access to the Forest Preserve property and DesPlaines River for recreational uses, he noted.

# Time capsule gives glimpse of past

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees usually discuss the future of the village at their meetings, but last week they looked in the past as they examined souvenirs from the Diamond Jubilee time capsule.

"Twenty-five years ago they sealed a time capsule with things from our 75th anniversary with directions to be opened on the 23rd — we fudged a little," Village

9-1-94  
President Sheila Schultz said, noting that the board opened the capsule on Aug. 22 during the regular board meeting.

Among items found in the capsule were a program of the festivities in 1969, commemorative coins, men's string ties and permit buttons dictating whether men had to be clean-shaven or could sport a beard, Schultz said.

"There were also charters from different groups, the

Catholic Women's Club, AmVets, the AmVets Auxiliary," she said.

A full script from the 75th anniversary pageant performed at the high school also was included in the capsule, she added.

## Reminiscence

Schultz and several trustees reminisced about attending the one-week Diamond Jubilee.

"It was fun," Schultz said.

"We had a good recollection of it."

Opening the capsule also served as "food for thought" of what items village officials will enclose in a centennial time capsule.

Before this centennial year is over, Schultz said, a time capsule will be filled, sealed and buried on village property, probably near the centennial fountain which is under construction.

The 1969 capsule was stored in the village vault

rather than buried, Schultz added.

"We have to decide what we want to go in there," she said of the 1994 capsule. "We'd like to include lots of pictures from (centennial-related) events this year."

Newspaper advertisements that indicate the costs of houses, food and cars may be included, she said, as will a centennial button, centennial license plate and a commemorative video.

# Despite cutbacks, airport rehab likely

9-8-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Local officials say reductions in federal funding have not derailed renovation plans for Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

A federal airport funding bill signed recently by President Clinton allocates \$1.6 billion nationally — less than the \$2.1 billion some expected.

But Palwaukee received enough money to complete parts of its renovation project this season, said Fred Stewart Jr., the airport's

manager.

The Wheeling-based airport is currently in the middle of an \$83.5 million plan to bring it up to federal standards.

The plan includes moving the intersection at Wolf and Hintz road 575 feet west to expand the safety area between it and the airport's longest runway.

Stewart said he is uncertain when state officials who administer the federal funds will release that money. He also is uncertain how much is targeted for Palwaukee.

Palwaukee officials recently built two bridges over Hintz Road, and they are considering moving the road. If Hintz is moved this year, Stewart said it may not be opened immediately because of safety concerns.

Work on Wolf Road could be finished sometime after the Hintz Road project is completed next year, he said.

Earlier this year, the airport received more than \$4 million in federal funds for its project through the state.

More than \$3 million of that

grant is earmarked for acquisition of the Twin Drive-In at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave. Palwaukee officials said they need that parcel, which is adjacent to the airport, to relocate the drainage ditch that cuts through both properties.

Relocating the drainage ditch will give Palwaukee officials more land for development at the airport.

Airport officials have gone to Cook County Circuit Court to try to get the drive-in from its Skokie-based owners, M&R Properties Inc.

# AmVets Post gambling charges dismissed

9-8-94  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

*Country side*  
Gambling charges against two men stemming from a March raid on the Wheeling AmVets Post have been dismissed, and video poker machines seized during the raid have been returned.

However, the investigation into the post is not over yet.

Associate Judge Michael J. Pope ordered the machines returned to the post, 700 McHenry Road, after he dismissed misdemeanor gambling charges against the veterans Aug. 22.

The Cook County State's Attorney Office then requested that the case be removed from any court proceedings, with the option to reinstate it at a later date, an office spokeswoman said.

## Investigation

Though the spokeswoman did not know what the judge's reasoning was in dismissing the charges, it has been reported that Pope said the

police did not have arrest or search warrants.

Several calls to the Wheeling Police Department for comment were not returned.

In March two men were charged with gambling after police raided the post and seized the poker machines, \$2,713 cash and gambling records.

At the time of the arrests, which followed a six- to eight-week investigation, Wheeling police said an undercover officer received cash payments for wagering on the video poker machines.

The investigation, according to police reports, was part of an examination of licensed liquor establishments in the village "in an attempt to detect illegal liquor sales, drug sales, vice and/or gambling activity."

## Options

The State's Attorney Office is now deciding whether to appeal the decision.

"Right now we're reviewing our options," the spokeswoman said last week.

Though the gambling charges have been dropped against the men, the AmVets Post remains subject to a hearing by the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission, comprised of village trustees and headed by Village President Sheila Schultz.

A hearing is scheduled for 8 p.m. Sept. 26 at Village Hall.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the commission will hear evidence from the police chief and prosecutor, then commissioners will vote on the post's fate.

"They could lose their liquor license, they could be fined or they could be found not guilty," Rhodes said.

He said Judge Pope's dismissal of the gambling charges has no effect on the Liquor Commission's hearing.

"The charges that were in court were against two particular people. This is against the AmVets as a liquor license holder. It's a separate issue," he said.

# Jaycees expand circus to two days

9-9-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The big top is going up today in Wheeling and it's time for the annual Jaycees-sponsored circus.

Today's action starts in the morning with elephants from the Oklahoma-based Kelly-Miller Circus erecting the big top tent in front of the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center at 327 W. Dundee Road.

This year, the Wheeling Jaycees decided to provide more of a show for those going to the event.

"We've done two days instead of

one and four shows instead of two," said Lance Wierenga, the Jaycees' treasurer.

The circus features traditional entertainment such as acrobats, horse acts, clowns and sideshows. The shows are being held today at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m..

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. There no longer are any tickets for sale away from the circus itself.

Refreshments will be sold during the shows. Parking is available at the Aquatic Center.

The Aquatic Center, which recently closed to swimmers for the season, can seat 1,500 per show.

Wheeling Jaycees hope to raise between \$2,000 and \$3,000 from the event, Wierenga said.

Last year, the Jaycees raised more than \$2,000 from the circus.

The money from the circus will be poured back into community-oriented projects, Wierenga said.

Those projects include a needy family food drive, a picnic for local seniors and a children's Halloween party.

Also earmarked to receive funds raised by the circus is the Sign with Santa Party, which the Jaycees hold for hearing-impaired children during the holiday season.

Wierenga said it takes about 10 volunteers from the Jaycees to organize the circus shows, and the effort takes them three months to complete.

Recently, Wheeling Park District commissioners gave the Jaycees the approval to again use the space in front of the Aquatic Center for the circus.

# Firm's purchase of landfill may ease suburbs' garbage woes

9-8-94  
 BY DAVE URBANEK  
 Daily Herald State Government Editor

Waste disposal giant Browning-Ferris Industries has agreed to buy Gallatin National Company and its 995-acre downstate landfill, company officials said Wednesday, a move that may ensure Chicago area suburbs will have a place to dispose of garbage for decades to come.

However, the purchase of the Northbrook-based company poses one big unknown: Whether the cost

of hauling trash will increase for suburban consumers if their garbage is hauled downstate by BFI to Gallatin's "megafill" in Fulton County.

Charles Murphy, BFI's manager of market development for its Schaumburg-based Chicagoland division, said the company recently signed a letter of intent to purchase Gallatin National and expects the deal to be closed about Oct. 1, once all of the legal and technical paperwork is finished. He would not dis-

close a purchase price for Gallatin and its high-tech landfill.

"BFI sees it as a long-term disposal option," Murphy said of the purchase.

Gallatin National President William Weaver could not be reached for comment about the sale.

The key to the transaction is the company's 16-month-old landfill in the tiny former mining hamlet of Fairview. The landfill eventually could hold 150 million cubic yards of

bailed garbage.

According to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the new landfill's potential capacity roughly is equal to the current capacity of all 21 active landfills in Cook County and the collar counties. More than 29.7 million cubic yards of garbage was dumped into collar county landfills during 1993, according to the EPA.

As now planned, the Gallatin landfill could become one of the biggest landfills in the country. Currently

only 80 acres of the site are licensed to accept trash, but it is expected that eventually the whole parcel could be turned into landfill.

Murphy said trash from Chicago is already finding a final resting place at the Gallatin facility, transported to the site by trains on the Chicago & North Western line.

With existing landfills closing and a planned high-tech suburban landfill under fire, EPA experts es-

See TRASH on Page 6

## A 'megafill' for the suburbs?

■ **What:** Gallatin National Company's "megafill," about 150 miles southwest of the suburbs and 30 miles west of Peoria in the town of Fairview, may become the home to waste from suburban Chicago.

■ **Site:** 995-acre abandoned strip coal mine, one of the largest U.S. landfill sites. State so far has approved 80 acres for dumping.

■ **Cost:** \$25 million for initial development.

■ **Size:** Capacity of 150 million cubic yards, which would fill 71 Sears Towers. Direct access to Chicago & North Western railroad line.

■ **Operation:** Waste baling operations began in 1993.

Sources: Gallatin National Company; Daily Herald reports.



Daily Herald Graphic

## Downstate trash dump brings no end to debate on suburban balefill

By CARMEN GRECO JR.  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Development of a "mega-landfill" near Peoria has done nothing to cool the long-running dispute over the need for a proposed garbage balefill in unincorporated Hanover Township.

On one side of the issue, opponents of the local balefill say the new Gallatin National landfill offers plenty of capacity for the Northwest suburbs' garbage; on the other side, proponents say hauling waste

downstate could be expensive and that capacity at Gallatin is not guaranteed. And, still in the middle is the 142-acre proposed balefill site at West Bartlett and Gifford roads.

The latest twist in the suburban garbage fight revolves around news that Browning Ferris Industries, one of the country's leading waste management firms, will buy the 88-acre Gallatin National landfill near Peoria in October and expand it substantially in the future.

"If BFI purchases that, now you have the expertise to run the facility, long-term capability, and the financial wherewithal to provide stability," said Bartlett Village Presi-

dent Cathy Melchert, a staunch opponent of the balefill.

Such a move, Melchert said, would eliminate the need for the proposed Bartlett balefill.

However, officials from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County argue that BFI's purchase of Gallatin does not change their position. They say they will continue promoting the balefill among its 23 suburban member-communities.

The waste agency, also known as SWANCC, has long sought approval to build the balefill on the site, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has twice denied it an operating permit. The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency has called the site inappropriate.

"We see it (Gallatin) as having no impact at all," SWANCC Executive Director Brooke Beal said. His group is now reviewing options on future moves to build the balefill.

Beal said expansion of the Gallatin facility is "never guaranteed." The Northwest suburbs, he added, need a secure disposal source.

And, transporting garbage downstate would also be too costly for the suburbs, Beal said.

Balefill opponents say transporting garbage downstate could prove cheaper than the cost of operating the balefill.

## TRASH: Balefill opponents praise 'megafill' buy

Continued from Page 1

estimated in January that the six-county region may run out of landfill space between 1998 and 2000.

A few months ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cited the Gallatin facility as one of five reasons why it rejected construction of a highly controversial 142-acre balefill near Bartlett that would accept trash from the suburbs.

Murphy agreed that if the Bartlett project, being planned by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, does not get built, that consortium of 23 communities will need a place to deposit their trash.

Bartlett Village President Cathy

Melchert, an opponent of the SWANCC balefill, said the Gallatin facility is ideal. "There's lots of space for lots of (garbage) transfer for lots of years."

Murphy also noted that near the turn of the century DuPage County's two landfills — Mallard Lake and Greene Valley — are scheduled to close, the result of a long public campaign to prevent dumping at the two sites. With those two landfills closed, DuPage County and other governments that use those two landfills will need a repository for trash.

"We expect the whole marketplace is going to be impacted by this sale," Murphy said.

SWANCC Executive Director Brooke Beal said if the suburbs were to use the Gallatin landfill, it is likely that costs for consumers could rise because it will be more expensive to ship garbage downstate than to Hanover Township.

Gallatin National was formed in the early 1980s by former state Sen. Roger A. Keats of Glencoe. Gallatin purchased the Fairview site in 1987 and won a four-year battle against opponents in Fulton County to receive an EPA landfill permit.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Carmen Greco Jr. contributed to this report.

## Developers pitch proposals for coveted village hub site

9-13-94  
 By DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two developers Monday unveiled proposals to Wheeling trustees on how to turn a village-owned parcel at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road into a revenue-producing venture.

The village board heard proposals from Chicago-based Hiffman Shaffer Associates Inc. and Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. of Wheeling. Both are real estate development companies.

The 13.5-acre parcel is the hub of the village's 125-acre district that Wheeling officials hope to develop through tax increment financing, a plan where increased sales and property taxes in that area go to pay for public improvements.

The HSA proposal calls for a 125,900-square-foot Wheeling Village Square shopping center at the intersection with three anchor stores of up to 30,000 square feet each. The center could generate \$63 million in retail sales and \$630,000 in sales taxes to the village, company officials said.

HSA would seek \$3.5 million in special bond financing from the

village.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz asked company officials if such a project is still viable under current market conditions.

"There was a feeling things have passed us by for this kind of project," she said.

Company officials said the success of their other retail developments proves such a project is still viable.

The Joseph Freed and Associates project is a mixed development including four, six-story condominium buildings, 20,000 square feet of professional services office space and 30,000 square feet of retail store space.

The company said it would pay the village \$4.2 million for the land and seek \$300,000 in special bond financing for the project.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said neither plan included entertainment venues such as professional theaters or concert halls.

"I'm still looking for something that would bring some culture and entertainment," said Abruscato.

# Childerley Park to become place for picnics, outings

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Picnic tables and volleyball courts are a few of the amenities the Wheeling Park District has planned for Childerley Park, 506 McHenry Road.

The park board would like to see Childerley, purchased in 1977, become a neighborhood park for picnics and similar outings rather than an athletic park with courts and equipment, according to Karop Bavougian, parks director.

"This is a pristine piece of property most people in Wheeling don't know about," said Karop Bavougian, parks director. "The site lends itself to a lot of outdoor activities."

Plans call for an 85-car parking lot along McHenry Road, two entrances/exits, an 8-foot walking/biking path around the park's perimeter, four volleyball courts and picnic shelters.

## Inviting

The Plan Commission, with Commissioner Don Duncan absent, unanimously approved the plans after some discussion about traffic and sidewalks.

Land planner Al Davis of Davis & Associates Ltd. said the park, once developed, will be inviting, "getting people out of their cars and into the park space. It's a beautiful area. People in Wheeling who haven't been out there will be surprised."

Some commissioners asked about saving a couple of older buildings on the site that will be leveled, but Bavougian said they are not of historical value.

"Old does not mean historic," Bavougian said, adding that it would cost over \$100,000 to renovate one of the buildings and there still wouldn't be an appropriate use for it in the park.

## Police access

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck read parts of a memo from Police Chief Mike Haeger asking that the walking path be

widen to 10 feet and made accessible to squad cars patrolling the area.

"Parks are not designed to be arterial highways," Bavougian said, noting that officers could walk the grounds rather than drive.

In an emergency, Bavougian said, he doesn't think the 7-inch elevation of the walkway would keep emergency vehicles from using the path. "That's just common sense," he added.

Janeck said the park district's plan has one problem with the location of its entrance, which does not line up with entrances to Whippletree Village or Addolorata Village across McHenry Road. He said realigning the park's entrance to match the entrances on the other side of the road would increase traffic safety. He also suggested a traffic study might be needed to determine if a light is needed at the intersection of McHenry Road and Whippletree Road.

## Split cost

Janeck said it may be possible to split the cost of the traffic study between the village and the park. He said he will discuss the traffic study with the Village Board to determine which taxing body will pay for the study and which will pay for the traffic signal, if warranted.

Plan commissioners and Park Board members also discussed pouring a sidewalk in front of the park. Bavougian suggested waiting until walks on either side are poured so they can all be done by the same contractor simultaneously.

Bavougian said the Park District worked out a deal when it developed Chamber Park at 251 N. Wolf Road that it would write a check to a contractor for a sidewalk when adjoining areas are developed.

The commission decided to ask the village whether it would help finance installation of sidewalks along McHenry Road so the walk to the park would be continuous.

Commissioners also requested a 50-foot dedication along McHenry Road and right-in/right-out only entrances and exits.

# French restaurant plans to open

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

A Chicago restaurateur hopes to bring the ambience of the city to the suburbs when he opens Yvette North on Milwaukee Avenue in early November.

Owner Bob Djahanguiri said he has wanted to open a French American restaurant in Wheeling since the early '70s but plans never worked out.

Now, after 16 years of operating restaurants in Chicago and Minneapolis, Djahanguiri is opening his first restaurant in suburban Chicago at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave., the former site of Vivian Lee's.

Many patrons of his three Chicago restaurants — Yvette, Yvette Wintergarden and Toulouse on the Park — hail from the northwest suburbs and have continually asked Djahanguiri to bring his business to the suburbs.

## Remodeling

"Most of my idea (to open in Wheeling) is from Wheeling, Northbrook and Highland Park customers," he said. "A lot of these people come in every weekend and they pushed me."

Djahanguiri is now in the process of demolishing the interior of Vivian Lee's and will soon begin remodeling.

"We have to change the whole thing. The only thing we're keeping is the four walls," he said.

Despite the extensive remodeling, Djahanguiri sees no obstacles to opening by November.

The restaurant would seat 61 in the bar and 110 in the dining room, according to plans submitted to the village.

## Suburbs

The interior of the restaurant would be sleek, designed

for the 21st century, Djahanguiri said.

"I'm trying to mix classic with modern," he said. "The majority of the people wanted something like they get in the city — that's what I'm giving them — the city in the suburbs."

Outside, Djahanguiri said, the grounds would be landscaped and parking would be situated behind the restaurant.

"It's going to be very, very beautiful," he said. "I have a very good feeling about it."

## Diner and dancing

Restaurant representatives attended the Wheeling Plan Commission meeting Sept. 8 to get approval for live music and dancing at Yvette North.

"What I'm bringing to Wheeling is the same concept — French American cuisine, dancing seven nights a week and late night menus," Djahanguiri said.

# Wheeling endorses bid by company for tax incentive

By DWAYNE T. WONG

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees agreed Monday to back a local company's request for a property tax break, a move that could bring 20 more jobs to the village.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board, without comment, agreed to support Anderson Die Casting as it prepares to go before the Cook County Board with a request for a reduced property tax rate for the next several years.

If the county board approves the request, company officials say they will use the money saved on property taxes to fund construction of a 19,500-square-foot addition to its 42,000-square-foot building at 1720 S. Wolf Road.

Company officials said the new construction is valued at \$460,000 and would include expansion of its warehouse, office and manufacturing operations.

The company has said it would need 20 new employees to man the expansion, thus increasing its workforce from 115 to 135.

Wheeling officials agreed to

support the request for a Cook County property tax reduction in return for Anderson agreeing to remain in the village.

The company makes aluminum die cast components for automotive and industrial equipment manufacturers.

Over the years, Wheeling officials have dangled their support for tax incentives to keep businesses from moving from the village and retain jobs.

Officials from Anderson Die Casting had said that the company had looked at sites in other locations, including nearby Lake County, where its plant could possibly be relocated.

Lake County could prove a more attractive location because of its lower property taxes, said company officials.

Since 1986, the village has backed county tax breaks that have resulted in new construction valued at \$42.6 million and brought in nearly 900 jobs to Wheeling, officials said.

Wheeling trustees last supported a company's tax break in February when Smalley Steel Ring Co. sought an eight-year reduction to raise \$1.7 million for its expansion.

# Proposal would limit location of psychics

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

A proposal to restrict psychic-related businesses to Wheeling's industrial areas could be detrimental to the businesses by cutting them off from drive-through traffic, some plan commissioners said last week.

An amendment to the zoning code to allow psychics to locate only in industrial areas was discussed by commissioners at their Sept. 8 meeting. Commissioners postponed a vote on the matter to Sept. 22.

"I think putting it in I-3 (industrial zoning) means you don't want it," Commissioner Otis Hedlund said. "If they don't have the exposure to drive-through traffic, they're done."

Commissioner Terry Stellen said he would prefer to see those businesses monitored under the village's new entertainment category if approved earlier in the evening. The new category added more entertainment venues to the village's zoning code such as billiard halls,

children's play areas and teen night clubs.

However, Village Planner Mark Janeck said those who regularly visit psychics probably do not consider them entertainment.

Commissioner Ellen Butor said the wording of the amendment seemed to indicate that the village would prefer to not allow these businesses, and suggested the amendment be rewritten to specifically deny psychic-related businesses.

"It might be the best thing you could do to say this is not allowed," Butor said.

"I don't think it's our intention to totally deny this use in the village," Janeck said.

Commissioner Frank Proietti said psychics may fall under a "New Age" umbrella and therefore could be considered a religious establishment. Some churches in nearby communities offer psychic readings, he said.

The commission asked Janeck to investigate these questions and report back at the Sept. 22 meeting.

## Wheeling to flush hydrants

The village of Wheeling's Water Division will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the village during the months of September and October.

The hydrant flushing is scheduled to commence between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Sept. 16 and will continue through mid-October until all portions of the water distribution system are completed. The flushing is an important preventative maintenance program and is undertaken to remove particulate matter and corrosion from the system. Residents may notice a slightly lower pressure and discoloration of their water during the flushing program, however, the water will be completely safe to drink. Residents are advised to check the color of the water before beginning laundry in order to prevent any staining.

Signs will be posted in areas designated for flushing one (1) day in advance of the work.

Should any citizens have concerns regarding the flushing program, they may contact the Operations and Maintenance Department at 459-2624 on weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

# Wheeling starts search for new deputy

9-22-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police are conducting a nationwide search to find a replacement for Deputy Chief Gary D. O'Rourke who is leaving the department to become Streamwood's police chief.

Wheeling Police officials have placed ads in state and national law enforcement publications seeking a replacement for O'Rourke who assumes his new position Oct. 3.

"We'll look for the most qualified candidate based on his or her back-

ground," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

The qualifications for the Wheeling Deputy Chief position include at least eight years of experience at the command level at a police department, a college degree in a law enforcement related field.

Haeger also said the ideal job candidate will have a master's degree or advanced training from the F.B.I. Academy in Quantico, Va., or the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Ky.

Haeger added it would be an advantage for the applicants if they

come from police departments in a community that is culturally diverse as is Wheeling.

Salary for the position ranges from \$60,000 to \$65,000.

Resumes for the post will be accepted by Wheeling officials until Nov. 15.

They hope to have a new deputy chief named after Jan. 1, Haeger said.

The responsibilities for the position include supervising the activities of the Wheeling Police Department's 53 sworn officers and its six

authorized civilian community service officers.

The Streamwood village board recently named O'Rourke to its police chief's position to replace former Police Chief Arthur Schmidt who announced his retirement in March.

Streamwood officials selected O'Rourke from a field of nearly 100 candidates gathered from a nationwide search.

In his new job, O'Rourke will oversee the department's 48 sworn officers, 19 civilian employees and \$3.2 million operating budget.

# Board renews flood insurance program

9-23-94

The Wheeling village board is continuing its participation in a national program that leads to discounted flood insurance rates for some residents.

The board agreed to continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As a result, flood insurance policies issued or renewed in the village after Oct. 1, 1993, were discounted by 10 percent, Wheeling officials said.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Village to maintain storm sewers, sidewalks

The village is taking over maintenance responsibility for storm sewers and sidewalks in the Arling-Grove Court subdivision, now that the village board gave its stamp of approval to the public improvements.

The subdivision, which includes

12 town houses, is located at the southeast corner of Lakeview Drive and Buffalo Grove Road.

### Village to pay \$1,725 for rehab of house

Wheeling trustees also agreed to pay \$1,725 for additional work on a house that's being rehabbed through the Community Development Block Grant program.

The \$1,725 comes from \$10,725 allocated to the village for the project.

The additional work is to remove

and replace a deteriorated patio, which drains water to the house in its current condition.

Under the program, the village receives federal funds administered through Cook County to bring houses in Wheeling up to local building code standards.

The purpose of the program is to upgrade housing owned by residents meeting certain low-income guidelines.

Federal guidelines require the village to keep the homeowner's name and the location of the residence confidential.

# Despite other concerns, Mobil canopies approved

9-29-94

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Provided owner Scott Kendall gets another variance from the Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals, plans to install canopies at his independent Mobil station, 1798 W. Hintz Road, were approved by the Plan Commission Sept. 22.

Approval came despite some commissioners' harsh words against Mobil Oil Corp. which, they said, has left several service stations abandoned in the village.

"Personally, I think Mobil Oil has been less than a good citizen of Wheeling," said Commissioner Steve Steilen, mentioning the abandoned station at Schoenbeck and Dundee roads as an example. The company, he said, is "continually dragging its feet" in cleaning the site which has been abandoned for years.

"If it were within my power to clean it, I would," Kendall said. "I'm not Mobil, I don't work for Mobil."

Kendall told commission-

ers his is an independent station which has a purchase agreement with Mobil Oil Corp. for its products.

A canopy would provide more lighting for customers and protection from the weather.

"When the weather is bad, such as raining or snowing, our business tapers off," Kendall said. "It's a security thing for women driving alone at night (who) don't want to pull into a dark station."

"We're currently, to my knowledge, the only station

in Wheeling without canopies over our pumps," he added.

Kendall said he has owned and operated the station for nine years. He also plans to install vapor-recovery pumps which will allow customers to use credit cards at the pumps, he said.

Commissioners approved Kendall's plan with a 3-2 vote provided he receive ZBA approval on setback allowances.

They also told Kendall to enclose the trash bins on the east side of the station

and to stripe five parking spaces on the property.

Commissioners Steilen and Frank Proietti voted against the plan, both citing opposition to Mobil Oil Corp. Commissioners Don Duncan and Steve Walanka were absent.

Once Kendall receives the additional variance from the ZBA, the plan will go before the Village Board. The Zoning Board previously granted Kendall a variance allowing the canopies.

## BRIEFS

### Trustees take next station step

Wheeling trustees Sept. 19 took the next step in building the Wisconsin Central commuter rail station that will soon link the northwest suburbs to O'Hare International Airport.

In a routine matter of business, Village President Sheila Schultz said trustees gave village employees authorization to negotiate the purchase of land where the station will be built.

### Brady newest plan commissioner

Wheeling resident Ken Brady was sworn in Sept. 19 as the newest member of the Wheeling Plan Commission. Brady was appointed by Village President Sheila Schultz to fill a seat recently left vacant by former Chairman Paul Esterhold, who plans to move from the village and resigned his seat.

Brady served on the Plan Commission from 1977 to 1983.

## Anderson tax break defended

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Anderson Die Casting Co. in Wheeling may pay less in property taxes over the next eight years but the long-term effect will benefit the village, said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Wheeling village trustees voted unanimously Sept. 19 to grant Anderson Die Casting the lower tax rate as it requested.

Company officials will now have to seek approval for the reduced rate from the Cook County Board, Schultz said.

Money saved from taxes will be used to build a 19,500-square-foot expansion to the building at 1720 S. Wolf Road.

Anderson officials estimate the expansion will create 20 jobs, eventually bringing the company's work force to 135 employees.

The incentive program, which allows companies to apply for reduced tax rates, encourages businesses to stay within Cook County rather than relocating to collar counties where property taxes are lower, Schultz said.

Though Anderson never threatened to leave, Schultz said, the village did ask company officials for proof of what taxes would be in other municipalities where they would consider moving.

"It's natural that a company considering an expansion would look to see whether they can do it more economically somewhere else, and we asked them to document this," Schultz said.

Anderson makes aluminum die cast components for automotive and industrial equipment manufacturers.

the resource center in the children's pavilion," said Joyce Phillips of Barrington, the event's

owner is right here at the Hyatt.

Ann Piccininni

photo at right) are Andy Prah, Nicole Berlin and Nicole Lechniak.



N O R T H W E S T C O M M U N I T Y H O S P I T A L

# Health & Wellness

## As Parents Grow Older

A three-part program that addresses the concerns adult children experience when trying to assist their aging parents. The first part will address the physical and emotional



*Heart, The Stress-Heart Connection, and Exercising Your Heart.* \$10 fee for class and materials.  
October 4, 11, 18 and 25  
7-8:15 p.m.

## Heart Failure

If you don't know what it means, heart failure sounds like a fishbowl

## Early Pregnancy

Development of the unborn child and the aspects of a healthy pregnancy, including diet, exercise, and physical and emotional changes of pregnancy will be discussed. The program is appropriate for those in early pregnancy or those planning a pregnancy.  
September 26 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Tribune photos by Hung The Vu



# Cruising at 220,000



# Airport board reviewing hangar sites

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are reviewing possible sites where T-hangars, or covered storage for planes, could be built on airport property.

Commission Chairman Robert Strauss said 40 such hangars were razed soon after the municipalities — Wheeling and Prospect Heights — purchased the airport in 1986.

According to Federal Aviation Administration standards the hangars were too close to a runway, he said.

Owners of planes that were stored in those hangars had to move the planes to outside storage or lease space in commercial hangars, Strauss said.

"People want more covered storage for single- or double-engine planes," Strauss said.

The commission plans to build 80 T-hangars once it purchases the nearby drive-in theater property, but Strauss said that transaction could be three or four years away.

Engineers at a commission meeting Sept. 21 specified six sites where T-hangars could be built in the meanwhile, he said.

The number of T-hangars to be built ranges from 18 to 40, depending on which sites, if any, the commission decides to use, he said.

"We're still looking at it," he said. Strauss doesn't anticipate purchasing the drive-in property until the Hintz/Wolf roads intersection relocation is completed and a drainage ditch that runs through airport property is moved.

"We asked the engineers what could be done in a time frame of a couple of years," Strauss said. "These T-hangars could be built and completed within two years."

## Lease or own

If the commission decides to build T-hangars, Strauss said, it could build them itself and lease them to owners or allow an outsider to lease airport land, build the hangars then lease the hangars to owners.

"The commission in the past has said we'd want to own anything that goes up," Strauss said.

Commissioners are also asking Priester Aviation and Service Aviation to bid on long-term leases for Hangar 3.

Priester leases the hangar on a month-to-

month basis, but Strauss said Service has expressed interest in entering a long-term lease for the hangar.

"The hangar was suppose to be demolished because it was too close to the runway," Strauss said, again noting that public airports have to abide by FAA safety standards. He now estimates the hangar won't be razed for another four or five years.

Lack of federal funding is one reason why plans for Palwaukee Airport have not strictly followed a master plan adopted when the airport became public, Strauss said.

## Long-term lease

"The airport could get additional income from a long-term lease," he said.

The commission's Capital Improvement Committee also heard a proposal last week from the owner of Service Aviation to build a corporate hangar on land near Hangar 1, which he leases.

"That might take out some parking spaces we just put in a couple of years ago," Strauss said. "There's various things that have to be looked at."

# Wheeling earmarks \$300,000 for train station

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday set aside a first allotment of \$300,000 that will be put toward a commuter station for the town's stop on the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. absent, the Wheeling village board approved its first allocation for a commuter station that will serve the new 53-mile rail line, which is scheduled to

begin operations in early 1996. While they are uncertain of the project's final cost, Wheeling officials said they had to create a separate fund for the station to cover building expenses.

"At this point, we don't have a firm cost figure for the entire project," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The initial allocation will go to pay consulting fees related to construction of the station. Wheeling officials have said the

station is the main building project that will transform the area near village hall into the heart of the community.

Recently, Wheeling trustees approved a measure that allows them to recoup up to \$4.5 million in construction expenses through a bond issue.

Officials for the Wisconsin Central Mayoral Task Force, a consortium of towns along the rail line, said that Metra, the suburban rail service, would probably let the

# Childerley Park improvements get nod

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved the Wheeling Park District's plans to refurbish Childerley Park after park officials agreed to make some changes.

In a 4-0 vote, with trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. absent and trustee Judy Abruscato abstaining, the Wheeling village board approved the park district's plans for improving the 13-acre park at 506 N. McHenry Road.

Park officials' plans include

installation of sand volleyball courts, picnic shelters, rest rooms, play equipment, benches and picnic tables that can all be reached by a walking path.

The bridge leading to the park from the Valley View subdivision on the south also will be replaced.

Chief among the concerns raised by the trustees was that a proposed 8-foot-wide path around the park's perimeter wasn't wide enough for emergency vehicles.

Wheeling trustees also wanted the park to have its drive aligned

with the driveway of the Addolorata Villa senior housing complex across the street.

The village board also requested the installation of approximately 800 feet of sidewalk at the front of the park.

Karop T. Bavougian, Wheeling Park District director of parks and recreation, agreed to have the perimeter road widened and to install the sidewalk.

However, Bavougian cautioned against village officials requiring too many modifications to the

park plan to make it more accessible to emergency vehicles.

"This is a park. It is not meant to be asphalted and painted green," he said.

If the park district completes all the changes the village requested, the project's cost could reach \$800,000, Bavougian said.

Bavougian added park officials have not yet set a time table for when they'll decide about spending for the park.

They have said the work would take a year to complete.

# Plan commissioners, staff debate psychics' future

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Though Wheeling village employees maintain that locating psychics in industrial areas would be best for the community, village plan commissioners don't agree.

Commissioners voted 4-1 during a public hearing Sept. 22 against an ordinance amendment that would limit psychic-related business to industrial areas.

Only Commissioner Terry Steilen voted in favor of the amendment. Commissioners Steve Walanka and Don Duncan were absent.

At a previous meeting, commissioners said the amendment implied that Wheeling does not want psychics doing business in the village. Planner Mark Janeck countered that it was not the village's intention to prohibit psychics.

Commissioners then asked Janeck to review the amendment with village employees and decide where the best location for these businesses would be, if they even should be allowed in Wheeling.

"Staff reviewed the commission's comments and still feels the industrial areas would be a better site for this use than a business district," Janeck said last week.

Commissioner Otis Hedlund questioned why an industrial area would be better suited for psychics than a business area.

Janeck responded that some people have complained about psychic businesses, saying they negatively impact on the

neighboring community.

"I don't understand what the negative impact is to having this in a strip center. What's the impact to the neighbor next door?" Commissioner Frank Proietti asked. "I don't think it matters whether we agree with the business or not."

Hedlund agreed. "I don't think sticking this away in an industrial area is the way to do it," he said.

"This is America," said newly appointed Commissioner Ken Brady, who replaced Paul Eisterhold. "If a guy wants to open up a psychic business, he should be able to do it. He's providing a service for people who need this."

## Obscurity opposed

Several commissioners said they would prefer to vote in favor of an amendment prohibiting psychics than support tucking them away in an obscure area of the village.

"It would be far more honest than the intent of the board right now," Proietti said.

Steilen, who cast the only vote in favor of the amendment, also took this stance. "I'd rather vote on not having it as a use at all than this. I'd rather be up front about it and say this is a use we don't want in the village."

Commissioner Ellen Butor cast a vote against the amendment saying, "If you don't want it, say you don't want psychics in Wheeling. I'm totally against this (amendment)."

# Liquor panel hears AmVets charges

The Wheeling Liquor Commission postponed a hearing on the local AmVets postpreviously scheduled for Sept. 26. Though charges of misdemeanor gambling against two men who worked at the post have been dropped, the Liquor Commission will hear evidence from the police chief and prosecutor.

Because of the charges, the post could lose its liquor license, be fined or be found innocent by the commissioners. As of press time, Village President Sheila Schultz, who heads the Liquor Commission, did not know when the hearing will be rescheduled.

# 3 parking lots in plans for rail station

10-11-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials unveiled plans for a Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station that includes three parking lots and a bike path.

Targeted for eight acres south of West Dundee Road between Wheeling Road and Northgate Parkway, the proposed commuter station will feature 626 parking spaces for riders.

The commuter parking lot south of Town Street will be for short term "kiss-n-ride" parking where train riders are dropped off. Pace

bus service will also be available at the station.

The station is scheduled to be opened in early 1996.

The Wheeling appearance commission will review the station Wednesday.

Wheeling officials have said the station will make the area, that includes the Wheeling Park District's Aquatic Center and Community Recreation Center, into the heart of the village.

"I think it is a (station) design, to me, that fits in well with the surrounding park district facilities," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G.

Anderson said.

The station will also be served by an 8-foot wide bike path running south from W. Dundee Road along the west side of Northgate Parkway and down Wheeling Road to the train depot. The path is a part of the trail system that connects the station to Lake County.

To better serve the station the village will widen a portion of Wheeling Road by a lane to provide a left turn lane into the station for traffic from the north and south.

Town Street is also scheduled to be widened to two lanes by village officials.

Anderson estimated the new station will cost \$2 million to build excluding the land costs. Wheeling officials are currently negotiating with Meyer Material Services Corp. to acquire land it owns for the station.

Wheeling officials said state and federal grants may cover most of the construction expenses for the station.

Metra, the suburban rail agency, could release more a detailed report in November on the portion towns along the 53-mile line will have to pay for its completion, officials said.

## Cost of park changes may alter plans

10-13-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials said changes Wheeling trustees required for Childerley Park may make them drop some of its amenities due to the added costs.

Park district officials said that changes the Wheeling board mandated added at least \$30,000 to the development costs of the park at 506 N. McHenry Road.

Those changes included widening an 8-foot path around the park to 10 feet so it can more easily hold police cars and aligning a park driveway

with one from the Addolorata Villa senior housing complex across the street to prevent gridlock from motorists from either site.

Wheeling trustees also required the park district to install 800 feet of sidewalk at the front of the park.

While park officials agreed to make the changes, some of them raised concerns about the village's review of the project.

"The need to go through local government approval for this, in my opinion, is unnecessary. We know the regulations," Park Commissioner William D. Mattes said.

Karop T. Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, said the park would now cost \$800,000 to develop.

Park officials' plans include installation of sand volleyball courts, picnic shelters, rest rooms, play equipment and picnic tables connected by a walking path.

Bavougian said he understood village safety concerns about the park and said the park district is like any other developer they review.

"We may want to do drop some amenities that may or may not make a difference in the park," he said adding park officials normally makes some changes before settling

on a park plan.

During the trustees' vote on the project, though, Bavougian told them the park district does not have an unlimited amount of money it can dip into to fund many changes to the park's plan.

Some Wheeling officials said a traffic light is needed at the park's entrance across from Addolorata Villa. Wheeling community development Director Michael Klitzke said because the park does not have morning or evening rush hour traffic.

The park could be completed in a year, Bavougian said.

## Village sets aside money for depot

10-13-94  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees recently amended the village's 1994-95 budget by setting aside \$300,000 for a train station on the new Wisconsin Central commuter line to open in spring 1996.

"The \$300,000 is pretty much for design fees and consulting fees," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The total cost of the project is not yet known, but Anderson estimated it at about \$2 million, not including the necessary land purchase which is being negotiated.

Wheeling's depot will be built on the west side of the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks along Town Street, about 1,000 feet south of Dundee Road, Anderson said.

Parking for 532 vehicles will be created on the east side of the tracks and on the ComEd right of way which is located along the west side of Wheeling Road, he said.

"There will be room for more (parking) later" if needed, he said.

Village officials also have been talking to representatives of Wicke's Furniture about possibly acquiring long-term leases for spaces in their lot at 351 W. Dundee Road for additional commuter parking, he said.

"There is also room for more spaces on the (ComEd) right of way," Anderson said.

Metra, the suburban rail system, estimates that 650 people will board trains at the Wheeling station each day, Anderson said.

The Wisconsin Central line will run from Antioch to Franklin Park where it will connect with the Milwaukee District West Railway and take commuters into Chicago's Union Station.

Ridership is projected to grow to 900 people a day by the year 2010, he added.

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove both have hired MTI Construction Services Inc. of Elk Grove Village as the contractor for their commuter train stations. Buffalo Grove officials recently said this should give both villages some financial benefits.

"The fact that we're using the same firm probably gives us some financial advantages, basically because they're doing two big projects in close proximity," Anderson said.

MTI also has worked extensively with subcontractors which may benefit the village, he said.

"We should realize some cost savings because they have a better idea which subcontractors can do the work," Anderson said. "That could minimize expenses for materials."

Anderson said the village hopes to break ground on the station in the spring with most of the construction occurring next summer.

As part of the project, Anderson said, some improvements will be made on the intersection of Town Street and Wheeling Road.

"There needs to be a traffic signal there which isn't there now," he said. "And there will probably be some reconfiguration or widening of the intersection."

## Palwaukee to reopen bids for Hangar Three lease

10-12-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials again will seek a long-term lease for a hangar at the airport to resolve a nearly yearlong controversy.

Airport officials want long-term lease proposals for Hangar Three from Palwaukee's two fixed-base fueling operators. Prospect Heights aldermen did not approve a lease that Priester Aviation proposed for the hangar. The airport commission and Wheeling trustees had approved the lease in December.

Some Prospect Heights officials raised concerns about the fairness of lease negotiations, saying Service Aviation, the airport's second fixed-base fueling operator, may have been excluded from the talks.

"When the aldermen got the lease, we looked at the way it was worded and felt it was too one-sided," said Fifth Ward Alderman Edwin J. Shipanik. Prospect Heights and Wheeling operate the airport under an intergovernmental agreement, and both must approve financial items executed by the commission.

Airport officials have debated the hangar's lease since last October.

"The airport commission has agreed to attempt to resolve the status-quo conditions that existed in the lease for Hangar Three since the amended recommendation in February was downed by the council," said Stewart.

Currently, the hangar is being leased by Priester Aviation on a month-to-month basis.

Priester offered \$3,000 a month long-term for the hangar and agreed to refurbish the structure that officials originally slated for demolition.

Service Aviation President Dennis Jans said Priester had most of the buildings at Palwaukee leased and that he needed the hangar for additional aircraft storage.

Jans offered \$2,400 a month for the hangar, which was \$700 more than the average amount Priester paid under the month-to-month lease.

Under the pact now in place, Priester pays half its monthly aircraft storage revenues from the hangar, which range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Airport officials will discuss the matter further Wednesday.

## License plates

10-13-94  
Wheeling residents can celebrate our village's centennial anniversary and support the community by purchasing official Wheeling Centennial license plates.

The plates commemorate the 100th birthday of the village of Wheeling, and may be legally displayed for the two-month period from Wednesday, Nov. 2, through Saturday, Dec. 31.

Plates are available for \$20 per pair. They may be purchased from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. For more information, call 459-2600.

# Palwaukee Airport board OKs Priester hangar lease

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After months of squabbling, Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners settled on a long-term lessor for one of its aircraft hangars.

In a 7-0 vote, with Commissioner Nicholas J. Helmer abstaining, the group agreed to recommend that Priester Aviation be awarded a one-year lease for Hangar Three at the airport, with an option to renew the lease for five more years.

The lease now goes to Prospect Heights and Wheeling officials, who operate the airport under an intergovernmental agreement, for their final approval.

Airport commissioners said they think the proposal by Priester Aviation — which called for \$3,600 a month in rent or 66 percent of the aircraft storage income derived from the hangar — outweighed the proposal from Service Aviation. "I feel the Priester contract is

far superior to the Service Aviation contract," said Commissioner William A. Rogers.

Service Aviation, the airport's second fixed-base fueling operation, had offered to pay \$3,650 a month in rent and make an unspecified amount of improvements to the hangar.

Airport officials sought the proposals for leasing the hangar after some Prospect Heights officials said Service Aviation may have been unfairly excluded from earlier lease negotiations.

Priester had been leasing the hangar on a month-to-month basis after Prospect Heights officials failed to approve their lease, which Wheeling officials accepted last December.

Service Aviation President Dennis P. Jans said without the additional hangar space his company could not expand.

Current plans for the park include an 85-car parking lot, a 10-foot wide walking/biking path around the park, four volleyball courts and picnic shelters.

Those plans may change since the Park Board opened bids on the project two weeks ago, said Director Karop Bavougian.

While the Park District planned to spend about \$550,000 on the project, the bids came in at about \$700,000.

"We're going to have to re-look at some of the plans," Bavougian said.

Trustees also told park officials that a planned entrance to Childerley Park should be relocated so it aligns with the drive to Addolorata Village, as previously suggested by plan commissioners.

Schultz said the Park District and village staff will work to align the two drives and improve traffic flow.

Trustees also insisted on including sidewalks on the plans for Yvette North, a French American restaurant planning to open at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave., former site of Vivian Lee's.

# Trustees OK plans for park

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Plans for the development of Childerley Park were approved last week by Wheeling trustees but not before park officials agreed to include a sidewalk in their proposal.

At an earlier Plan Commission meeting, Park Board members favored installing sidewalks at a later date because there are now no sidewalks on lots adjacent to Childerley Park, 506 McHenry Road.

"They may not connect now but in the future they will," Village President Sheila Schultz said of why a sidewalk should be included in the park's plans. Installing sidewalks is required as part of any construction project in the village, she said.

# Wheeling hires experts to solve village hall space crunch

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

on the best use of space at village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

The study, that village officials allocated \$22,000 for in the current budget, was spurred by a request from Wheeling Police who said their quarters in the building were cramped.

"We're growing. When I came here in 1982 the police department had 39 employees. We now have 78. We have expanding services," said

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

Wheeling officials decided since they would be conducting a space study that it should include all the departments at the Administration Building.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the study is expected to take six weeks to complete.

Anderson also said the village is

not planning to expand the building built in the late 1970s. The study would focus mainly on the location of people and the use of existing space.

Wheeling officials are recommending the RUST firm over three others that bid for the village's contract. Officials said the firm won their backing because of its previous work with other municipalities, including Hanover Park and West

Dundee. Wheeling officials will use the results of the study for planning changes in office layouts or building modifications for the 1995-96 fiscal year budget.

However, Anderson noted that because the police department contains some necessary operations, such as the holding cells, the village can make only limited modifications there.

# Wheeling workers fall mysteriously ill

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nineteen employees of a Wheeling electronics company were sent to area hospitals Friday, complaining of breathing trouble.

Authorities could not find the cause of the mysterious ailments that plagued workers from Dearborn Wire & Cable, 250 Carpenter Ave., but said a preliminary investigation turned up nothing wrong inside the building.

Fire departments from several communities responded to the call. The 19 employees were using rubbing alcohol to clean electronic parts. They complained of nausea, headaches and breathing difficulties.

The workers were taken to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines and Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview where they were all treated and released.

Fire officials who checked the air samples in the building found it did not contain hazardous fumes from the cleaning operation.



Employees at Palwaukee Municipal Airport look over a single-engine plane that crashed at the Wheeling airport Tuesday afternoon. The pilot, a Prospect Heights man, was unharmed.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

# Pilot escapes injury in plane crash at Palwaukee airport

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A single-engine airplane veered off the runway and crashed while trying to land at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling Tuesday afternoon, but the suburban pilot walked away unharmed.

Pilot Mark McLallen, 24, of Prospect Heights, said some undetermined mechanical problems forced his Quest Air Venture propeller driven plane to veer left and off the runway.

"It seems to be a mechanical problem," said McLallen, who said he was fine, after his plane ended up nose down in the ground. McLallen heads the marketing department for the Waukegan-based Quest Air Venture company.

He was flying alone at the time of the crash, bringing the plane back from the Waukegan Regional Airport.

McLallen said the plane was

traveling at 70 mph to 75 mph on the runway when the malfunction occurred. He also said he would like to see what federal investigators determine caused the crash.

The plane, valued at \$175,000, sustained damage that included its propeller, front end and right wing.

Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant airport manager for operations and maintenance, echoed McLallen's account of the crash.

Afterwards, air traffic at the airport was kept from landing for awhile while emergency crews attended to the wreckage.

The Wheeling Police Department, the Wheeling Fire Department and Palwaukee officials responded to the crash.

McLallen said he traveled to Palwaukee to have the plane in place for a Wednesday business trip he planned to take.

The crash did not tie up vehicle traffic on surrounding roads but it did bring out a number of onlookers ringing the airport.

# WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Herald - 10-19-94  
Board votes to allow canopies over pumps

The Wheeling village board approved a special exception to the zoning code to allow the owner of a Mobil service station to place canopies over his gas pumps.

The trustees unanimously agreed to the changes that will allow Scott Kendall, owner of the Tahoe Mobil Station at 1798 W. Hintz Road, to install canopies over his pumps. Kendall had said the canopies were needed because his business dropped during inclement weather.

# New restaurant receives liquor license approval

Trustees also approved a liquor license for the Yvette's restaurant, opening at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave.

In granting the restaurant a liquor license, the village board also agreed to reduce the number of licenses in the Class B classification available from 18 to 16 to reflect the current number of such license holders in Wheeling.

# Petitions available for village elections

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The November gubernatorial election has not yet come and gone, but it's time to start preparing for the next round of elections.

Local municipal elections will be held April 4, and candidates can start passing nominating petitions today.

Petitions are available at local village halls.

Buffalo Grove voters will elect three trustees, a village president and a village clerk to four-year terms in April.

Trustees John Marienthal, Brian Rubin and Bruce Kahn's seats are open. Kahn, however, has announced his resignation effective at the end of the year.

Wheeling voters will elect three trustees to four-year terms. Trustees Anthony Altieri Jr., Judy Abruscato and Lois Gaffke's seats are open.

Long Grove voters will elect three trustees to four-year terms and a village clerk to a two-year term.

Trustees Ray Basso, Bruce Klein and Maria Rodriguez's seats are open. Village Clerk Joe

Barry's seat is open for election because he was appointed after the last municipal election.

Rodriguez was elected village clerk in 1993, but resigned the post to fill a vacant trustee seat.

The number of signatures that must be collected varies by community.

The minimum number of signatures is 5 percent of the number of votes cast in the 1993 spring municipal election.

In Buffalo Grove, the minimum number of valid signatures is 181. The maximum, 8 percent of the

number of votes cast in 1993, is 289.

In Wheeling, the minimum number is 126. There is no maximum.

In Long Grove, the minimum number is 43. The maximum for independent candidates is 93, but there is no maximum for newly formed political parties, said Long Grove Village Manager D.M. "Cal" Doughty.

Petition filing begins Jan. 16, which is Martin Luther King Day. However, any village hall that is open for business that day will begin accepting petitions.

## New program has village employees up and walking

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

When you feel better, you work better.

That's what has Wheeling village employees lacing up comfortable shoes, briskly walking village streets, and counting the miles.

Michael Boyle, Wheeling's health officer, started a walking program among village employees May 1, as part of his work on a health and wellness subcommittee of the Northwest Municipal Conference.

As a subcommittee member, Boyle helped develop the walking program and promote it as a way to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

### Walking

"After many discussions we determined that the best activity to promote would be a walking program," Boyle said, adding that walking is an easily accessible activity most can do without much inconvenience or cost.

"It's something people of all age levels can do. Depending on your fitness level, you can start slow and build up," Boyle said.

Two village employees, Larry Brooks in operations and maintenance and Barb

Reise in Police Department administration, accumulated 500 miles from May 1 to Sept. 17, when Harper College held a closing ceremony for the Northwest Conference.

That figures out to more than 3.5 miles each day.

Another employee, Beth Knobelach in the Finance and Administration Department, is closing in on the 500 mark, Boyle said.

### Winter

Though the Northwest Conference has closed its wellness program for the winter, Boyle has yet to officially close the local program.

"The idea and intent of what we'll do here is to encourage their walking — keep them moving, keep them healthy," Boyle said. "We don't want to give them the impression to stop exercising in the winter."

For winter through, Boyle said, he'll suggest that walkers move to an indoor track, be more careful if they stay outdoors, or take up an indoor sport.

"We had good participation," Boyle said, noting that 28 village employees began walking this summer. "We're pleased with how many peo-

ple got involved."

Though some village employees walked more than 500 miles, Boyle said, those who walked less should be proud of their accomplishments.

"Those who got 100 miles of walking are big winners too," he said. "That's a good start to developing healthy lifestyle activities."

### After meals

Rather than be sedentary after lunch or dinner, Boyle suggested a brisk 10-minute walk to "re-energize" and burn calories.

"We wanted to promote the fact that you've got to be doing something. It's a good basic program to get you moving and it's something that's beneficial," Boyle said.

"Certainly, when you feel better, you work better, the quality of your work improves," he added.

Whether the program continues next summer is uncertain, Boyle said.

He encourages employees to continue exercising on their own, but whether the village promotes a wellness program will be determined after talking to employees and hearing their suggestions, he said.

## Villages hopes grocer will replace Dominick's

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson remains optimistic that the village will not be without a local grocer once the Dominick's at 550 W. Dundee Road moves out in February.

The village lost its other grocery store last Christmas Eve when Franklin's Finer Foods, 291 E. Dundee Road, was destroyed by fire.

Anderson has talked with grocery chains such as Certified and SuperValu as well as a few independent grocers trying to interest them in the village. "The ball is kind of in their court now," he said.

"We've had interest

expressed in the Dominick's site. We've had interest expressed in the Franklin site," Anderson said.

"It's probably pretty well known in the grocery industry that both sites are empty," he added.

The Franklin Foods site is being rebuilt but, Anderson said, he isn't sure what type of business will locate there.

"It would be great if a grocery store would go in there," he said. "The advantage is that they would have a new store."

The major hurdle for a new business is the start-up cost, Anderson said. He has been told that Dominick's plans to remove its shelves and check-out registers.

"In either store they

would have to do some interior work," Anderson said.

Anderson said he is "optimistic that something will work out" and at least one grocer will commit to moving to Wheeling by February.

"They were both meeting needs (of residents). None of them was short of business," Anderson said. "They were turning a profit as far as I know."

Dominick's decided to move from Wheeling because the company wants larger stores, not because of a lack of business, he said.

"It's (the current store) is not as big as Dominick's wants now and that's a business decision," Anderson said.

## Village move hurts business: founder's son

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The son of one of Wheeling's founding families complained recently village officials hurt his business by granting a competitor a temporary village license.

Greg Koeppen, 18, said the village hurt the business at his vegetable stand at Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway by allowing an out-of-state business at the nearby Lynn Plaza Shopping Center.

Koeppen, whose family once owned a farm site adjacent to village hall on West Dundee Road that is now the heart of an area viewed by officials as the center of town, said the village's licensing practices are driving out Wheeling's farming founding families.

"They were out of state and I thought it would be more community oriented," he said.

The former farm site is currently home to such amenities as Wheeling Park District's Aquatic Center, its Community Recreation Center and it figures prominently in development of the commuter station of the Wheeling stop on the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

The village issued a temporary business license to Arthur Potts, of Franksville, Wis., and his company P&M Pumpkins to sell pumpkins in the shopping center's parking lot.

The temporary license runs from Oct. 14 to Oct. 31, said village officials.

Koeppen complained that Potts' company sells pumpkins for 50 cents while he sells them at his stand for 25 cents to 29 cents a pound.

Koeppen also said that such low prices hurt pumpkin sales of other longtime vegetable sellers in the area and St. Joseph The Worker Church that sells them as a part of its fund-raising efforts.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the issuing of such licenses is a routine municipal function.

Wheeling officials also noted that competitive marketplace considerations are a part of the criteria they use to determine if a business should receive a temporary license.

# Village looks to maximize space

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER  
10-27-94

Wheeling village officials want to know how to best utilize space within Village Hall.

Trustees voted Oct. 17 to hire RUST Environment & Infrastructure of Schaumburg for \$20,540 to study the building's interior and give a report on how the space can best be used.

The need for more space was initiated by the Police Department but Village Manager Craig Anderson said all village departments will be studied.

## Cramped

"We're going to look at all our operating departments — police, fire, public works, administration and finance, and community development," Anderson said. "Just looking at the Police Department probably won't solve our

problems.

"The most cramped, in my opinion, are police and community development," he added.

The number of village employees has steadily grown since Village Hall was built in 1969 and an addition was completed in the late '70s, Anderson said. "Personnel will probably not grow any more," he added.

## Minor changes

Hopefully, Anderson said, RUST will recommend minor changes, such as altering a few work stations and re-arranging desks.

"I recognize that one of the outcomes could be to build more space somewhere, somehow," Anderson said.

A recommendation to add a second story or to add onto the single-story building could cause additional problems, and possibly costly ones, he said.

"The building is not constructed to be built up — there would have to be some structural reinforcement. Building out would be impossible because of the flood plain," Anderson said.

## Restraints

"I don't see how we can add to this building without significant expense," he said.

Unfortunately, he said, not too many existing walls in the building can be moved because most are load-bearing.

"We've been looking at this for a number of years," Anderson said of commissioning a study. "We can function the way we are but would probably be more effective with more space."

RUST soon will send its employees to Village Hall to meet with village personnel and to study the building.

Anderson expects to have results of the space study by mid-December.



Missy Peters of Wheeling has her son Logan fingerprinted by Wheeling Police Officer Rich Herdus during the Crime Prevention Expo at Randhurst.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

# Wheeling may give parking scofflaws the 'boot'

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
11-3-94

Wheeling trustees may soon have the opportunity to lock up another revenue source for the village.

The Wheeling village board Monday will decide if it wants to join other towns that use the Denver boot wheel-locking device on vehicles of parking ticket scofflaws.

"We recommended it so we can have one more tool to ensure that judgments that are made are paid," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Anderson said motorists' vehicles

would be booted if they have one or more unpaid parking tickets and fail to respond to repeated village notices.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes introduced the idea of the boot, in part, to recoup ticket collection costs.

"It's really a way of collecting the revenue that's already there," he said.

Rhodes said someone would get on the "boot list" if they owe Wheeling at least \$125 accumulated through escalating fines for a single violation.

In the past year, Wheeling col-

lected \$25,000 in outstanding ticket fines, said Rhodes.

Last month, Wheeling collected \$1,400 in parking fines and usually averages \$2,000 a month, Rhodes said. Officials could not estimate how much the village is losing in uncollected fines.

Those booted will have to pay their fines at village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road before police remove the device. A sticker will be placed on each booted vehicle informing the owner of how much is owed, Rhodes said.

If it is approved Monday, Wheeling police will begin using the

boot by Jan. 1. Wheeling officials said they will search for scofflaws throughout the village then.

Wheeling will purchase two boots at \$400 each.

Wheeling officials first discussed using the boot during recent budget talks.

Wheeling would join towns including Elk Grove Village, Palatine, Mount Prospect and Hanover Park that use the boot.

Many towns use the boot for train station parking violators. In 1996 Wheeling will have its own Wisconsin Central Railroad station with three commuter parking lots.

# Wheeling eyes tough parental responsibility laws

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
11-5-94

Wheeling trustees Monday will review proposed revisions to its parental responsibility rules that include restrictions on underage drinking and minors having access to weapons.

The Wheeling village board will review the proposed ordinance revisions that include prohibitions on those under 21 years old being drunk or knowingly in the presence of other youths who are drinking or using illegal drugs.

The proposed revisions also call for restrictions on those under 18 having

unsupervised access to a weapon such as a handgun.

Under the revised ordinance weapons must be locked up and inaccessible to those under 18.

The revised ordinance also holds parents responsible if underage drinking takes place at their residence.

Under the proposal, parents or minors who violate the new rules would be subject to fines ranging from \$50 to \$500.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the changes were drafted in response to requests by the trustees to put restrictions on minors in one place under the village's codes.

"It's a consolidation of some things already on the books and some additions," Anderson said.

If Wheeling trustees approve the revised measure the town would join a growing number of municipalities that have placed local restrictions on minors and made parents financially responsible.

The revisions being considered differ somewhat from a model parental responsibility ordinance drafted by the Northwest Municipal Conference. The ordinance drafted by the consortium of 35 North and Northwest suburban communities calls for toughening local laws restricting underage drinking.



## Wheeling development puts focus on its center

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees soon will get to the heart of the matter by approving a development for the center of the village.

After years of delays, Wheeling village board sometime this month will accept one of the proposals for redeveloping 13.5 acres of the village's tax increment finance district at West Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"Obviously, we're looking at what financial benefit it would be to the village. What would the demand be for whatever we choose. And in terms of the TIF what would the village be required to do," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Wheeling officials are weighing whether a shopping center or mixed use development with condominiums, offices and small stores are best for the corner.

The decision on the TIF district is important for the village because it affects Wheeling's future economic development.

Additionally, officials have said whatever is built there will help make the area a town center along with the Wheeling Park District's Aquatic Center and its Community Recreation Center and the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station that is slated to be completed in 1996.

Huffman Shaffer Associates Inc. of Chicago proposes to build a 125,900 square-foot Wheeling Village Square shopping center at the corner with three anchor stores of up to 30,000 square feet each.

HSA would seek \$3.5 million in TIF bond financing for the project that it predicts would generate \$630,000 in yearly sales taxes for Wheeling. Joseph Freed and Associates proposed buying the village's land for \$4.2 million and using \$300,000 in TIF bonds for development.

That company's project would include four, six-story condominium buildings, 20,000 square feet of professional office space and 30,000 square feet of retail

store space. Retail leasing consultant Michael S. Weiner, president of the Northbrook-based Michael S. Weiner Ltd. firm, said both developers have good reputations.

And lenders will offer reputable developers financing for their projects even if they don't have them mostly leased prior to construction, he said.

Wheeling officials have previously raised concerns about retail space vacancies. They have said that because of several years of delays from litigation over the TIF district perhaps the village is too late and the area is now saturated with retail stores.

However, Weiner disagreed saying the Northwest suburban retail market is still open for new developments.

"It depends who the tenants are. If it's a good location the right tenants bring in shoppers. The purpose is to make a viable development and bring in shoppers which helps the town," he said.

Last year the village experienced a false-start when it gave the Sportmart store in the TIF district approval to expand to become a part of an expanded shopping center there.

Wheeling also worked on a deal with a developer to build that center. Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that for unclear reasons those plans fell through.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said whatever is developed in the TIF district should include some sort of entertainment attraction such as a small concert hall, comedy club or similar venture to keep younger professionals in town and attract new ones as well.

Anderson said the final decision on what is built in the TIF area hinges on what sells with prospective tenants. That concern, he said, outweighs consideration of the tax revenue the village would receive from the development in its first few years.

## Wheeling Metra station could get village OK soon

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans for Wheeling's Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station could win approval from village trustees as soon as Monday.

Plans for the commuter station, slated to open by early 1996, have sailed through the village's advisory panels and could be available for approval by the village board this month, Wheeling officials said.

The Wheeling plan commission and village appearance commission have not raised objections to the plans.

The plans call for the commuter station to take eight acres just south of West Dundee Road near village hall. There would be 626 parking spaces for riders.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village is negotiating with Meyer Material Services Corp. to acquire its land for the station.

Excluding land purchase costs, Anderson estimated the station could cost \$2 million to complete.

The station would be one of

13 stops along the 53-mile line that will span from the Wisconsin border to O'Hare International Airport.

Mark Fowler, transportation director for the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of North and Northwest suburban communities, said rail line towns are currently being surveyed to determine what parts of their individual station projects they want funded by state and federal grants.

The Wisconsin Central Mayoral Task Force, co-chaired by Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and Libertyville Village President Jo Ann Eckmann, is trying to determine the towns' share for developing the rail line.

Metra could release a more detailed report in November on the portion the towns will have to pay to complete the rail line.

Wheeling officials have said state and federal grants may cover most of the construction expenses for the village's commuter station.

Wheeling's station also will be served by an 8-foot wide bike path system that reaches into Lake County.

## Palwaukee commissioners eye hangars for revenue

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are calling for construction of new hangars to generate more aircraft-storage income.

The commission voted 6-2 to recommend spending \$7,500 for an engineering study of whether to build 43 T-shaped hangars west of Milwaukee Avenue and north of Palatine Road.

That section of the airport now is a paved area with tie-down spots for storing mostly privately owned, piston-engine airplanes.

"If we can get going on this, there is really a market for this now," Commissioner Dan Query said.

Airport officials have been looking for locations in the airport to put hangars to increase revenue from storage. In the past, some Prospect Heights officials have pressed airport officials to develop more revenue sources at Palwaukee.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agreement between Wheeling and Prospect Heights, whose elected officials must give final approval to the study.

The tie-down areas rent for \$95 and \$110 a month. Hangar space would rent for about \$250 a month, which commissioners said is competitive with rents other airports charge.

But Commissioner James V. Nickel, one of two commissioners to vote against the measure, said he was concerned that current tenants would be displaced when the new hangars are built.

"You're talking about a \$60,000-a-year loss of income we can't recover," he said.

Query responded that those tenants probably would use the new hangars.

The commissioners previously paid engineers \$5,000 to identify the best place at the airport for new hangars.

## Towns reject hangar feasibility study

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen decided against funding a \$7,500 feasibility study of a proposed aircraft hangar site at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Officials from both towns decided against approving the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission's request for the study saying the study is unnecessary.

They noted the airport's development plan already targets future areas for hangars to be

built. Wheeling trustees said with airport officials nearing acquisition of the adjoining Twin Drive-In property at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., there is no longer a need to find additional space for more hangars.

Airport officials have said with acquisition of the drive-in they can relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through both properties to create more land to develop at Palwaukee.

"I would just as soon stay with the original (airport) plan," said Wheeling Trustee and Palwaukee Airport Commissioner Anthony

Alfieri Jr. who backed dropping the study.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights operate Palwaukee jointly under an intergovernmental agreement and that requires officials from both towns to approve airport spending before funds are released.

The Prospect Heights City Council decided to table consideration of the funding request.

"We have not brought anything new from a business standpoint. I think this is foolish," 4th Ward Alderman Paul Richartz said about the proposed study.

The airport commission recently agreed to have a study done to determine if it is feasible to build 43 T-shaped hangars for storage of piston-engine aircraft.

Some commissioners said that pilots are storing planes at other airports and Palwaukee is losing storage revenue because of its lack of hangars.

The commission had a \$5,000 study done earlier this year to find sites at Palwaukee for new hangars.

Some airport officials said that study recommended hangars be placed in inconvenient locations.

# Trailer park group sues owner of Whippetree

11-10-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents and former residents of a Wheeling mobile home park filed a class action lawsuit against the park's management Wednesday, accusing the company of engaging in wide-ranging harassment, particularly when owners try to sell their trailer homes.

Ten residents and former residents of the Whippetree Village mobile home park at 525 N. McHenry Road say the park's managers make it difficult to sell their homes unless the park is engaged as the sales agent, for which the company sometimes charges 10 percent of the price of the sale.

The suit alleges that: Trailer owners who try to sell their homes on their own often are required to make questionable, costly repairs before the trailer is deemed sellable; sellers are forbidden from putting "For sale" signs on their units; and buyers they find are subjected to a non-refundable \$325 credit check by the management company and often are rejected anyway.

By continually rejecting prospective buyers, Capital Development Corporation Inc. of Lake Forest can eventually force the unit's owner to sell it to the company instead — for whatever price they demand, residents said in the lawsuit.

One former resident said she bought a trailer in 1991 for \$21,500 but wound up selling it to Capital Development last year for \$1,000 — even though she had a buyer who was willing to pay \$18,000.

Park owner Richard J. Klarchek, named in the lawsuit, also owns mobile home parks in Glenview, Lake Zurich, Rockford and South suburban Justice, as well as Wisconsin and Indiana.

The Wheeling lawsuit is similar to one filed against Klarchek in September 1993 by residents of his Justice park. There has been no resolution of that lawsuit.

Capital Development attorney William J. Lapelle declined comment Wednesday on the latest lawsuit, which was filed in Cook County Circuit Court. Klarchek did not return phone calls.

Residents of Whippetree Village also say that Capital Development does little to sell the units that are listed with them.

By not finding buyers the company allegedly then forces the price of the unit down — sometimes to a few thousand dollars.

Residents allege the company then will resell the units to new owners at a much higher price.

"It's disgusting, humiliating, it's very degrading. I don't



know how you can give someone money and have them treat you like garbage," said former resident Cathy Ramirez, who is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Ramirez and her husband, Brig, decided to sell their unit privately in May 1993 and not list it with the company.

Ramirez said shortly after she offered it for sale, she found an eviction notice on her door. After a year of litigation over the eviction, Ramirez sold the unit in May for \$6,000 to Capital Development. The couple had bought it several years ago for \$21,500.

Carol Garon, who is a part of the lawsuit, wanted to sell her trailer and complied with a lease requirement by scheduling an appointment with the company to inspect the unit. She made that request in May and has not yet had an inspection, she said.

The charges from Whippetree Village residents mirror those in another class action lawsuit brought against the company by the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation Inc. on behalf of the Sterling Estates Mobile Home Park in Justice.

In that lawsuit, residents charge leases are illegally restrictive and hamper their resale efforts.

"Because you can't take your mobile home with you when you leave, the park owners have a huge advantage over homeowners," said Helen Cropper, director of litigation for the foundation.

Former Whippetree Village resident Sharon Fyffe sold her mobile home for \$1,000 this year, even though she bought it in 1990 for \$21,500. She did it, she said, to get out of an extended legal dispute with the company over its repair demands.

Wheeling village officials, meanwhile, say that because the park is private they have limited jurisdiction over it.

Whippetree residents recently asked Wheeling trustees to adopt an ordinance that would give them authority to regulate rental rates in local mobile home parks.

The Wheeling village board may review the measure later this month.

# Wheeling board tightens parental responsibility law

11-8-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved revisions to village parental responsibility rules that broaden the prohibition on underage drinking and restrict minors from having unsupervised access to weapons.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved a revised ordinance that includes prohibitions on those under 21 being drunk or knowingly in the presence of youths who are drinking or using illegal drugs.

The revised ordinance also calls for restrictions on those under 18 having unsupervised access to a weapon such as a handgun.

"The reason for this ordinance is to consolidate all ordinances on minors and parental responsibility and put them in one place," said Wheeling village attorney James A. Rhodes.

The revised ordinance also holds parents responsible if underage drinking takes place at

their residence.

Under the revised measure, parents or minors who violate the new rules would be subject to fines ranging from \$50 to \$500.

The trustees Monday also struck from the ordinance a section that permitted minors to purchase tobacco if they have notes from their parents or legal guardians.

Under the new rules, the only exceptions that allow minors to consume alcohol are if drinking is done within the context of a religious ceremony or if they're ordered to do so by a law enforcement officer.

Rhodes said the second provision was included in case the village ever conducts an undercover investigation of local businesses that sell liquor.

By approving the revisions, Wheeling joins a growing list of municipalities, including Mount Prospect and Des Plaines, in approving such parental responsibility ordinances.

The new ordinance takes effect immediately.

# Wheeling president announces National-Louis University day

11-10-94

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed Wednesday, Nov. 30 to be National-Louis University day in the village.

The university is located at 1000 Capitol Drive in the village. The university, which mainly serves adult returning students, opened its Wheeling campus last winter.

Schultz' proclamation said in part that the university's "vital contribution to the community" would be recognized.

## 25-year public works employee honored

Wheeling officials also gave special recognition to Dennis J. Mikosz for his 25 years of service as a village public works employee. The proclamation lauded his commitment, dedication and service to Wheeling.

## Ex-planning board chairman honored

Schultz also recognized former plan commission chairman Paul

## WHEELING BOARD NOTES

Eisterhold for his service on that panel.

The proclamation noted Eisterhold's 15 years of service on the panel and his 12 years as its chairman.

Eisterhold resigned from the advisory panel because he moved from the village.

## Centennial committee gets recognition

The Wheeling village board recognized specially the village's ad hoc centennial committee, which planned the centennial year's events in 1994.

The committee's work included planning for the Wheeling Centennial Gala at Chevy Chase Country Club in February and the Civil War reenactment in August.

The proclamation lauded the group for its volunteer spirit and making the centennial year memorable.

# Wheeling panel backs plan for food court at Lynn Plaza

11-11-94

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission on Thursday backed a proposal for a food court featuring up to three restaurants under one roof at the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center on West Dundee Road.

In a 4-0 vote, with three plan commissioners absent, the panel backed plans by James Kaplan Companies, the center's management company, to build a food court in a space at the south end of the shopping center, 520-522 W. Dundee Road.

"I think it's a great idea for the shopping center. I think it's smart," said plan Commissioner Ellen Butor.

James Kaplan, president of the Chicago-based firm, said the food court would include a delicatessen and one or two other eateries in a 2,906-square-foot common area. Kaplan's plans also call for giving the adjoining Baskin-Robbins ice cream store an entrance to the common area, which would have 42 seats.

Kaplan said he made the proposal, in part, to attract riders of the

Wisconsin Central Railroad, which will open a commuter station in 1996 a short distance east of the center on West Dundee Road.

He also said the food court is needed to offset the loss of the Dominick's Finer Foods store that will close by Feb. 28, when its lease expires.

"It becomes important for us to take a cutting-edge approach to maintain our position in the market," Kaplan said about the proposed food court.

Village Planner Mark Janek and the plan commissioners were concerned about parking near the shopping center's West Dundee Road entrance. They said they didn't want diners to be backing vehicles and into traffic entering the parking lot at the center's south end.

Kaplan agreed to reduce some of the parking spaces located just south of the food court. The panel also called for the village, Kaplan and the railroad to consider placing a sidewalk near the shopping center.

Wheeling trustees may review Kaplan's proposal later this month or in December.

# AMVETS attorney asks Wheeling to drop illegal gambling charges

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first round in a hearing to determine if illegal gambling occurred at Wheeling's AMVETS post was marked by a call for a cease-fire Monday night.

At a Wheeling Liquor Control Commission hearing, attorney Alfred D. Stavros filed a motion to dismiss five charges of illegal gambling against the Phillip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66, 700 McHenry Road, and suppress evidence village officials had planned to use for the hearing.

Stavros said that because a Cook County Circuit Court judge dismissed the village's charges of illegal gambling on a technicality, Wheeling officials could not use evidence or witnesses from that case

for a civil review of the post's liquor license.

"It's the same evidence the state tried to convict agents of AMVETS for gambling. That evidence is tainted," Stavros said before a room packed with more than 100 people, most of them AMVETS supporters.

Village prosecutor Steven B. Handler said the court's ruling is irrelevant, given that the village can hold its own liquor license review. But he added that he wasn't certain that he would use the same evidence or witnesses used in the court case.

"There are other witnesses I want to call who are not police officers and weren't witnesses in the criminal case," he said.

The village issued the charges after a March 16 raid on the post which was made after a plainclothes police officer said she saw winnings

being paid out for four video poker machines there.

The machines were removed from the post after the raid and have not been brought back, said post officials.

Misdemeanor gambling charges against the post's manager and a bartender were dropped after the judge said police didn't have arrest warrants or search warrants for the raid.

"The liquor license review has strained relations between the village and the post, which has hosted scores of community events."

The commission, made up of Wheeling trustees, will rule on Stavros' motion Dec. 19. Together, both sides have planned to call 22 witnesses to testify, including Trustee Anthony Alteri, a vice commander at the post.

## Wheeling approves parental responsibility

Wheeling trustees on Nov. 7

approved a re-arrangement of the village's parental responsibility ordinance. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the ordinance, which deal with minors' drinking alcohol, truancy, drinking possession and curfew, have been village law for years, but trustees decided to better arrange them within the village code.

"We're basically moving them from one section to the code to another where they fit more closely," Anderson said, adding that some language has been altered.

## Former police chief joins pension board

The Wheeling Police Pension Fund Board bids a fond

farewell to Chief Marvin "Syke" Horcher and offers a warm welcome to Chief Ted Bracke.

Horcher worked on the Wheeling police force from 1948 until 1977. He decided to leave the board so the organization could get advice from younger pension fund recipients. Bracke, who was a member of the Wheeling Police Force from 1960 until his retirement as chief in 1984, will take his place.

Other members of the Wheeling Police Pension Fund are William Maloney, Glen Hartman, Brian Jacobson and John Bank. The board administers about \$11 million in investments on behalf of its members.

## Palwaukee officials aim to improve airport safety

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials said that construction projects under way at the Wheeling facility are designed to enhance its safety.

Those projects include the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection 575 feet west of its current location to expand the safety zone between it and the Northwest suburban airport's longest runway.

The other planned project calls for relocating the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through the airport and neighboring Twin Drive-In property.

"They're all safety related," said Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. Stewart.

"Moving the intersection provides more safety area and gets vehicle traffic out of the low approach to the runway.

"Relocating the ditch gets it out of the safety area for two runways," he said.

Currently, airport officials and officials from Skokie-based M&R Properties Inc., owners

of the drive-in, are negotiating a deal for the sale of the 31-acre drive-in.

That deal could be completed by early December, M&R officials have said.

The construction projects are a part of a long-range \$83.5 million project to bring the airport owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights up to federal standards.

Other safety improvements at the airport include installation of the Automated Surface Observation System by the National Weather Service.

With the new system the airport now receives its own weather forecast for pilots.

The airport also recently installed a new beacon light that pilots said is visible up to 25 miles from the airport.

The airport has not experienced any plane crashes this year and most of the incidents officials encounter usually come from pilots have mechanical difficulties during landing, Stewart said.

There have been no injuries in any of the several such incidents at the airport this year, Stewart said.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Wheeling's crystal ball sees no psychics in retail areas

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees made the future a little darker for psychics in the village by limiting where they can locate their businesses.

In a move the psychics may have already known about, the Wheeling village board voted 6-0 to approve new zoning restrictions that allows psychics and fortune tellers to locate their businesses only in industrial areas of the village.

"We're asking you to address whether a psychic reader business is a desirable business in a retail or commercial zone," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson told the trustees.

The Wheeling plan commission did not make a recommendation on the measure, saying that if the village opposes such businesses, it should pass an ordinance banning them, Anderson said.

But Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said court rulings have held that towns can't ban fortune telling outright unless it can prove those practices are fraudulent.

Rhodes added that the village can restrict where such businesses are located.

Discussion of such restrictions first surfaced in March, when resident David F. Philips asked the trustees to consider such measures, saying psychics were "an abomination to Christians and Jews" in Wheeling.

The new zoning restrictions won't affect psychic Julia Roberts, who works from a Milwaukee Avenue location.

Roberts, who was reassured that the new rules don't apply to her business, said she received "good vibrations" from the village.

Some village officials wondered whether by enacting such restrictions they would be violating the U.S. Constitution because some churches practice fortune telling.

But Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said a church is a permitted use in any part of the village.

Wheeling already has on the books ordinances that restrict where other businesses it deems undesirable, such as adult bookstores, can be located.

## Psychics restricted to industrial park

Any psychic businesses planning to locate in Wheeling will have to do so in the industrial parks, according to an ordinance amendment approved by village trustees Nov. 7.

"The thought is that psychic use might not be the best use in a commercial area," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. Plan commissioners previously debated locating psychics in industrial areas, with some saying the lack of drive-by business would lead the psychic business to failure.

# Facility provides care for Alzheimer's patients

Former President Ronald Reagan's recent announcement that he has Alzheimer's disease sparked a renewed interest in the lives and care of those patients.

Even neighbors may be unaware that the first residential care facility designed specifically to fit the needs of Alzheimer's patients opened in June at 760 McHenry Road in Wheeling.

Diane Bjorkman, president of New Perspective Special Care Homes, said Wheeling was chosen for its central location and availability of open land.

"Our facility serves an interim housing need," Bjorkman said. The center, which consists of one 16-bed building, is designed to resemble a typical home, but also allows patients to wander in a controlled setting.

Two additional 16-bed units will open at the Wheeling site in February, bringing the total number of residents to 48, Bjorkman said.

"It's much more residential and homelike" than a

typical long-term care facility, she said. Subdued colors without patterns are used for interior carpeting and wallcovers and plastic-covered furniture easily accommodates incontinent patients.

Bjorkman said statistics from the Alzheimer's Association report that more than 100,000 people with Alzheimer's live in Cook, DuPage, Lake and Kane counties.

Alzheimer's is a progressive neurological disease. Symptoms include gradual memory loss, disorientation, lack of judgment, personality changes and difficulty with personal care.

New Perspectives meets the needs of patients who need round-the-clock supervision but do not necessarily need medical care, Bjorkman said.

"We filled up our first facility in seven weeks," she said, adding there is a waiting list for the two units that will open in February. "There's a great need for this type of care."

Being the first facility

specifically marketed to Alzheimer's patients, Bjorkman said, there were some concerns from the state licensing board whether the facility was needed.

"It's conducive to be in a facility geared toward their special needs," Bjorkman said. "In a traditional facility there may be less of an understanding among other residents" of the Alzheimer's patients, she added.

New Perspective places patients in family-like units where they readily adjust to a daily routine. "It's designed to be small and consistent. They see the same faces everyday," Bjorkman said.

She hopes the state eventually reviews the New Perspective facility and agrees to grant licenses for other Alzheimer's-only centers throughout Illinois. Bjorkman's company has its sights set on opening a facility in the western suburbs and possibly one in McHenry County.

# Scofflaws could get the boot

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Scofflaws in Wheeling now face the possibility of having the Denver boot attached to their vehicles.

Village trustees at their Nov. 7 meeting approved an ordinance amendment giving the Police Department permission to purchase and use the boot as a means to collect fines.

## Outstanding fines

"It will be used for people who have outstanding judgments against them and allow the police department to boot the car," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We think that's only fair to people who do pay the fines."

Trustees and village staff at a budget review session last winter first discussed purchasing and using the boot to collect fines, Anderson said.

A Denver boot is clamped onto the wheel of a vehicle making it immobile.

Once vehicles are booted, owners have to go to Village Hall and pay their outstanding fines before the boot is removed.

The village plans to buy two boots at a cost of about \$400 each, Anderson said.

"It should be pretty easy to recoup the costs," he said, adding that a typical judgment is at least \$100.

The village also has an active collection program operated through the village attorney's office, Anderson said.

He estimated that about \$50,000 has been collected through that office over the last three years which otherwise would have been lost revenue for Wheeling.

Anderson said the boot only will be used "when all else fails" in trying to collect a judgment.

"It gives us a way to collect fines that are rightly due," he added.

# National-Louis holds open house

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Officials at National-Louis University in Wheeling hope the excitement over their newest suburban campus spreads to the community with an open house later this month.

Residents and prospective students are encouraged to tour the university from 4-6 p.m. Nov. 30. Faculty of the university's three colleges — the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Management and Business and the National College of Education — will be present for questions.

The university, located at 1000 Capitol Drive near the intersection of Wolf and Palatine roads, has grown significantly in less than a year.

Opening in January with 58 students, the Wheeling campus now boasts 315 students registered for the fall quarter, said Wendy M. Winkelhake, communications manager.

"We've had a lot of growth in a short time," Winkelhake said. Most students at National-Louis are over 25 years old and are furthering their edu-

cation, she said.

"Our classes usually begin in the late afternoon or evening," she said. "That really helps those students who may be juggling careers and families."

National-Louis opened its Wheeling campus in January and construction on all classrooms was complete by September, Winkelhake said. The campus has 12 classrooms, two computer labs, a bookstore and library.

About 200 staff members work at the Wheeling campus, she said.

Now with the finishing touches completed, Winkelhake said, it's time to formally present the campus to Wheeling residents.

The library, located on the building's first floor, is open to the public as well as students.

Marilyn Brooks, dean of instructional resources and university librarian, said researchers may be particularly interested in the campus' extensive journal collection.

Brooks said the collection previously belonged to the North Suburban Library System and includes 45,000 reels of microfiche covering 3,300 jour-

nals and newspapers.

"Some of them date back to the 1800s," Brooks said.

Library patrons can access the Northwest Suburban Library System and the statewide library system by computer at the campus, she said.

For those interested in pursuing a teaching degree, the university is hosting an information session on its master of arts in teaching degree from 5:30-7 p.m. Nov. 30, following the open house.

This program is aimed at students who hold bachelor's degrees in fields other than education, Winkelhake said.

National College of Education faculty members, representatives from the financial aid and career development offices and current students of the program will be available for questions. Registration for the winter quarter will be accepted that evening for this program.

For reservations or information, phone the university at 1-800-443-5522, Ext. 5161. Baby-sitting is available.

# National-Louis video classes may be offered in fall 1995

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

grant for the system from the Illinois Board of Higher Education that awarded the funds to the North Suburban Higher Education Consortium.

The consortium serves a geographical area that includes Harper College, the College of Lake County and Oakton Community College.

McLean said the courses initially offered on the interactive video system will be graduate level selections.

The university mostly serves returning adult students with undergraduate and graduate level business and education courses.

The university opened its Wheeling campus at 1000 Capitol Drive last year to increase its presence in the Northwest suburbs.

University officials also plan to extend the interactive video system to its Wheaton campus and Elgin Academic Center.

The university's courses could also be offered to colleges in the state through the interactive video system, officials said.

National-Louis University received a \$1.6 million state grant to develop an interactive video system that will make its classes available to students through television.

The university's Wheeling campus will dedicate a classroom for the interactive video system that allows students and instructors to talk with each other even though they may be in different locations.

Patricia McLean, director of the university's Wheeling campus, said the interactive video system will make it more convenient for students to attend their courses even though they are far from their home campus.

"If you're enrolled for a class (with interactive video) it doesn't matter what site you go to. It's convenient," she said.

Starting in the fall 1995 semester at the university, Wheeling will be a part of the interactive system with National-Louis campuses in Evanston and Chicago.

The university received a

# Village property tax levy may drop by 7.6% in '95

■ Wheeling: Homeowners may get a gift this year, to be delivered next year—lower village property taxes.

Village officials unveiled a proposed \$6.1 million property tax levy payable in 1995 that is 7.6 percent lower than what the village levied in property taxes this year.

The reason for the decrease, according to finance director Robert Fialkowski, is an abatement in the debt service levy, made possible by alternate sources of revenue.

Among the alternate sources are water and sewer revenues and fund balance, and money that has accumulated in the general obligation debt service fund.

The village's proposed tax rate would drop from 1.084 to between 0.97 and 1.071, Fialkowski said.

Based on the 0.97 rate, the owner of a \$150,000 house could expect to pay about \$470 to the village in property taxes next year, which is \$48 less than this year.

Carri Karuhn

# Palwaukee launches customer survey

11-21-94  
By DEBBIE LIVELY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Patrons of Palwaukee Municipal Airport will soon receive questionnaires regarding the quality of services at the Wheeling facility.

"The intent is to look at ourselves. What are people's opinions about Palwaukee. Are we really user friendly? Are we good guys or are we being bureaucratic?" said Prospect Heights Commissioner Nick Helmer.

Airport commissioners have said a survey of the airport's users is necessary to find the

answer to such questions as why aviators stop housing their planes at the facility.

The survey will ask Palwaukee users such questions as why they choose to use Palwaukee and if they plan to continue using the airport.

They'll also be asked to rate airport services such as the cost of aircraft storage, the physical condition of the airport and the responsiveness of the staff.

The questionnaires will be mailed out randomly to 100 transient patrons who use the airport as a stopping ground to refuel and

drop-off passengers.

An additional 100 surveys will be mailed to base patrons, who house their planes at Palwaukee, Helmer added. The survey is being conducted by aviation officials from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The airport has about 600 transient customers and 325 base clients.

Findings from the survey, which was recently mailed, will be publicly published and given to the airport's joint commission to review, Helmer said.

Airport commissioners are looking to the survey as a tool they can use to help them find additional revenue sources from the facility.

Some commissioners have said they hope new revenue sources from the airport can be developed more quickly than are called for under the facility's long-range development plans.

The airport, jointly operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, is in the middle of a \$83.5 million renovation project to bring it up to federal standards.

## Healthy cash reserves let Wheeling lower tax levy

11-22-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday tentatively approved a 1994-95 property tax levy of \$6.1 million, 7.6 percent lower than this year's \$6.6 million levy.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Judy Abruscato absent, Wheeling's village board tentatively approved the lower levy proposal, mainly because of other revenue sources and deep budget reserves, said Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski.

"This will leave us in the same excellent shape we're in now and keep services where they're at," he said.

Under the new levy, Fialkowski predicts Wheeling's current property tax rate of \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed valuation could drop under a dollar, perhaps to 97 cents, depending on Cook County's assessment of the village's tax base.

Fialkowski estimated that in future years the village's tax rate could drop to the 70-cent range.

The proposed levy calls for the village to cover \$500,000 of its repayment of bonds with

reserves. That would reduce the bond levy from \$2.2 million this year to \$1.7 million next fiscal year.

Furthermore, thanks to village revenues from its tax increment finance district in the area of the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection, the village is also using budget reserves to make a \$488,488 payment on bond borrowing used to develop that area.

The village is not adding to the fire department pension fund in the new levy, Fialkowski said. Funding for that pension can be taken from reserves, too.

Fialkowski said that unlike other taxing bodies, the village also has revenues such as license fees and its own 0.25 percent home-rule sales tax on local retail purchases.

Wheeling trustees will review the levy at 8 p.m., Dec. 19, at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road in a truth-in-taxation hearing and then vote on the measure.

Because the levy is not 105 percent higher than the current one, the village is not required to hold the hearing, but will anyway.

## Schultz receives mayors award

11-22-94  
Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz recently received the Mount Prospect Mayors Award for Most Outstanding Display by the Wheeling Police Department at Randhurst Mall.

This is the third award the village has received from the Randhurst show which features local police departments, Schultz said.

## Fruit market may fill center's vacancy

12-1-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new food store may move into the Wheeling Shopping Center space formerly held by Franklin's Finer Foods.

Wheeling officials Wednesday said an unnamed fruit market has indicated an interest in moving into the vacancy in the shopping center at 291 E. Dundee Road.

Wheeling officials and residents have said the loss of Franklin's last year in a Christmas Eve fire and the scheduled closing of the nearby Dominick's Finer Foods store in early 1995 would affect the village's economy.

"It's changing the whole dynamics of the area," said Craig Huotari, who owns Craig's barber shop near

"People used to buy (houses) here because they had shopping to go to."

- Craig Huotari, owner of Craig's barber shop

Wheeling Shopping Center. "People used to buy (houses) here because they had shopping to go to."

The center's anchor space has been vacant since the Dec. 24 fire gutted the food store, which had been there for five years.

Wheeling officials said shopping center owner Ruth Miller has been

talking with the fruit market about leasing the space.

Miller could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck said that if another food store were to move there, it would only have to get village licenses and could avoid a planning review.

The available space has recently been remodeled, Janeck added.

"The village would like to see a food store in there," Janeck said.

A representative for Miller said a fruit market may lease the space but declined to provide further information about it.

Wheeling officials said a produce company also recently inquired about obtaining a business license for a store in the vacant space but did not make a formal application.

# Revoking business licenses made easy

11-22-94  
from concerns over one kind of business in the village.  
"As a part of the review (of ordinances) we determined the procedure for revocation of business licenses was very general. We felt it should be more specific," he said.  
Under the revised act, the village manager can temporarily suspend a business license if the business is a hazard to the public.  
Rhodes said that part of the ordinance needed to be made specific so the village could close

down a business that had a non-food related health hazard.  
The measure also specifies several other conditions under which the village would have the right to suspend a business license.  
Those conditions allow the suspension for fraud by the business or if false statements are discovered on the enterprise's license application.  
Other actions that could lead to a business license being suspended include preventing village officials from inspecting the estab-

ishment's premises or being convicted of a morals crime.  
Also under the ordinance, any business license holder has until 10 days after the license has been suspended to appeal the village's decision and ask for a hearing on the matter.  
Whatever decision village officials reach is the final word on the license revocation, according to the code.  
Rhodes said that other communities, including Buffalo Grove, are considering similar revisions of their business license suspension ordinances.

Business licenses made easy  
The Wheeling village board recently approved a revised ordinance that spells out the conditions under which the village can suspend a business license.  
Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the ordinance was revised because it wasn't specific enough about when a business license could be suspended.  
He added that the changes he recommended did not originate

## Teacher honored for quick action

12-1-94  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

12-1-94  
A quick-thinking teacher at Holmes Junior High School, 221 S. Wolf Road, recently helped Wheeling police apprehend a man who attempted to lure girls into his car.

Greg Klatecki, who teaches eighth-grade science, was honored Nov. 21 by the Wheeling Police Department and Village Board for his role in the arrest of Lazaro Guerrero, 36, of Wheeling, who was charged Nov. 9 with two felony counts of child abduction.

Two girls who claim they were previously approached by Guerrero saw his car near the school and notified Klatecki. The girls were told to call police while Klatecki reached into Guerrero's car and pulled the keys from the ignition.

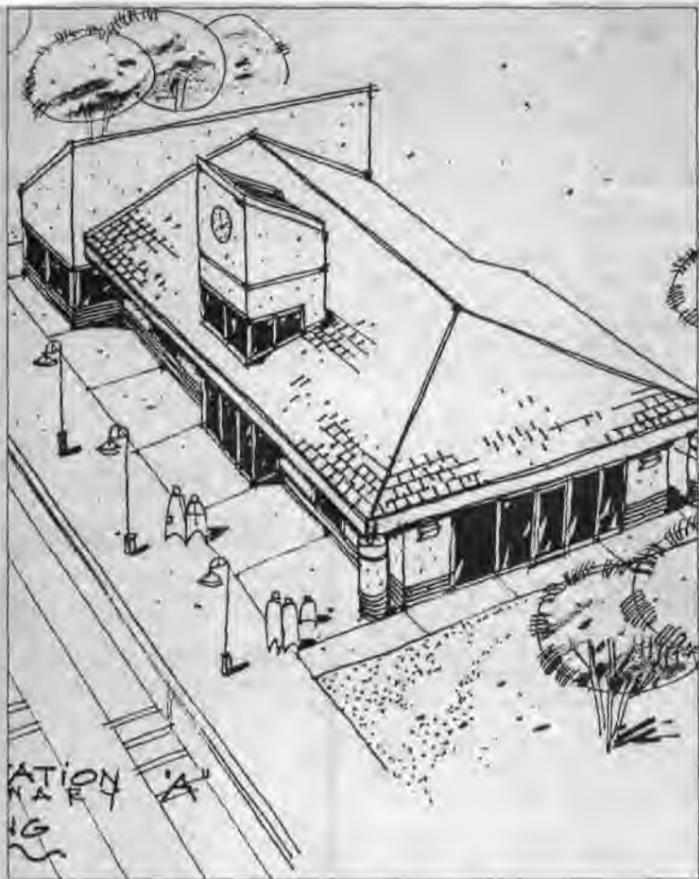
Guerrero was unable to leave the car until police arrived.

"I did what I had to do. Does that make me a hero? I don't think so," Klatecki said, adding, however, that he is grateful for the honor he received from the village.

"The parents deserve a lot of credit for teaching their girls what they were suppose to do, and they did it," Klatecki said. "The world would be a lot better place if more people did what they were suppose to do."

Officials at Holmes Junior High first reported Nov. 8 that several girls were allegedly approached by the man.

Guerrero appeared in Cook County court, Rolling Meadows, Nov. 18 where a motion to increase his bond was denied. The judge let Guerrero's bond stand at \$20,000. Guerrero posted 10 percent (\$2,000) and was released.



Architect Ken Bernheim told Wheeling officials a "shed" on the south end of the proposed commuter station would relieve the extended view of the train tracks. However, some officials didn't see eye-to-eye with Bernheim on the design.

## Wheeling trustees concerned with look of new rail station

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are seeking \$1.3 million in state grants to build a commuter train station, but that doesn't mean they like how it could look.

Wheeling trustees agreed to seek funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation to build the village a 2,600-square-foot station on the new commuter rail line of the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

However, some Wheeling officials raised objections to a proposed design that calls for a shed on the south end of the building, architect Ken Bernheim described.

The new station, which village officials estimated could cost \$2 million excluding land costs, will feature a clock tower, vendor spaces and 650 parking spaces.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz called the shed "jarring."

"I do like the clock tower, but I don't particularly care for that appendage," she said. Bernheim, from the

Northbrook-based Bernheim Kahn & Elisco architecture firm, said the shed was placed on the end of the building to provide aesthetic relief for passengers looking down the tracks who see nothing to break up that view.

Bernheim added that a ticket agent and offices for the agent could be located in the shed.

Some Wheeling trustees were indifferent to the design while others shared Schultz's view about the station.

The station will be located on several acres just south of Dundee Road and west of Wheeling's village hall near the Wickes Furniture Showrooms store.

Bernheim agreed to return to the Wheeling village board today with a revised plan for the station design.

The 53-mile commuter rail line will span from O'Hare International Airport to the Wisconsin border.

Wheeling is one of 11 towns along the line planning to build a commuter station.

The rail line is set to begin operating in April 1996.

## AmVets hearing continued

Many residents showed their support of the Wheeling AmVets Post 66 last week as they crowded into Village Hall for a Liquor Commission hearing that could have revoked the post's liquor license.

An attorney representing the AmVets asked Nov. 14 that charges against the post be dismissed, just as a Cook County Circuit Court judge previously dismissed misdemeanor gambling charges against two veterans.

The Liquor Commission, made up of village trustees, continued the hearing to Dec. 19.

Problems for the AmVets began in the spring when Wheeling police raided the post at 700 McHenry Road.

Two men were charged with misdemeanor gambling as officers seized video poker machines, \$2,713 cash and gambling records during the raid.

Wheeling police said the raid was the culmination of a six- to eight-week investigation of the post during which an undercover officer received cash payments for wagering on the poker machines.

Those gambling charges were dismissed in August by a judge who said police officers did not have search or arrest warrants for the raid.

Liquor commissioners agreed to continue the hearing to give the village prosecutor time to respond to the AmVets' attorney's motion to dismiss.

The AmVets' attorney will then have the opportunity to respond to the prosecutor's brief. Village Manager Craig Anderson said each attorney requested two weeks to prepare his brief.

Both briefs should be completed and reviewed by liquor commissioners prior to the Dec. 19 hearing, Anderson said.

"Certainly there's a possibility their license could be revoked, suspended or they could be fined," Anderson said.

## Wheeling trustees reject 'shed' look for train station

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials agreed to a more traditional design for a proposed commuter train station after rejecting the idea of a station with a "shed."

Wheeling trustees approved a revised plan from architect Ken Bernheim for the village's proposed Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station.

The revised design calls for a commuter station without the "shed," as Bernheim called it, on the station's south end.

Featuring a clock tower in its middle, Wheeling officials said the building would resemble the one planned for Buffalo Grove.

"I like the simpler design with the clock and maybe another clock," said Wheeling Trustee Elizabeth Hartman.

Bernheim had proposed the protruding so-called shed on the earlier design as a way to relieve commuters' view of endless railroad tracks.

Bernheim also submitted to Wheeling officials a design for a building with two sheds. The trustees rejected the plan.

Wheeling officials said that while the village's commuter sta-

tion would resemble Buffalo Grove's, it probably would be bigger. Buffalo Grove's commuter station, also designed by Bernheim's Bernheim Kahn & Elisco architecture firm, is slated to be 1,125 square feet.

Officials previously said the Wheeling station could be 2,600 square feet and include a ticket agent, vendor areas and 650 parking spaces.

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said adding a second clock to the village's commuter station would be difficult because of the surrounding landscaping on the building. A tree would probably obscure the view of the clock.

Officials have said the 53-mile commuter rail line will be operating by April 1996.

Wheeling's station will be located on several acres south of 425 W. Dundee Road and west of Northgate Parkway.

Wheeling officials have said the station will cost them \$2 million to build excluding the land costs.

Officials have said the Wheeling stop along the line will be the busiest, with more commuters boarding the line there than at any other stop.

## Wheeling officials to give parking violators the boot

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees secured a new revenue source by approving use of the Denver boot wheel lock device for parking ticket scofflaws.

The Wheeling village board recently agreed to attach the famous Denver boot to the wheels of vehicles to get the owners to pay their outstanding parking fines.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the village wouldn't boot anyone unless they had ignored repeated village warnings and their fine for at least a single violation had reached \$125.

Rhodes said it was not unusual for some motorists to accumulate several hundred dollars worth of parking ticket fines.

Typically, said village officials, Wheeling collects about \$2,000 a month in revenue from parking tickets. In October Wheeling received \$1,400 in parking fine revenue, officials said.

Village officials are uncertain how much the town is losing in

uncollected fines. Motorists who find the boot affixed to their vehicles can go to the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, seven days a week around the clock to pay their fines to the police department. Police will remove the device after payment.

Wheeling officials will place a sticker on each booted vehicle detailing how much is owed in parking fines.

Wheeling will probably begin using the boot by Jan. 1. Rhodes said the two boots the village is planning to purchase, costing \$400 each, should pay for themselves almost immediately.

Other communities such as Barrington, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect and Palatine use the device to collect parking fines. Schaumburg officials are also considering using the boot.

Many of the towns use the boot for parking violators at their train stations.

In 1986 Wheeling will have a station on the Wisconsin Central Railroad line that includes three commuter parking lots.

## HISPANICS: Police often lack funds for language training

“  
ne problems

“From a practical point of view ... if there is a language barrier, the police work is hampered because the police officer doesn't have adequate information and, at the same time, the citizen isn't receiving the full benefit of the police services.”

— **Teresita Diaz, executive director of the Hispanic Institute of Law Enforcement**

“If you've ever been in an emergency, you know how scary that situation can be. Can you imagine how scary that would be if you couldn't communicate with somebody?”



O'MALLEY

— **Michael J. O'Malley, Hoffman Estates village president**

“I have a friend (who was arrested). He said, 'I didn't understand what he (the police officer) was saying to me, he just threw the handcuffs on me and threw me in the police car.' ... If you go to any court, are they going to believe you or are they going to believe the police officer?”

— **Martin Rojas, an Elgin resident**

“Typically, an officer is going to overreact if they don't understand something. Many ethnic people may use their hands to gesture, and an officer may see that as threatening. If the officer misreads that, you've got problems.”

— **Art Contreras, assistant chief of the Houston Police Department**

### The solutions

“You really can't offer somebody a four-hour class and expect them to communicate proficiently with a caller in Spanish. The danger is, if you know a few phrases, then they talk a mile a minute in a language they think you are proficient in.”

— **Doug Edmonds, execu-**



Ernest Lozano, a liaison officer with the Cook County Sheriff's Department, works with participants in an English as a second language class at the Edgebrook Community Center in Palatine.

Daily Herald Photo/John Konstantaras

Continued from Page 1

conversation.

As a result, officers often turn to bilingual neighbors or even small children for assistance during police investigations.

“From a practical point of view, if there is a language barrier, the police work is hampered because the police officer doesn't have adequate information and, at the same time, the citizen isn't receiving the full benefit of the police services,” said Teresita Diaz, of the Hispanic Institute of Law Enforcement.

In Rolling Meadows, Hispanics make up roughly 11 percent of the population. The police department has received widespread praise for the creation of a neighborhood resource center that provides police and social services to residents living in a predominantly Hispanic part of town.

The department employs bilingual social workers, dispatchers and part-time administrative help, yet no Rolling Meadows police officers — including those assigned to the neighborhood resource center — are Hispanic or speak Spanish

tion.

The disparity is not lost on police administrators, but the issue is not an easy one to resolve, according to Rolling Meadows Deputy Chief Doug Larsson. He said the department has not had much success yet in hiring Hispanic officers, though he sees the need.

“It makes a statement to the population that you serve,” Larsson said. “It says we as a police department consider their representation on our department to be part of our goals.”

At a minimum, the number of Hispanic police officers on the department should reflect the composition of the community — which is 11 percent Hispanic, Larsson said. To help achieve that goal, the department is actively trying to recruit Hispanic officer candidates by publishing notices in Spanish publications and working with Hispanic fraternities and employment agencies.

Last year, the department took its recruiting efforts a step further and asked the city council to grant them more flexibility in choosing officers off the departmental plac-

ing occurs on the department, police must select the name on the top of the list.

Police were seeking, however, the authority to select any candidate in the top 25 percent of the list. The change would have enabled the department to hire Hispanic officers who scored well on the test but may not have been at the top of the list, Larsson said. The city council rejected the proposal, however, on the basis that it could result in discrimination against candidates higher up on the list.

“I really believe there are quality people out there that we're just not reaching,” Larsson said.

“At a minimum in communities where you've gone over a certain threshold — more than 10 percent Hispanic — there would need to be a commitment to have at least several officers who do speak Spanish,” Marzahl said. “It's one thing to have a white or a black police officer who's made the effort to learn Spanish, but it's a whole other message that you send by making sure you have various ethnic groups represent-

### Hispanic population in the Northwest suburbs

Town	1980 Hispanic pop.	% of total pop.	1990 Hispanic pop.	% of total pop.
Algonquin	67	1.1%	202	1.7%
Arlington Heights	1,149	1.7%	2,046	2.7%
Barrington	111	1.2%	157	1.6%
Barrington Hills	23	0.63%	55	1.3%
Bartlett	346	2.6%	654	3.3%
Buffalo Grove	345	1.5%	711	1.9%
Carpentersville	2,141	9.1%	3,840	16.6%
Des Plaines	2,139	3.9%	3,520	6.6%
East Dundee	42	1.6%	85	3.1%
Elgin	6,529	10.2%	14,576	18.9%
Elk Grove Village	741	2.5%	1,192	3.5%
Fox River Grove	50	1.9%	99	2.7%
Hanover Park	1,748	6.0%	3,616	10.9%
Hoffman Estates	1,203	3.2%	2,543	5.4%
Inverness	36	0.8%	83	1.2%
Lake Barrington	14	0.6%	27	0.7%
Lake in the Hills	107	1.8%	127	2.1%
Long Grove	41	2.0%	120	2.5%
Mount Prospect	1,225	2.3%	3,411	6.4%
North Barrington	5	0.3%	40	2.2%
Palatine	618	1.9%	1,410	3.5%
Prospect Heights	630	5.3%	2,190	14.3%
Rolling Meadows	1,303	6.4%	2,522	11.1%
Schaumburg	986	1.8%	1,829	2.6%
Sleepy Hollow	16	.80%	41	1.2%
South Barrington	1	.08%	14	.40%
Streamwood	1,213	5.1%	2,298	7.4%
West Dundee	38	1.0%	76	2.0%
Wheeling	1,282	5.5%	2,508	8.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Daily Herald Graphic

understand what he (the police officer) was saying to me, he just threw the handcuffs on me and threw me in the police car' ... If you go to any court, are they going to believe you or are they going to believe the police officer?”

Hoffman Estates Police Chief Donald Cundiff said his officers have been through cultural awareness training. But he also says that language barriers are not a big enough problem now to warrant extensive training.

To help emergency personnel address the large Asian, Hispanic and Polish population in Hoffman Estates, the village recently enlisted the help of volunteer inter-

borrowed officers from Hanover Park. You usually don't run into that many instances where you can't communicate.”

In cases where an interpreter is an absolute necessity, many police departments rely on a service provided by AT&T for interpreters. For a fee, police may contact the “Language Line” and be placed in contact with an interpreter who speaks any one of 140 languages.

Northwest Central Dispatch relies heavily on the service, Executive Director Doug Edmonds said.

Although Northwest Central Dispatch receives a call

Those communities that have more than 5 or 10 percent minorities are going to see

increased numbers in the coming years and so, to not start planning for that —



whether it's **MARZAH** law enforcement, whether it's social services, whether it's housing or education — is really short-sighted." — **David Marzahl, executive director of the Chicago Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Protection**

"English is the primary language of the land, and not only do law enforcement officers have a responsibility to communicate (with citizens), but they (Hispanic residents) also have to learn to speak English if they are going to live in this country."

— **state Rep. Terry Parke, a Hoffman Estates Republican**

"Professionally, I think it's critical (to hire Hispanic officers). It says we as a police department consider their representation on our department to be part of our goals."

— **Rolling Meadows Deputy Police Chief Doug Larsson**

## Suburban cops slow to learn other languages

Town	# of sworn officers	# that speak Spanish	# that speak other languages
Algonquin	24	0	2 (Polish)
Arlington Heights	106	*2	5 (Polish, German, Portuguese, Greek)
Barrington	29	*0	0
Bartlett	35	*1	0
Buffalo Grove	64	2	8 (Polish, German, Hungarian)
Carpentersville	43	1	0
Des Plaines	96	1	2 (Greek, German)
East Dundee	17	2	0
Elgin	131	*6	0
Elk Grove Village	98	5	1 (Polish)
Gilberts	9	0	0
Hanover Park	43	*2	0
Hoffman Estates	91	3	0
Lake in the Hills	18	0	0
Mount Prospect	72	5	1 (German and Polish)
Palatine	80	5	1 (German)
Prospect Heights	22	*0	1 (Italian)
Rolling Meadows	55	*0	3 (French, German, Polish)
Schaumburg	137	2	1 (Polish)
Sleepy Hollow	15	*1	0
South Barrington	9	*0	0
Streamwood	47	3	1 (German)
West Dundee	19	0	0
Wheeling	52	*5	1 (Czech, German, Polish)

\* Some officers have been trained to speak key police-related phrases in Spanish.  
Source: Local police departments.  
Daily Herald Graphic

## Language barrier

Aside from the absence of Hispanic officers on many local departments, statistics show that a very small percentage of suburban officers can even speak enough Spanish to gather preliminary facts regarding an emergency situation.

Of the 1,314 sworn police officers in 24 Northwest suburban communities, just 46 can speak conversational Spanish.

Suburban officers say they usually can piece together a sufficient picture of what happened during a domestic case or a battery incident by using hand signals, hearing a key word or two and talking to witnesses of almost any age.

Relying on broken English, witness accounts and child interpreters may make a police officer's job easier, but it also can create problems for foreigners who are unable to recount their views of a possible criminal situation. As a result, some minorities fall victim to unfair treatment by police, according to Thelma Talamantes, of Meadows Community Services in Rolling Meadows.

"If the community is growing in those kinds of populations, it is definitely a problem if there is no one who speaks those languages," Talamantes said. "I've had people who told me they got a ticket and it wasn't their fault, but, because they couldn't explain their side of the story, they got the ticket."

Elgin resident Martin Rojas speaks enough English to get by but says some of his Spanish-speaking friends have not been so lucky.

"I have a friend (who was arrested)," Rojas said. "He said, 'I didn't

know' and he was arrested. Different languages have been placed on a list and may be called upon to interpret in emergency situations.

"If you've ever been in an emergency, you know how scary that situation can be," Hoffman Estates Village President Michael J. O'Malley said. "Can you imagine how scary that could be if you couldn't communicate with somebody?"

At least for the time being, governments have been reluctant to step in and mandate that police officers be required to learn Spanish. In fact, many would argue that it is unrealistic to expect emergency personnel to be able to carry on a conversation in virtually any language.

"English is the primary language of the land, and not only do law enforcement officers have a responsibility to communicate, but they (minorities) also have to learn to speak English if they are going to live in this country," said state Rep. Terry Parke, a Hoffman Estates Republican.

Although legislation is in place requiring that health-care providers and the courts offer interpreters when needed, no such laws have been proposed for emergency personnel, nor should they be, Parke said.

## Training not a priority

Some administrators say some type of interpretation service should be available, but training all officers to speak Spanish is not a top priority.

"I think it would be nice," Streamwood Deputy Chief Larry Knoll said. "We're next to Elgin and they have a high Hispanic population. We have Hispanic officers on the department and we have

other day from a non-English speaking resident, no dispatchers speak Spanish fluently and only three of 35 dispatchers can "get by" enough to converse with some Spanish callers, he said.

Typically, it takes dispatchers about five minutes to reach an interpreter through AT&T. While Edmonds admits five minutes could be a long time in an emergency situation, he says no serious problems have ever been reported due to a language barrier.

The agency has discussed training dispatchers to speak Spanish, but determined it is not practical.

"The difficulty is if you put them through an eight-hour course, you're going to give them a few words and phrases that aren't going to do any good," Edmonds said. "... Once the caller thinks the dispatcher knows Spanish, they are going to be off and running (speaking fast) and we're convinced it would not be that productive."

## Wheeling's answer

The Wheeling Police Department, however, believes Spanish training has been very productive.

Buoyed by a financial commitment on the part of the village board, the Wheeling police department has spent \$9,000 in the past three years to enroll each of its officers in a 40-hour Spanish class and \$10,000 for cultural awareness training for all officers. Wheeling also has opened a neighborhood resource center to serve the Hispanic community, which makes up about 8.4 percent of the town's population.

While the officers are by no means fluent following the Spanish classes, officer Chris Parr says her newfound skills are invaluable. Shortly after completing the class Parr was called to a domestic violence situation in which no one in the home spoke English.

"We were called to a situation where we got a call from a child who said mom and dad were fighting," Parr said. "By the time we got there, mom had been hit a couple times and dad had left. (By speaking Spanish) we were able to get the names and kind of car he was driving and where he might be going (and ultimately resolve the problem)."

**The Chicago Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Protection is in the process of forming a suburban task force to study the Hispanic population's needs in terms of law enforcement, housing, social services and a variety of other issues. For information, call 312-441-2990.**

# Language differences pose problems for police in ethnic communities

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Though he spoke only broken English, Nicholas Munoz knew the phrase "Dial 911 for emergency" fluently.

He also had no doubt that there was an emergency lying in the back seat of his car, where the mother of his child was about to give birth.

But Munoz, a Palatine resident, learned the hard way that for a Spanish-speaking resident in the suburbs, dialing 911 isn't always foolproof.

The 25-year-old man frantically dialed 911 from a Hoffman Estates gas station, but when the voice on the other end of the phone began explaining to him in English that his

call had been transferred mistakenly to a Schaumburg dispatcher, a confused and frustrated Munoz hung up and was forced to run out into the street in search of his own emergency assistance.

Luckily for the couple, Munoz successfully flagged down Officer Vince Pusateri, who had no trouble understanding the universal signs for "help!" The two cast aside their language differences and, together, helped Hilda Vencez give birth to a healthy daughter.

This story has a happy ending, but it is just one example of how a language or cultural barrier can make an emergency situation even more volatile.

A similar case occurred recently in Rolling Meadows, where a Span-

ish-speaking resident in the East Park apartment complex tried to tell a 911 operator that his sister was about to give birth, but was unable to relay his message in English.

Using enhanced 911 technology, police were able to track the phone call to the man's address, but were surprised to learn that the man actually had gone to another apartment to make the phone call and his sister was about to give birth in a different area of town.

"He made the call from a relative's apartment," Rolling Meadows Officer Tony Luzin recalled. "He went there and he was running back the other way (when police spotted him). He said they didn't have a phone in the other apartment. I had my radio with me, so I radioed the

dispatcher and told them (to tell paramedics) where the correct apartment was."

Instances like these are occurring throughout the country, as police try to adjust to the rapid influx of Spanish-speaking immigrants. Failure to adjust services to meet the demands of a changing community can be dangerous and costly for police departments, according to Art Contreras.

Contreras is assistant chief of the Houston Police Department and second national vice president for the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association.

In the Houston area, police mistakenly arrested the victim of a robbery and assault after the offender,

who could speak English, told police that he, in fact, was the one who was attacked.

"This poor person who had been victimized by the perpetrator also had been victimized by the police department," Contreras said.

Although police were able to convince the man not to pursue any legal recourse, this type of mistake can open departments up to significant lawsuits, Contreras said.

"If they (police) mishandle a situation, it can become a very costly situation," he said. "Typically, an officer is going to overreact if they don't understand something. Many ethnic people may use their hands to gesture, and an officer may see that as threatening. If the officer misreads that, you've got problems."

# Where does bias figure into Hispanic arrests?

11-28-94

## Police tackle problem with classes for residents, officers

Part 2 of 2 parts

BY AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although they make up just 18 percent of Elgin's population, Hispanic residents composed 63 percent of all drunken-driving arrests in 1992.

By 1993, that number had dropped to 48 percent — still a disproportionate share of arrests.

Police blame the discrepancy on a number of issues, including social and economic background, the language barrier and the Hispanic population's general unfamiliarity with city laws. They also admit, however, that the numbers could reflect something no one likes to talk about: racism, plain and simple.

The Chicago area's Spanish-speaking population has exploded in the past decade, growing by roughly 40 percent. The influx of

### The struggle to communicate



Spanish-speaking residents has left police struggling to find new ways to communicate, but it also has raised new questions about the age-old issue of police bias toward minorities.

"It can definitely be a problem. Sometimes aggressiveness can become racism," Elgin Deputy Chief Jim Burns said. "I think there's little question that (residents being stopped on the basis of race) was being done."

### 'El Protector'

Burns said Elgin police have been

dealing with a large Hispanic population for many years, but a review of the department's arrest statistics prompted police to take an even closer look at how Hispanics were being treated by officers.

The Elgin Police Department has six bilingual Hispanic officers and offers a variety of programs that provide specialized police service to the Hispanic community. But police wanted to do more, Burns said.

With the help of an annual \$100,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Elgin created the "El Protector" traffic safety program. Wearing black jeans, a white T-shirt and a black leather coat, El Protector (a.k.a. officer Pete Almeida) teaches Spanish-speaking residents traffic laws and safety tips.

The program not only teaches Hispanic residents about the local

See **POLICE** on Page 7



Elgin Officer Pete Almeida teaches youths traffic safety as part of the El Protector program, created in part to help reduce the high number of traffic citations issued to Hispanic residents.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

## POLICE: Cooperation with INS draws fire

Continued from Page 1

laws, but it also forces police to build relationships with members of the Hispanic community, according to Almeida, who believes the effects of the educational program already are being demonstrated in the decline of the drunk-driving arrests.

"(Residents) enjoy seeing a Hispanic officer spend time with them and answer questions," he said. "It's a good method of bridging the language and cultural gaps between law enforcement and the Hispanic community."

### Bias not uncommon

What Elgin police found when they began to scrutinize their arrest records may not be unique among suburban police departments. Hispanic advocates say that as the area's Hispanic population has grown, so has the presence of police bias.

Connie LoPresti, a Palatine Park District employee, said she runs across police bias regularly through her volunteer work with young people from the culturally diverse Steeple Hill condominium complex in Hoffman Estates.

"I just think police officers are trained in a certain mind-set and they are too tough on kids," LoPresti said. "We need to educate them. ... Just because there are three of them (Hispanic youths) in a parking lot doesn't mean it's a gang."

LoPresti, who is an advocate of specialized cultural training for police, says she was shocked by a story she heard from a Hoffman Estates police officer, whom she would not identify.

"A new Hoffman Estates officer was told at the police academy, 'If you aren't prejudiced now, you will be after one month on the street,'" she said. "It concerned me because here is this new officer going in with a positive attitude, but having someone telling you that, I didn't think was real good."

Hoffman Estates Police Chief Donald Cundiff does not know in what context the statement may have been made but admitted officer's attitudes typically do change

"I think there's a possibility of (biased treatment) and that's something we have to guard against," he said. "They (police administrators) understand the towns are changing in population, and they are addressing that now."

### Gangs and the INS

Another growing area of concern is a cooperative gang-crackdown effort by suburban police departments and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Although the crackdown is designed to locate and deport illegal aliens who are involved in gang activity, some advocates say innocent residents are being stopped on the basis of race.

One such case occurred recently in Palatine, where sheriff's police and representatives from the INS pulled over a young Hispanic male based solely on his Hispanic appearance, alleges Lisa Palumbo, an attorney with the Chicago Legal Assistance Foundation.

Police did not accuse him of any crime and proceeded to question the Spanish-speaking man about his immigrant status, Palumbo said.

He promptly was handcuffed and placed in the back seat of the squad car with another Hispanic man. Police then proceeded to drive through the area and randomly stop and detain three other Hispanic males, according to immigration court documents.

Saying police lacked reasonable suspicion to stop the first man, an immigration judge released him and ruled that any information obtained by the INS in the illegal search was not valid.

Although the man was an undocumented alien, he is not involved in a gang and had violated no laws when he was stopped, Palumbo said. Similar cases are occurring regularly in the suburbs and should be cause for alarm, she says.

"It's a constant pattern in the suburbs. It's where the INS and the police departments are targeting their work," she said. "Most people will say, 'Well, he's here illegally, it shouldn't matter if he was stopped.' But it could happen to you or I — that we could be stopped for no reason — and I think everyone should be outraged by that."

## To serve and protect — and also teach

### Police adjusting to new role in diverse society

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Hanover Park police Officer Jorge Martinez first went to the police academy, he envisioned himself using his authority, his badge and, if needed, his weapon, to fight crime and uphold the law.

But Martinez, like most other police officers, has learned that as society has changed, so has the role of a police officer.

Facing an ever-growing ethnic population, suburban police are beginning to evolve into teachers who must not only fight crime but educate immigrants about U.S. customs, laws and attitudes. At the same time, officers must take it upon themselves to learn the customs and cultures of all the citizens they are sworn to protect, Martinez said.

"The primary role of the police department is to maintain the peace and enforce the laws," Martinez said. "Recently, it seems we're moving into an area of community policing and community involvement, where the philosophy is 'we cannot do it all ourselves.'"

Rolling Meadows Police Officer Tony Luzin's job at the police neighborhood resource center at the East Park apartment complex is to keep the peace. But, in the culturally diverse community, he often finds himself taking on a somewhat parental role in an effort to teach children and adults



Rolling Meadows' officers Al Davis, left, and Tony Luzin work at the police neighborhood resource center in the city's predominately Hispanic East Park apartments. "The kids are our main building block down here," says Luzin.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

about discipline and living in the United States.

Those daily lessons can be found in something as trivial as a game of kickball.

For example, police and a local school district worked together to provide youths with a kickball, only to find that within a few days, the ball had been slashed and destroyed.

Shortly afterward, a child peeked his head in Luzin's window and asked for another ball. The officer explained that he can't get another ball until he finds out who destroyed the first one and sent the youth on his way. He then turned to a visitor and explained that a shiny, new kickball was sitting in the closet just a few feet away, but said giving in would solve nothing.

"We try to teach the kids responsibility. The kids are our main building-block down here," Luzin said, noting that teaching them about American culture is equally important. "I don't want them to become American. I want them to be bicultural. Their culture is important, their roots are very important to them. It's just that in order to make their lives better, they have to go to school and do well in school."

Not only do ethnic residents need to adjust to a new language

have a negative impression of police before they even step foot into the United States, according to Ken Felbinger, director of support services at the Hanover Park police department's neighborhood resource center in the Glendale Terrace apartment complex.

"One of the biggest problems (before the opening of the resource center) was the lack of the Spanish community wanting to call the police for service," Felbinger said, noting that residents were afraid they would be arrested or assaulted if they turned to the police for assistance. "I think typically when immigrants come into this country, police are not necessarily always their friends, they



Jorge Martinez



cer's attitudes typically do change once they've been out on the streets. That change in attitude is more a factor of the nature of the job, however, than pure racism, he said.

"They run into all types of people, and sometimes they don't know how to treat people, but that's not necessarily racially motivated," Cundiff said. "They always see the rotten side of life and they don't see the good side of life, so often they become cynical."

Police administrators have begun to recognize, however, that a disproportionate share of that cynicism often is directed at the Hispanic population. To address that, police have begun to include cultural awareness classes as part of basic training and later revisit the issue with individual officers as warranted, Cundiff said.



**"They enjoy seeing a Hispanic officer**

**spend time with them and answer questions. It's a good method of bridging the language and cultural gaps between law enforcement and the Hispanic community."**

— Pete Almeida, Elgin police officer



**"They (officers) run into all types of people and**

**sometimes they don't know how to treat people, but that's not necessarily racially motivated. They always see the rotten side of life and they don't see the good side of life, so often they become cynical."**

— Donald Cundiff, Hoffman Estates Police Chief

be outraged by that."

The INS declined to comment on its policies regarding its work with suburban police departments.

Elgin police cooperate with the INS gang unit, said Burns, who also maintains the random stops that occurred in the past no longer happen in Elgin.

"That was a common tactic used by police because the pressure was so strong to stop the gang activity," Burns said. "We have an active dialogue with Immigration. If they are involved in gang activity and they are here illegally, we have a lot more power (by working with the INS)."

## Proposition 187

Efforts to crackdown on illegal aliens have captured the nation's attention in recent weeks, following the overwhelming passage of California's controversial Proposition 187. The measure denies social services, education and all but emergency health care to the state's 1.4 million undocumented immigrants.

Although no such measure has been proposed in Illinois to date, it could be just a matter of time before the state's estimated 176,000 undocumented immigrants face a similar backlash.

Congressman Philip M. Crane, a Wauconda Republican, has gone on record saying he believes Proposition 187 should be adopted on a national level, and state Rep. Bernard Pedersen, a Palatine Republican, said he believes a crackdown on illegal immigrants in Illinois is imminent.

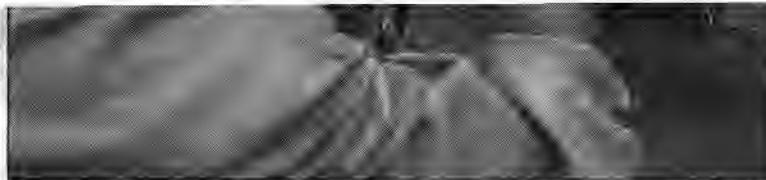
The ground swell of support for this type of legislation is cause for concern for immigrant rights advocates like James Isaacs, policy analyst for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Chicago.

Isaacs says the law violates the constitutional rights of the children of illegal aliens. Because the children are in this country under no choice of their own, they have a right to an education and social services, according to Isaacs, who says the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of undocumented children in the past.

"People are overreacting to a situation that has serious constitutional problems at the moment. People should not be looking for quick fixes to a very serious problem," Isaacs said.

Although MALDEF does not believe taxpayers should be forced to support all illegal immigrants, the agency believes the public will only be hurt by legislation like Proposition 187.

"We can't penalize children with respect to the actions of their parents," Isaacs said. "If we do, we will have a segment of the population that will be uneducated, and that's going to cause problems for our society."



Armando Saleh helps prepare citizenship documents by taking a photo of Margarita Lozano at the Wheeling Police Department's neighborhood resource center. The center provides Hispanic residents with a variety of social services. Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

## Varied languages present big challenge

BY AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Spanish still may be the main ingredient in the suburban melting pot, but as languages like Urdu, Gujarati and Farsi make their way into the area, many police officers are finding themselves drowning in a veritable talk soup.

Faced with a growing Hispanic population, suburban police officers are enrolling in Spanish and cultural awareness classes. But police administrators say Spanish-speaking officers are useless if the crime involves someone who speaks Polish, German or any one of a host of other languages.

At least 50 foreign languages are spoken in the households of students enrolled in Northwest suburban schools, Illinois State Board of Education statistics show.

The bulk of the students or their families speak more common languages like Spanish, Polish, Korean, Japanese and German. However, dozens of others speak lesser-known languages such as Gujarati, Urdu, Tagalog, Hindi, Farsi, Croatian, Cantonese and

Arabic.

Teaching police officers to speak all those languages would be impossible, says Hoffman Estates Police Chief Donald Cundiff. Simply determining what languages are out there is challenging enough, he adds.

"It's very difficult because you never know until you stop the person that they don't speak the language," Cundiff said. "We don't know how to handle it. So far we've been very lucky, but sometime we're not going to be."

Des Plaines resident Zenon Wegielnik was one of the unlucky ones.

Wegielnik was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol in Kenilworth on Oct. 12, 1988. A native of Poland, Wegielnik took his driver's license examination in Polish and was unable to understand the police officer who told him his license automatically would be suspended for six months if he refused to take a breath test.

The trial court and appellate court sided with Wegielnik, who contested the suspension of his li-

need to adjust to a new language, they also must learn to survive in what often is a drastically different culture. By the same token, police must learn to recognize the role cultural behavior plays in daily life, officers say.

Through cultural awareness seminars and working in predominantly Hispanic areas of the community, police also are learning that many foreign residents may

not understand the officer's warning. However, the Illinois Supreme Court overturned those rulings last year, stating that while state statutes require police to verbally give suspension warnings, the law says nothing about the motorist's ability to understand the warning.

That ruling, coupled with the fact that the secretary of state allows motorists to take driver's license examinations in their native tongue, sends mixed signals, Cook County Public Defender Jim Paese said.

"They give the test in whatever language they are fluent in, but there's no requirement that the officer speak that language or have an interpreter available," Paese said. "I think it creates a problem if you let them take the test in Polish, but you don't give them their rights in their language."

Larry Davis, Wegielnik's attorney, says the system is doing more than sending mixed signals, it is discriminating against minorities.

"It didn't make sense to say if you didn't speak English, you didn't enjoy the same rights as English-

## Top 10 foreign languages

Number of Northwest suburban students who reported that a language other than English is spoken in their homes.

Spanish.....	8,626
Polish.....	657
Lao.....	494
Pilipino.....	400
Gujarati.....	396
Korean.....	312
Greek.....	266
Italian.....	247
German.....	215
Japanese.....	187

Sources: Northwest Suburban High School District 214, Elgin Area Unit District 48, Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 and Dundee Unit District 300.

Daily Herald Graphic

speaking people did, which was to have these warnings given to you," Davis said.

"As long as we're going to allow these people to drive...how can we possibly punish them by denying them the same rights English-speaking people have. To some degree, it does represent discrimination."

## Police across the nation search for cultural bridges

BY AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The issue of language barriers and law enforcement is not unique to the Chicago area.

Metropolitan police departments have been addressing the situation with varied levels of success for years and smaller suburban departments are grappling with similar issues across the country.

In Harris County, Texas, for example, smaller, suburban departments rely heavily on the Houston Police Department to provide Spanish and cultural awareness training for their officers. Because the smaller departments may not be able to afford to start training programs on their

own, Houston serves as a regional training ground, said Houston Assistant Police Chief Art Contreras.

"The worst mistake a police department or even a school district can make is to develop a generic service delivery plan and expect it to work in every cultural part of the community. It just doesn't work — there are different expectations," Contreras said. "If I was with a medium-sized police department in (the Chicago area), I would think developing a regional police academy would be the most cost-effective."

The issue of police mistreatment of Hispanics and the inability to meet their needs was addressed last year through an extensive study by the United

States Commission on Civil Rights.

The commission's study addressed racial and ethnic tensions in American communities, but focused largely on the conditions that led up to the May 1991 riots between Washington, D.C., police and Hispanics. The spark that ignited the protest was the shooting of a Salvadoran male by a rookie police officer attempting to arrest him on charges of public drinking.

In general, the commission found the Washington area was lax in its recruiting efforts regarding bilingual personnel and the social, educational and public safety needs of the Hispanic community were not being addressed adequately.

The commission stated in its report that when it comes to a community's legitimate demands, excuses and reports of budgetary constraints should not be accepted. The group also called on all levels of government — including the federal level — to address the nationwide issue.

"The inability or unwillingness of urban governments to meet the needs of these immigrants has resulted in new unmet needs piling on top of needs unmet for decades," said Arthur Fletcher, chairman of the commission. "The frustrations that these conditions have wrought are both substantial and volatile and must be addressed urgently and forthrightly at all levels of government."

# Wheeling gives restaurant more time to finish project

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are giving a fast-food restaurant more time to complete a project.

The Checkers restaurant chain wants to build a 1,150 square-foot eatery with drive-up windows at 625 W. Dundee Road.

John Terzakis, development manager for Checker, said due to mismanagement from the chief executive officer for the Clearwater, Fla.-based chain, the company lost an \$80 million credit line needed to open 20 Chicago-area restaurants.

"We fought hard to get all this zoning, and then to leave it sit is embarrassing," Terzakis said.

The chain had won approval from Wheeling trustees in June 1993 to build at the West Dundee Road site.

Terzakis promised Wheeling trustees he would seek building permits in 45 days. He also said the company would build on a Lake-Cook-Weiland roads loca-

tion it won approval from the board for last March.

Wheeling officials considered withdrawing approval for the restaurant because the company has not sought building permits for the establishment for more than a year.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz noted the concern about the West Dundee Road site, saying it is a "visible" location in town.

A shuttered Brown's Chicken and Pasta Restaurant sits on the 32,000-square-foot parcel.

Terzakis said indications are the company soon would be sold and the restaurants previously slated for development would soon be built.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the abandoned building is a hazard and should be demolished soon.

Wheeling officials said they would consider whether the building could be demolished under a program where the village covers up to \$5,000 of the demolition costs.

# Fountain marking centennial nears completion in Wheeling

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With Wheeling's centennial year coming to a close, trustees say they soon will unveil a fountain commemorating the benchmark.

Wheeling village board members Monday chose benches and trash receptacles that will surround the fountain in front of Wheeling's village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

"We're getting there," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Anderson said electrical fixtures have been installed in the 50-foot by 50-foot fountain and it stands ready to be tested.

The fountain could be dedicated in a brief ceremony before the end of the year, Anderson said.

Wheeling trustees have not yet set a date for such a ceremony.

Starting this past February with the Wheeling Centennial Gala at Chevy Chase Country Club, the Wheeling Centennial Committee and other residents raised the \$130,000 for the fountain.

Originally projected to cost \$100,000, Anderson said bids for the fountain came in higher than expected.

Wheeling Park District officials initially were going to allow the village to place the fountain on park land adjacent to village hall.

However, park officials withdrew from the project in April when differences arose between the boards over where the fountain should be located in the park.

Park officials had said they pictured the fountain as a visual that would draw people into the park. Village officials said that if the fountain was placed too far from West Dundee Road, it would be hidden from passers-by.

Wheeling trustees have not yet determined if an untitled 12-foot by 10-foot three-ringed aluminum kinetic sculpture donated to them by the Abbott Interfast Corp. will be placed by the fountain.

Some village officials had said the sculpture would compliment the fountain. Others questioned placing the statue there.

# Wheeling OKs \$4.4 million levy

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents should notice a 7.6 percent decrease in the village portion of their 1994 property tax bills when they arrive next year.

Village trustees on Nov. 21 approved a \$4.4 million levy resolution and expect to approve the actual levy ordinance following a public hearing at 8 p.m. Dec. 19.

"It's really good news to keep within where we hope to be," Village President Sheila Schultz said, adding that the \$4.4 million figure will be the levy following an anticipated abatement in December.

Part of the levy, the fund to pay off general obligation bonds, is set at \$2.4 million, but Schultz said that will decrease to \$1.68 million after the abatement. That fund shows a 25 percent decrease from the 1993 tax year,

"The funds are in good shape," Schultz said. "After the abatements we still have sufficient fund balances."

Village Manager Craig Anderson explained that the village, by law, must levy enough to cover all of its expenses, but can then abate some if there is enough other income to certain expenses.

"What we're anticipating for the coming fiscal year is no more than a 6 percent increase in expenditures," Anderson said. "Our finance director has been very accurate in estimating expenditures."

Though the village portion of a resident's property tax bill is small, Schultz is glad the levy is under control.

"At least we have good news with the village section of the tax bill. We're happy we can keep our portion down," she said.



Tim J. Tufty/Pioneer Press

## Open house

National Louis University director Patti McLean demonstrates the schools computer system to Village President Sheila Schultz during an open house Wednesday.

# Food court on hold for Lynn Plaza

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees delayed approving a food court for a local shopping center until developers can settle parking issues at the site.

The food court is planned for the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center at 520-522 W. Dundee Road.

"The parking concerns me and you have to see it," Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

Village officials said they didn't want diners to be backing vehicles

into traffic entering the parking lot on the south end.

They called for James Kaplan, president of the Chicago-based James Kaplan Companies, the center's management firm, to delete the spaces.

Wheeling officials also said a sidewalk from the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks to the commuter station could be placed in the area formerly occupied by parking spaces.

Kaplan said that in his nearly 20-year association with the center there had never been an accident in the center's parking lot.

He also said that the spaces were essential to the food court.

Stung by the loss of the Dominick's Finer Foods store at the center, which is closing after the holiday shopping season, Kaplan proposed the food court to attract shoppers.

The food court will include a delicatessen and one or two other eateries in a 2,906 square-foot common area formerly occupied by a coin-operated laundry.

The common area, which would have 42 seats, also would provide access to the adjoining Baskin-

Robbins ice cream store.

Wheeling Trustee Elizabeth Hartman agreed with Kaplan that the south end parking spaces were needed.

"I think the economic viability of this business without two or three parking spaces will be affected," she said.

Kaplan previously agreed to eliminate some of the parking spaces at the south end of the shopping center.

Wheeling officials did not schedule a time when they would again review the project.

# Wheeling firefighters keep busy with calls

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
*Courtesy*

Wheeling firefighters responded to several fires in recent weeks, leading department officials to believe the number of emergency calls will exceed last year's total, possibly by 300 calls.

A fire Nov. 30 caused more than \$30,000 damage to a condominium at 16 E. Old Willow Road. Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the fire was started by improperly discarded smoking materials.

Fortunately, the fire was contained to the fifth-floor unit, he said. The unit did have smoke detectors but batteries were

**“A lot of fires are caused by inappropriate actions by people, basically human error.”**

missing, he said.

A Nov. 23 townhome fire at 385 Ferne Drive started in the basement when combustible materials were placed too close to a furnace. Again, MacIsaac said, smoke detectors were not working due to missing and dead batteries. Damage was estimated at over \$10,000.

Washington Specialty Metals, 475 Allendale Drive, suffered more than \$10,000 loss when a metal polishing machine had a mechanical failure and ignited lubricating oil Nov. 24. Wheeling firefighters were assisted by Buffalo Grove, Vernon Fire Protection District, Northbrook and Glenview departments.

## Winter fires

An automobile repair garage at 890 S. Milwaukee Ave. sustained more than \$500 damage from a fire caused by an overheated metal cleaning machine on Nov. 27.

More than \$3,000 damage was caused when improper smoking materials were discarded in the sanding room Nov. 28 at Marble Cast Products, 2211 Foster Ave.

“Historically we have more fires in the winter months, from late October to mid March,” MacIsaac said. “People are home more, and more likely to have accidental fires. Cold weather puts a strain on people who don't maintain their heaters, water heaters or smoke detectors.”

Maintaining a smoke detector is per-

haps the simplest way to prevent injury in case of a fire, he said.

“More than 50 percent (of the fires reported) have non-operating smoke detectors,” MacIsaac said. “It's almost a coin toss why it doesn't work — there's a dead battery or no battery.”

## Smoke detectors

Illinois state law and Wheeling village ordinance require a smoke detector in every business and outside each sleeping area in a residence, MacIsaac said.

Though state law allows for homeowners to be fined and charged for failing to maintain smoke detectors, MacIsaac said, a stern warning is usually sufficient.

“We do give them a verbal hard time and point out that circumstances could have been different had their smoke detectors been working,” he said. “We have had some near misses where people barely got out alive.”

Ambulance calls for the Wheeling department also have increased over the 1993 figures, MacIsaac said, stating road construction, traffic congestion, an aging population and population growth as top factors.

For fires, he said, “The severity of the fires is down but the number from last year is up.”

## Emergency calls

The Wheeling department responded to 3,071 emergency calls for fire and ambulance in 1993, MacIsaac said. “I expect we'll have between 3,250 and 3,300 for this year,” he said.

Besides keeping batteries in smoke detectors, MacIsaac said, residents should occasionally vacuum the detectors to remove dust, test detectors to ensure they are working, and replace them if they are more than 5 years old.

“Maintain your heating system in your home or business,” MacIsaac suggests. “Have it, your water heater and equipment professionally serviced annually. Don't accumulate waste in your house — paper or plastic.”

A holiday tip, MacIsaac said, make sure hidden presents are in a safe place away from heaters or stoves. And smokers should properly dispose of their cigarette butts, he added.

“A lot of fires are caused by inappropriate actions by people, basically human error,” he said.

# Wheeling endorses property tax breaks for 2 businesses

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Faced with the threat of losing businesses, Wheeling trustees backed Cook County property tax reductions for two local companies and considered a similar measure for a third.

Wheeling trustees agreed to support proposals before the Cook County board from the Segerdahl

Corp., which wants a \$1.5 million reduction in its county property taxes, and Video Technologies Inc., which is asking for its county property taxes to be cut by \$2.5 million.

The Wheeling village board is also considering supporting a \$2 million county tax break Fluid Power Industries Inc. is seeking. Businesses that win a special tax break from the county board

have their property assessed at 16 percent of its market value for eight years. Without the tax break those companies have their property assessed at 38 percent of its market value.

Wheeling officials said that with the village supporting the companies' tax break proposals they stand a better chance of gaining the approval of the county board. The three latest companies

seeking the village's backing all said without the tax break they would have to relocate to Lake County or other areas with lower property tax rates. The companies, however, also said they are reluctant to move from Wheeling.

Collectively, with the money saved from taxes, the businesses said they would invest \$6 million in expansion at their Wheeling locations, producing another 50

jobs in the village.

Since 1986, the village has supported Cook County property tax reductions for 33 firms, resulting in the creation of 874 jobs and construction valued at more than \$43 million in Wheeling, village officials said.

Earlier this year, the Wheeling village board approved a tax break proposal by the Anderson Die Castings Co. to raise \$1.7 mil-

lion for expansion that would bring 20 more jobs to the community.

Wheeling officials have said by supporting the county tax reductions the village is able to retain businesses.

They also said as a result of their support the village's industrial base is a strong part of Wheeling's economy.

## Eight enter race for Wheeling trustee

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Eight people have announced their bids for election to the Wheeling village board next spring.

They will be running for the three open four-year village trustee seats.

Circulating petitions to become candidates in the April 4 election are Stuart Shapiro, an insurance broker; Robert J. Heer, a Buffalo Grove police officer; and Pat Horcher, who owns a landscaping and lawn maintenance business.

Attorney William C. Spangenberg, who ran last year for the village board, announced his candidacy last month.

Incumbents seeking re-election are Judy Abruscato, Lois J. Gaffke and Anthony Altieri. Also running for trustee is Village Clerk Jeanne D. Selander.

The incumbents are running as a slate under the Wheeling United Party banner.

If Selander is elected, the board would have to appoint someone to serve the remaining two years of her term as clerk.

# Checker's given more time

By CHERI BENTRUP

12-15-94  
Countryside  
STAFF WRITER

Some Wheeling trustees believe it's time to revoke a special use permit issued last year for a Checker's restaurant.

The permit allows the fast-food restaurant to be built on the southeast corner of Dundee and Wheeling roads, where a former Brown's Chicken stands.

But corporate representatives from Checker's asked trustees at the Dec. 5 meet-

ing to postpone any action until the end of January.

"The special use permit was granted more than a year ago," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. Once the permit is revoked, another business or developer could ask to build on the site, and tear down the vacant Brown's Chicken building.

"One of our ongoing concerns is the maintenance of that vacant building," Anderson said.

"Apparently new money

is available and they believe they'll know by the end of January" whether they can proceed with construction of the restaurant, Anderson said.

Regardless of whether Checker's builds, trustees want the former Brown's Chicken demolished as soon as possible, he said.

If Checker's does find the funding to build at Dundee and Wheeling roads, the restaurant could be open by summer, he said.

(Continued on page 15)

Continued from page 7

Checker's management told trustees the restaurant could be operational within 75 days of a groundbreaking, Anderson said.

Another Checker's restaurant is planned for a site near the Wheeling Wal-Mart, 1455 Lake Cook Road, Anderson said.

That development, too, has been hampered by the company's financial straits, he said.

Trustees aren't as concerned with the proposed site near Wal-Mart because the land is vacant.

And the special use permit for that Checker's isn't as old as the one for construction at Dundee and Wheeling roads. The permit for the restaurant near Wal-Mart was issued in March, Anderson said.

"We'd like them to go ahead and build," Anderson said. "Apparently there are lots of places in the Chicago area where they have received approval to build, but there was no capital available."

With the relocations of the Wolf-Hintz intersection heading for completion, airport plans call for relocating the Wheeling drainage ditch. Airport officials again site safety issues, saying the current path of the drainage ditch is too close to Runway 1634 -- the main runway -- at Palwaukee.

Airport plans call for the drainage ditch to be relocated through property currently occupied by a drive-in theater. The airport is in on-going negotiation with the drive-in owner and hopes to acquire the property soon.

The \$3 million cost to move the drainage ditch and the \$9.3 million to relocate the Wolf-Hintz Road are funded through shared funds.

# Center marks successful first year

12-14-94  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The children's Christmas party Saturday at the Wheeling Community Resource Center caps a good year for the facility, officials said.

The organization at the Center Plaza Shopping Center at 54 N. Wolf Road will host a Christmas party for 200 to 300 area children from noon to 4 p.m. to commemorate the facility's first year.

"I would say the first year is real successful. I would say we met the goals set by the Cook County

Community Block Grant," said Shari Huizar, a community outreach prevention specialist for the center.

Created last year from a partnership between Wheeling and Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services to serve low-income and minority residents, the center has served 1,000 residents with such services as English classes and helping them complete naturalization applications. The center also held two, six-week summer educational programs for area children.

Other local government agencies such as Northwest Suburban

High School District 214 and the Wheeling Park District also have been involved in the center.

The center was started in part with an \$80,000 grant from the county. The center is only the second of its kind in the Northwest suburbs serving minority and low-income residents.

Officials created the center when they determined the groups it serves weren't having their needs addressed by existing facilities.

The success of the center in serving low-income and minority residents has prompted officials

to open a second facility in Prospect Heights by April, said Huizar.

The person named director of the Wheeling facility also will head the one in Prospect Heights, said officials. That post has been vacant since Nov. 18 when Olga Victor, the center's first director, resigned to take a position with Casa Central, a Hispanic social service agency in Chicago.

The Saturday event will bring out local officials, Wheeling Police and Crime Dog McGruff and Christmas gifts from corporate donors for the children.

# Wheeling OKs

## Annexations

12-14-94  
TOPICS  
By JO NELLE ROBINSON

The Village of Wheeling will get a little larger with the annexation of several parcels of property near the Palwaukee Airport.

Prospect Hts. City Council gave initial approval to several ordinances authorizing the annexation of approximately 19 acres of property in the area of the Hintz-Wolf Roads intersection.

Palwaukee Airport had acquired the parcels -- after lengthy negotiations in several instances -- for the relocation of the intersection and the realignment of the two roads.

As part of an intergovernmental agreement between Prospect Hts. and Wheeling, the parcels will be annexed into Wheeling. The parcels are currently in an unincorporated area of Cook County contiguous to the Village of Wheeling.

Construction on the Wolf-Hintz intersection has been on-going throughout the summer.

"Hintz Road is about 95% complete," reported Michael Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration. "There's some grading and restoration work that will be done next spring."

Wolf Road is approximately 40% completed with a completion date of Aug. 1, 1995, according to Zonsius.

The \$9.3 million intersection relocation and road realignment has been one of the airport's priorities since Palwaukee Airport was purchased jointly by Wheeling and Prospect Hts. in 1986.

The intersection was moved to provide a larger safety zone between the roads and the main runway. Difficulty in acquiring the privately owned parcels need for the relocation delayed the project until 1993 when construction work actually began.

Since the start-up, two new bridges have been built. Hintz Road has also been completely rebuilt with traffic currently using the two new north-bound lanes. The two south-bound lanes will open when the construction of Wolf Road is completed next summer.

With the onset of winter weather, construction schedules will necessarily be lighter with some storm drain work along Wolf Road continuing. The old bridge will also be removed when weather permits.

# Staff to draft rent law

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
12-8-94

Whippletree Village residents may soon get some help from the village. Wheeling trustees last week directed village staff to draft an ordinance that would require landlords of local mobile home parks to justify any rent increases. Unreasonable rent increases was one of several complaints that prompted 10 Whippletree residents last month to file a class action suit against Whippletree Village and its owner, Richard J. Klarchek. Residents have attended several Village Board meetings asking for help from the village in the form of a rent-control ordinance. "They're looking to the village for some assistance to control what they think

Whippletree Village residents have attended Village Board meetings asking for a rent-control ordinance.

are unjustified rent increases," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "Their primary reason for being there is to get a local ordinance adopted." A similar bill setting rent increases at trailer parks was introduced in the state Legislature a couple of years ago, but rejected, Anderson said. That bill tied rent increases to the consumer price index, along with a number of other factors such as property taxes, he said. Anderson said he is not (Continued on page 7)

yet sure how Wheeling's proposed ordinance will be worded, but he is pleased the village can do something to help the residents even as their litigation continues. "As a village, we're more than happy to look at that," he said. "There doesn't seem to be anything preventing us from doing it." Besides setting guidelines for rent increases, the ordinance also needs to include a means for resi-

# Airport sends out survey

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
12-8-94  
CountrySide

Administrators at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling hope to hear results of a users' survey by February. Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the surveys were mailed Nov. 18 from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, which has a contract with the airport to distribute the surveys and tabulate the results.

"They're suppose to get the results and follow-up on those who haven't responded. Then they'll tabulate them and evaluate them for us," Stewart said. The results will be used to determine what, if any, improvements could be made at Palwaukee to make it more appealing to users, he said. "We ask them how many planes they fly, what kinds of planes and how often," Stewart said. "There are also some questions in regards to facilities and administration."

Stewart did not have an available figure on how many surveys were mailed, but believed they were to be mailed to each person or firm that owns a plane based at the Wheeling airport.

This is the first time Palwaukee has ever solicited recommendations from its users by means of a survey, Stewart said.

He hopes to get results in January, but said February is probably more realistic.

One safety improvement at Palwaukee has been under way for quite some time.

The relocation of the Hintz and Wolf roads intersection is close to completion, Stewart said.

The Federal Aviation Administration requested that the intersection be moved to improve the safety of take-offs and landings at the airport.

nued 1

dents to challenge proposed increases and a way for the village to enforce the ordinance, Anderson said.

"There will be some provision for notification of rent increases, then there has to be some system for the residents" to argue against the increase, he said.

Anderson does not know when the ordinance will be drafted and brought before the Village Board for discussion or a vote.

# Grant funds extra police patrols

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
12-15-94  
CountrySide

Those who drive through Wheeling may notice more police officers on patrol.

A \$9,259 highway safety grant recently awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation is helping the Wheeling Police Department step up patrols for the enforcement of speeding, seat belt use, child safety seat use and drunken driving.

Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the grant allows the department to pay its officers overtime while they enforce those safety issues.

"They're grant officers," Hermes said. "Their job is to enforce DUI, speeding and seat belts." While working overtime and earning grant money, the grant officers will not answer routine calls, he said.

The department recently identified several areas in the village as high traffic/high violation sites which will be targeted by the grant officers, Hermes said.

Those include Dundee Road from Route 83 to Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Cook Road from Weidner to Portwine roads, Milwaukee from Hintz to Palatine roads, Palatine Road from Wolf Road to Route 83, and the intersections of Hintz and Wheeling, and Palatine and Wheeling.

"We're set to do three five-week periods over the space of a year," Hermes said.

Currently, the department is in its first five-week period which will cover Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations, he said.

The periods will coincide with major holidays when DUI violations tend to rise, he said.

In addition to more enforcement, the grant also provides money for officers to visit local schools and distribute fliers promoting seat-belt use, Hermes said.

Village trustees also may be willing to look at other concerns the Whippletree Village residents have against their landlord, Anderson said.

"We're sending letters to Whippletree Village owners trying to get more information from them about their other concerns," he said.

"We'd be willing to meet with them, if possible with the lawsuit filed, but it's worth a shot," Anderson added.

# AMVETS post wants gambling charges out of evidence

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
12-17-94

Attorneys for the AMVETS Post in Wheeling filed a second motion with village officials to dismiss illegal gambling charges against the veterans group. Attorneys for the Phillip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66, 700 McHenry Road, this week filed a second motion to dismiss five ille-

gal gambling charges and suppress evidence the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission would use in a review of the Post's liquor license. The motion states that because a Cook County Circuit Court judge dismissed the village's charges of illegal gambling on a technicality, village officials cannot use the evidence for a civil review of the Post's liquor license under a fed-

eral evidence exclusionary rule barring such use. "They can't use it in an administrative hearing. The purpose (of the exclusionary rule) is to deter police illegal content. You have to draw the line somewhere," Attorney David W. Borenstein said. The latest motion supports the first motion to dismiss the evi-

dence and exclude witnesses that AMVETS attorneys filed last month. The commission, made up of Wheeling trustees, is expected to rule on the first motion Monday at 8 p.m. at Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said he could not comment on the latest motion.

The village issued its charges after a March 16 raid on the Post which was made after a plain-clothes police officer said she saw winnings being paid out for four poker machines there. Misdemeanor gambling charges against the Post's manager and a bartender were dropped after a circuit court judge said police didn't have arrest warrants or search

warrants. The liquor license review has strained relations between the village and Post, which has hosted scores of community events. Together, both sides have planned to call 22 witnesses to testify including Wheeling Trustee Anthony Altieri, a vice commander at the Post.

# Buildings win appearance awards

The Wheeling Appearance Committee annual awards for attractive buildings and landscaping in the village were announced at the Dec. 5 board meeting.

This year's winners are the Wheeling Post Office, 250 W. Dundee Road; Engis Corp., 105 W. Hintz Road; the Timberleaf Townhomes at 12th Street and Strong Avenue; and the Wheeling Park District's Aquatic Center, 327 W. Dundee Road.

# Wheeling seeks new service to haul away reusable goods

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials may look to the Salvation Army to rescue its reusable household goods pick-up program they say has been trashed.

Wheeling officials said that Goodwill Industries has not been able to make monthly residential pick ups of reusable goods such as clothing, small appliances and other items in the village.

Because the agency is having difficulties maintaining a monthly pick-up schedule, Wheeling officials are considering using the Salvation Army or other agencies, such as the AMVETS, for collecting the reusable items.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village has used Goodwill Industries for such pick ups for four years, and the agency "would have no hard feelings" if officials terminated the agreement with them before its 1996 expiration.

Some Wheeling trustees suggested the Salvation Army would handle such pick ups noting that Elk Grove Village switched from Goodwill Industries to the Christian social service organi-

zation.

Wheeling Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said whatever organization is chosen to make reusable item pick ups should be one where most of its funding goes toward helping people instead of to administrative costs.

"Perhaps we could contact some other communities in our area who use the Salvation Army to see how reliable they are," she said.

Other trustees pressed for the village to continue reusable items pick ups because of the convenience for residents.

Another option Wheeling officials suggested was publishing the names of area charitable groups in the village newsletter giving residents a choice of where to donate reusable items.

Wheeling officials said they would return to the trustees at an unspecified date with their suggestions.

They are uncertain how long it would take the Salvation Army to establish a curbside pick-up program for Wheeling if it chooses to initiate one.

Trustees rejected the idea of having a drop box for those items at village hall.

# Bus turnabout links up with commuter train

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Many questions remain, but the Wheeling Park Board voted unanimously last week to allow the village to proceed with plans for a Pace bus turnabout on Park District property.

Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck attended the Dec. 6 board meeting to ask commissioners if the turnabout designed on Wisconsin Central and Park District property, can be built as planned.

"We feel this is the better design," Janeck said. "There's more property for landscaping and a possible shelter for people coming from the Rec Center and Aquatic Center."

The Wisconsin Central commuter service, which will take passengers from Antioch to Franklin Park where it will connect with the Milwaukee District West Railway

and take commuters to Chicago's Union Station, is scheduled to open in spring 1996.

Janeck told park commissioners they may lose as many as 12 parking spaces in the northwest corner of the Park District's large lot off of Northgate Parkway once the turnabout and landscaping are complete.

"But you're gaining a potential bus stop," Janeck said. The depot will be built along the west side of the Wisconsin Central tracks, south of Dundee Road. A pedestrian walkway will allow Pace riders to safely cross the tracks to the depot. A large portion of the depot, mainly parking and a bus stop, is planned for vacant land west of Northgate Parkway and south of Dundee Road, a village memo told commissioners.

(Continued on page 15)

# Wheeling rural fire district requests 49% jump in taxes

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District may be paying nearly \$100 more a year if the board approves a 49.5 percent tax levy increase.

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board is considering raising its property tax levy from \$582,826.01 to \$871,676.

With that increase, the district's tax rate would jump from 42 cents to 60 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. The owner of a \$150,000 house in the district would see its tax bill jump from \$196 to \$281.

The public hearing on the levy proposal will be at 7 p.m. Monday at St. Hillary's Episcopal Church, 307 W. Hintz Road, Prospect Heights.

Fire board President Anthony Carlin said the tax increase would raise about \$200,000 the district needs for reserves. He also said some tax revenue would finance a study of fire coverage in the district.

A portion of the money also may be earmarked for a new fire station on the east side of Prospect

Heights, he said.

Carlin criticized the district's contract with Wheeling Fire Department saying that department has to travel too far to respond to emergencies in some parts of the district and is improperly equipped.

"I don't want it to take a major disaster for people to say there was an ambulance that could have served us a mile away," he said.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac objects to the proposed study, saying that with the 911 system the department responds immediately to emergencies.

"By hiring a consultant, that tells me you've already made a decision as to what you want to occur," said MacIsaac, who noted the department responded to 697 calls in the township district last year.

Carlin and Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said they would like to see the district abolished. They want the city covered by their own municipal department instead of the four departments now providing service.

MacIsaac said his department receives about \$600,000 a year under the contract.

# Seniors thank businesses for contributions, parties

The Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling is coming to the close of another great year of programs and activities for our village seniors.

So many of the special events are made possible through help from community members outside of Pavillon. At this time, the center extends its thanks to some of its generous sponsors.

A special thank you goes out to the First National Bank of Wheeling and the First Colonial Bank N.W. in Wheeling which both donated \$50 bonds to be used as raffle prizes for the Holiday House Craft Fair.

Thanks also to the Wheeling Rotary Club for the splendid birthday party and the food baskets delivered to Wheeling seniors this season.

Thank you to the Wheeling Jaycees for the great sunshine party and summertime picnic. Finally, thank you to the Bronson Gore Bank in Prospect Heights which has also been wonderful by sponsoring many of the Pavilion parties.

# Gambling charges dropped against Wheeling AMVETS

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling AMVETS claimed victory Monday night after village officials dropped illegal gambling charges against the veterans group.

In a 3-2 vote, with Trustee Anthony Altieri abstaining, the Wheeling

Liquor Control Commission agreed to a dismiss the case.

The commission was set to review five illegal gambling charges filed by the village against the Philip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66 at 700 McHenry Road.

"It's a tremendous victory for the AMVETS over arbitrary and capricious behavior by the police," said

David M. Borenstein, an AMVETS attorney.

Motions with the commission to dismiss evidence and testimony against the group on grounds a Cook County Circuit judge earlier dismissed the case on a technicality.

Attorneys argued that federal rules bar the use of evidence in a

civil review once that evidence has been thrown out of court.

"Illegally obtained evidence is illegally obtained evidence. And an administrative hearing doesn't make that evidence credible," attorney Alfred D. Slavovos said.

The village issued its charges after a March 16 raid on the post that was made after a plainclothes

officer said she saw winnings paid out for four poker machines there.

Misdemeanor gambling charges against the manager and a bartender were dropped after a circuit court judge said police didn't have arrest or search warrants.

"We're happy. We did nothing wrong," said veteran Don Berkloff, public relations officer for the post.

Metra has projected that 650 commuters will board the train at the Wheeling station each day and daily ridership is expected to grow to 900 people by the year 2010.

Plans for the commuter train stop at Wheeling were forwarded to Metra last week, Janeck said, and again will be presented to the Park Board prior to final approval. However, he said, he predicts Metra will not make many changes from the current plans.

Commissioner Bill Mattes asked what could be done to prevent semi-trailer trucks from using the turnabout, as they now use the Park District's parking lot for that purpose.

"Pace will require that to be strictly buses only," Janeck said. "I'm not sure what we can do besides post someone (a police officer) there for a while and ticket them."

Commissioner Tom Webber said truck drivers who use the parking lot for a turnabout are tearing up concrete, creating "an inherent problem" for the Park District.

Other commissioners questioned who would plow the turnabout after snowfalls, how to prevent commuters from parking in the Park District lots and walking to the train depot, and who would pay for the pouring of sidewalks.

Janeck suggested a sidewalk could be built from the Aquatic Center to the depot and to the turnabout, where he hopes Pace will agree to locate a shelter.

# Wheeling activist announces run for village board seat

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Anti-tax activist Steven Telow, angry over Wheeling's pursuit of gambling charges against the local AMVETS post, says he's running for the Wheeling village board.

Telow, 73, is circulating nominating petitions for the April election.

So far, eight other candidates have announced their intentions to run. Three seats will be open on April 4. Telow, a retired business owner and an Air Corps veteran, also said he doesn't see enough opposition of thought on the current board. The village was unsuccessful in trying to prosecute the AMVETS post for having video poker machines that paid money.

"I'm running because of the stupid things they (trustees) are doing in this village," Telow said Wednesday.

The field of likely candidates so far includes incumbents Lois

Gaffke, Anthony Altieri and Judy Abruscato; newcomers William C. Spangenberg, Stuart Shapiro, Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher and current village clerk Jeanne D. Selander.

Telow gained notoriety for such activities as unsuccessfully trying to get the Indian Trails Library District's annual maintenance tax levy on the popular ballot, advocating public whipping of youths caught vandalizing local parks, and picketing a Chicago meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with signs that read "Pate was right."

Illinois Senate President James "Pate" Philip made controversial remarks questioning the work ethic of minority employees in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Telow garnered 752 votes in a failed run for a Wheeling Park District seat in the spring 1993 general election.

# Village, revenue department to share sales tax information

Wheeling trustees approved an agreement with the Illinois Department of Revenue to share information on sales tax within the village.

Wheeling officials said the agreement with the state department became necessary when the village approved its home rule sales tax. Before the village could receive such information, Wheeling trustees had to approve the agreement, officials said.

## Increase puts fountain price at \$134,390

The Wheeling village board accepted a \$4,990 change order from the Guse Erickson Company to building materials at the village's centennial fountain.

The Oakbrook Terrace-based company asked the village for the change order so it could substitute concrete paving bricks for the cast-in-place concrete walks leading to the fountain from the circular drive from Dundee Road to village hall.

The added cost puts the price tag for 50-foot by 50-foot fountain at \$134,390. Wheeling officials had originally estimated the fountain would cost \$100,000.

## Arlington Commons water main accepted

The Wheeling village board also accepted the water main and sidewalk at the Arlington Commons subdivision.

Wheeling officials said they found those infrastructure items at Dundee Road and Huntington Lane had been properly maintained.

That acceptance indicates the village will maintain the water main and sidewalk there.

## Village to maintain Picardy improvements

Wheeling trustees agreed to accept the public improvements Joseph Freed and Associates made to the Picardy Place subdivision.

Under that agreement, the village accepts the improvements the developer made in the 39-lot subdivision for such items as storm sewers, sidewalks and other infrastructure items.

That acceptance calls for the village to take over maintenance of that area located on Meyerson Way and west of Wolf Road.

# Wheeling drops AmVets charges

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling AmVets Post 66 breathed a sigh of relief in August when misdemeanor gambling charges were dropped against two of its members by a Cook County judge.

And now, the village's Liquor Control Commission, comprised of village trustees and headed by Village President Sheila Schultz, voted to dismiss charges of any wrongdoing that may have jeopardized the post's liquor license.

Options before the commission were to pull the post's liquor license, fine the post, located at 700 McHenry Road, find the post innocent or dismiss charges, which it did Dec. 19.

Gambling charges against the two men were the result of a six- to eight-week investigation by Wheeling police. The men were charged in March after an officer said she saw cash payments being made for wages placed on an electronic poker machine.

Police said they raided the post and seized poker machines, \$2,713 cash and gambling records.

According to police reports, the investigation was part of an examination of licensed liquor establishments in the village "in an attempt to detect illegal liquor sales, drug sales, vice and/or gambling activity."

Those criminal charges were dropped in August by a county judge, saying the police did not have proper search or arrest warrants. The judge at that time also ordered the poker machines returned to the post.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said last week's decision was made without much discussion.

# Residents question reason for fire district levy hike

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board Monday voted to increase its property tax 49.5 percent over the amount approved in levy passed last month.

In a 2-1 vote, with Trustee Peter Urban dissenting, the panel approved raising its property tax levy from \$582,826 to \$871,676.

The board said the new levy, which amended the levy approved last month, was needed to raise \$258,000 for reserves, a consultant's study of future protection in the district and possible construction of a fire station on the east side of Prospect Heights.

But many of the roughly 100 residents who attended the meeting said they feel the board already has decided to build the Prospect Heights station and are worried that the fire service they now get will change.

"If that's (the station) what this is about, then show some respect. Be honest about that," said Tina Dean, a district resident.

The fire district covers most of Prospect Heights and nearby unincorporated areas in

Wheeling Township. Fire protection is provided under contract by the village of Wheeling's fire department.

With the increase, the district's tax rate increases from 42 cents to 60 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. The owner of a \$150,000 house in the district will see the yearly tax bill jump from \$196 to \$281.

Fire board President Anthony Carlin and Trustee Joseph Wolfe said, while uncertain what a study might contain, they believed some sections of the district aren't adequately served under its contract with the Wheeling Fire Department.

"I looked at the map of this district and I am not sure it is very well served. It bothers me," Wolfe said.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said response time to emergencies on the district's east side is not an issue, because his department has an agreement that calls on Mount Prospect firefighters to respond first to that area.

Urban said the district didn't need the tax hike and that the board "had a hidden agenda" to break its contract with the village of Wheeling fire department and build its own station.

# Wheeling trustees OK lower tax levy

Road intersection to repay \$488,488 on the bond used to develop that area.

Budget reserves will also pay for new contributions to the fire pension fund, officials said.

Fialkowski has said that, unlike other taxing bodies, the village has revenue sources such as license fees and its 0.25 percent home-rule sales tax on local retail purchases.

He estimated that in future years the village's property tax rate could drop to the 70-cent range.

Wheeling officials used the fact that they eliminated vehicle stickers as an example of how they slashed village expenses for taxpayers.

The new levy calls for the village to repay \$500,000 in bonds with reserves.

That reduces the bond levy from \$2.2 million last year to \$1.7 million in the current fiscal year.

Furthermore, the village is using revenues from a tax increment finance district near the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee

Wheeling's property tax rate of \$1.07 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation would drop below \$1, perhaps to 97 cents, depending on Cook County's assessment of the village's tax base.

Wheeling resident Steven Telow, acting as a spokesman for the Northwest Tax Watch taxpayers watchdog group, complained his property taxes have increased over the past few years.

"Seniors that have been loyal to you cannot pay their taxes," Telow said to the board.

Wheeling trustees recently approved a 1994-95 property tax levy of \$6.1 million, 7.6 percent lower than last year's \$6.6 million levy.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved the new levy. Wheeling will use other revenue sources and budget reserves to help run the village, officials said.

Under the new levy, village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski predicted that

# Crime totals dip in Buffalo Grove, Wheeling

12-30-94

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling have a good reason to feel safe in their towns.

State police statistics for 1993 released this week show overall crime decreased in both communities.

In Buffalo Grove, the number of thefts, burglaries and robberies all went down, giving the town of almost 40,000 an average of 16 crimes per 1,000 people.

Buffalo Grove Police Public Information Officer Peter Lippert attributed the low crime rate to the cooperation between various community groups and the department's crime prevention programs.

Those efforts include the department's Drug Awareness Resistance Education program in the schools, a community watch group and crime prevention educa-

**"It's a cooperative effort with the fire department, the police department, the community watch groups, the schools."**

— Buffalo Grove Public Information Officer Peter Lippert

tion.

"It's a cooperative effort with the fire department, the police department, the community watch groups, the schools," he said.

Lippert also credited active police patrols with keeping crime down. He said officers try to prevent incidents.

Buffalo Grove previously enjoyed the lowest crime rate for towns of 20,000 in Illinois, he said. In Northwest Cook County, only Barrington Hills, with about 4,400 residents, had a lower crime rate.

However, sexual assaults, arsons, aggravated assaults and

motor vehicle thefts all increased last year in Buffalo Grove. The percentage of increases was high because there were few such incidents.

For example, criminal sexual assaults increased three-fold from none in 1992 to three in 1993. Aggravated assaults in the village went from eight incidents in 1992 to 12 the next year, a 50 percent increase.

Neither Buffalo Grove nor Wheeling had any murders in 1993.

In Wheeling, the crime rate was 29.4 per 1,000 in the village of about 30,000

Police said the department has increased patrols.

"We have younger, aggressive officers dig a little harder and our tactical unit is back in place. The tactical unit is the most significant factor," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes.

The tactical unit has plainclothes officers in unmarked vehicles patrol the village in addition to patrols by beat officers.

Hermes said in prior years when the tactical unit was trimmed Wheeling police noticed crime rise.

Wheeling police have also said the department has been able to hold crime down through a regional computer system that provides information on street gang members.

Wheeling's aggravated assaults, burglaries, thefts and motor vehicle thefts all decreased last year.

The village's criminal sexual assaults, robberies and arsons rose in 1993.

## Aviation company plans new office at Palwaukee

12-28-94

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport's first fixed-base fueling operator has unveiled preliminary plans for a new office facility at the Wheeling-based airport.

Priester Aviation recently showed plans for a new building that could be as large as 90,000 square feet on the northwest corner of the airport near the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

The company currently has offices at the southeast corner of the airport. However, under the airport's long-range improvement plans, officials will place a part of a redirected runway there later in this decade.

Priester Aviation officials said their move to the new office would be done after the airport relocates the Wolf-Hintz intersection.

"What we're shooting for is to move as rapidly as possible with the help of the airport and their approval," said Mike Pryor, a Priester account executive.

Airport officials currently are moving the intersection 570 feet west and 250 feet north of its

current location to increase the safety zone between it and Palwaukee's longest runway.

The intersection relocation is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million project to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

Also as a part of their improvement, airport officials are currently negotiating with M&R Properties Inc. of Skokie to acquire the adjoining Twin Drive-In property at 1010 S. Milwaukee Avenue.

Palwaukee officials have said they need 23 acres of the 31-acre site for relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch cutting through both properties to make more land available for development at the airport.

Both parties have a January hearing in Cook County Circuit Court to review the airport's acquisition of the drive-in.

An attorney for the drive-in owners said that it was possible the sale could have been completed in December.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the circuit court judge, encouraged by progress of the talks, scheduled the January hearing when a ruling could be made on Palwaukee's authority to condemn the drive-in.

► The stories that affected your community the most.

# Top Ten Stories

of  
1994

## Wheeling celebrates centennial

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

**1** 1994 was an exciting time for Wheeling residents as they celebrated the village's centennial with special events throughout the year.

About 1,000 residents gathered in February to kick off the celebratory year with a gala ball and celebrity auction at Chevy Chase Club House.

Residents marked the village's incorporation date, June 22, 1894, with a Founders Day celebration which began a fun-filled week that culminated with the Fourth of the July fireworks. A centennial parade was held June 26.

Other events throughout the year included a Multicultural Fest in July to celebrate the village's varied heritage, a Civil War re-enactment in Chamber Park in August, and a country western dance in October.

Those who wanted a piece of history could apply for special Wheeling centennial license plates from the Secretary of State or stop by Village Hall and purchase a centennial T-shirt.

Construction on a Centennial Fountain, in the planning process throughout 1994, got a late start. The fountain is being built in front of Village Hall at 255 W. Dundee.

Plans show a 30-foot diameter bowl with water sprays of up to 12 feet. The bowl will pick up the village's "wheel" logo by including spokes constructed of bricks. Village President Sheila Schultz said the fountain should be functioning soon.

### District 21 decides to reopen London

**2** After more than 10 years of housing special education students, London School will reopen for grades 6, 7 and 8 by the 1995-96 school year to accommodate growing enrollment, the Consolidated School District 21



H. Rick Bamman/Pioneer Press

Work began in 1994 on an overpass at Lake Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue that will span Milwaukee Avenue.

decided in March.

An estimated 500 parents packed the school's gymnasium to voice their opinions about other options available in the district, such as renovating existing buildings.

Despite the \$5 million cost the district faces to reopen the school, board members said they felt it was the only option that promises long-term relief from overcrowding.

### Wheeling freshman receives new heart

**3** Aimee Zabrin, a 14-year-old Wheeling High School student, received a heart transplant in May at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago to replace an ailing heart.

Classmates and friends of the active freshman honor

student waited anxiously as Zabrin received a second transplant following complications from the first, and then watched her condition gradually improve.

### Tarkington receives blue ribbon award

**4** Booth Tarkington Elementary School celebrated its 25th anniversary by receiving the Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education in May.

In October, Principal Avi Poster, Board President Phil Pritzker and some Tarkington teachers traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the award at a ceremony on the White House lawn.

Students joined in the celebration earlier this month when Poster planned a school assembly to show

the students the plaque from the U.S. Department of Education, a new school flag and a new sign that is now posted outside the school. Parents were also invited to a dedication ceremony for the Blue Ribbon Award.

"I'm thrilled for the community to get this recognition," Poster said in October. "It's a great honor for Wheeling, a well-deserving community."

### Wheeling approves train station

**5** Wheeling trustees in June moved ahead with plans for the village's commuter train station along the Wisconsin Central railroad line. The commuter line, which will carry passengers from Antioch to Franklin Park then

into Chicago's Union Station, is expected to open in spring 1996.

The Wheeling station is to be located at the east end of Town Street. Plans call for 500-plus parking spaces, some on the railroad right of way on the west side of Northgate Parkway and some along a ComEd right of way west of Wheeling Road.

Metra, the suburban rail system, estimates that 650 will board the train in Wheeling each day. By the year 2010, that number could increase to 900 riders.

### Lake Cook overpass begins

**6** Residents have another year to contend with construction at Lake Cook Road and Milwaukee Ave-



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

Wheeling High School receiver Scott Preusker, right, hugs teammate Chris Leipold after the Wildcats' victory over Conant. The Wildcats became the MSL North co-champions. Later the

Wildcats were eliminated by Maine South in the Class 5A state playoffs.

nue before an overpass is built spanning Milwaukee Avenue. Traffic on Lake Cook Road will flow uninterrupted once the project is completed in late 1996.

Motorists were re-routed through the intersection in October and have been urged to avoid the area. An estimated 70,000 cars drive through the intersection each day, making it one of

the busiest in the area.

Construction is ongoing this winter as weather permits.

### Developers eye TIF district

**7** Four developers submitted plans in July for developing downtown Wheeling.

In May, the village sent requests for proposals to 15 Chicago-area developers, some of who had expressed interest in being part of Wheeling TIF district development. The site, on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, is part of a 102-acre tax increment financing district the village formed in 1985.

The village accepted a proposal for retail development of the property shortly after the district was formed, but the project was derailed when some property owners contested the condemnation of land in court. The cases were settled last year. At year's end, no decisions had been made on development of the district.

### School teacher gets hero's honor

**8** Greg Klatecki, a Holmes Junior High School teacher, was honored by village trustees in November after he apprehended a man who allegedly tried to lure several female Holmes students into his car on several occasions.

The offender, Lazaro Guerrero, 36, of Wheeling, was charged with two felony counts of child abduction and was released from jail after posting bond. He is scheduled to appear in court next year.

Klatecki said he doesn't consider himself a hero, but rather gave credit to the girls' parents who taught them what to do in this type of emergency.

### Wildcats complete exciting season

**9** Wheeling High School students will certainly remember the 1994 football season for years to come. The Wildcats ended their noteworthy season with a 9-2 record, losing 17-10 to Maine South in a muddy Class 5A playoff game in early November.

An earlier 33-27 victory over Palatine High School assured the Wildcats their first MSL North championship since 1988.

Wheeling coach Rick Benedetto, who recently resigned, called it "one of the greatest high-school games I've ever been involved in."

### Chevy Chase may be no more

**10** An architectural study completed in October could have Wheeling Park Board members in early 1995 deciding the fate of Chevy Chase Club House.

Board members need to decide whether a recommended \$2.7 million for life-safety improvements and renovations to make the clubhouse handicap-accessible is a wise investment for the Park District.

Though the building, believed to be built in the 1920s, is a landmark on Milwaukee Avenue, Park Director Karop Bavougian said the building has no historical significance.

The clubhouse is funded by proceeds from its banquet and food service, which are continuing uninterrupted until a decision can be made. Even if a decision were made in early 1995, no action would be taken immediately, Bavougian said.

PIONEER PRESS

# Portfolio '94

▶ The images that truly capture our suburban world.

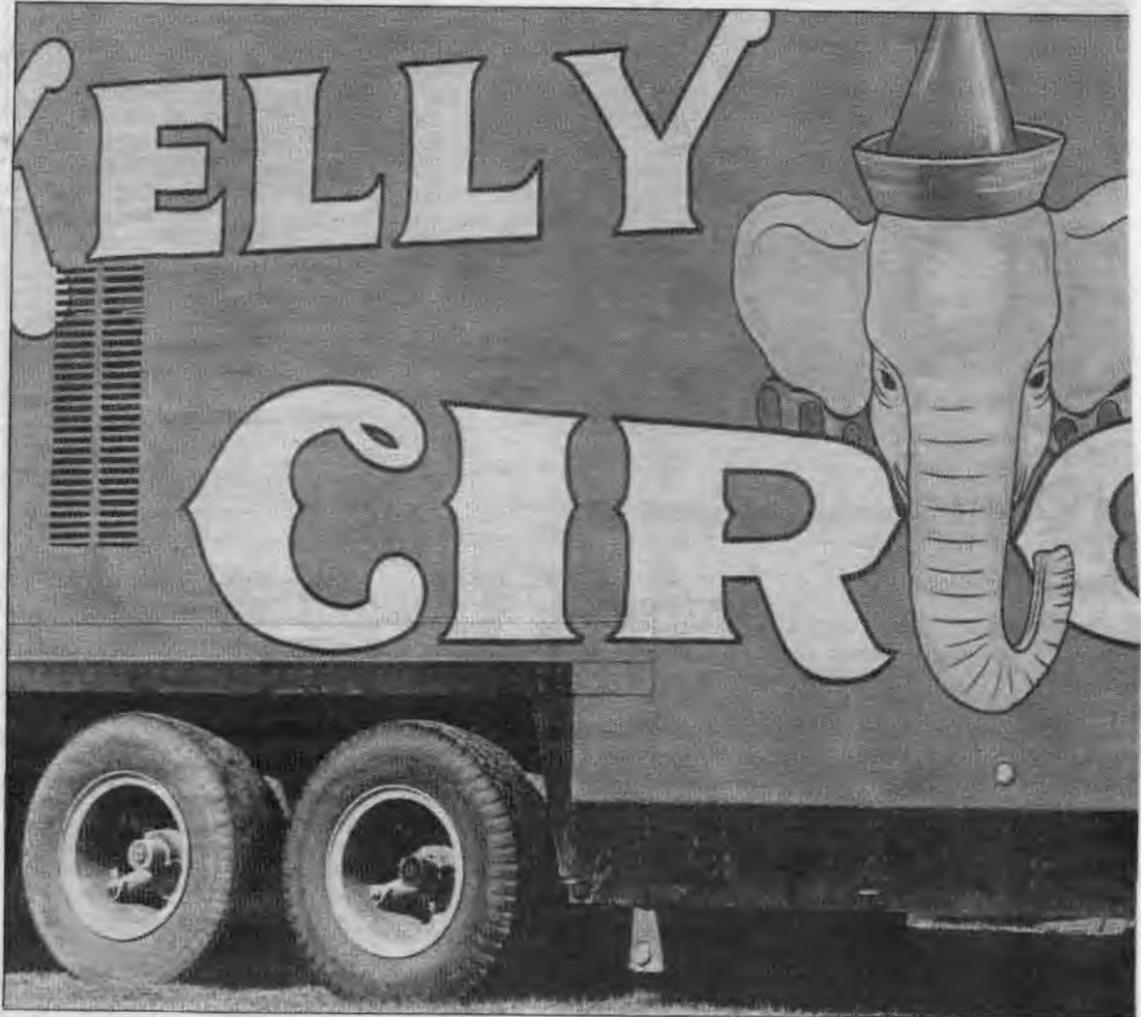
The Photographer's Choice



Dicker



Tuffy



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

Wheeling AmVets Post 66 Honor Guard Frank, Horbert, Patrick Hickey and Jeff Lamb, Provost Marshall stand at attention during the flag-burning ceremony in May.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Wheeling's Sam White is caught in a rundown and is called out at first.

Pavilion-Aires singer Lorraine Haben gives her all while singing "America the Beautiful" at the Founder's Day celebration.



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

Kelly Miller Circus worker's wife Leora Wipper hugs daughter Carol Ann after a night of travel to Wheeling.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

## Our Favorites

Through out the past year Pioneer Press photojournalists have had the unique opportunity to witness and photograph many of the personal triumphs, tragedies and subtiles of every day life. The photographs on these pages represent some of the

favorite images the photographers wanted to highlight this week. They also would like to thank their subjects who have shared their personal experiences with them and the readers of Pioneer Press Newspapers.



Bamman



H. Rick Bamman/Pioneer Press

Olympic stars David Cruikshank and Bonnie Blair made an apperance at Tarkington School to address a student assembly.

# Officials share ideas on what they'd like to see for their towns in '95

1-2-95

What do you wish for your town in the new year?



Local officials have made out their wish lists for 1995.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge



**Sheila H. Schultz**  
Wheeling  
Village President

"My hope is that the wonderful spirit of our centennial would continue. Next year is the first year of our new century, and I wish that then we would see the people of Wheeling enjoying each other, and celebrating each other and working together for the bright future of the village."



**Ted Sherwood**  
Des Plaines  
Mayor

"I'd have to say I wish that we continue to have success in our plans for redevelopment, ... and hopefully we're going out a lot further than just downtown development. I would like to have something (for redevelopment) going on all of the time."



**Michael J. O'Malley**  
Hoffman Estates  
Village President

"To keep improving the quality of life in Hoffman Estates and to bring in more commercial business to reduce the tax burden. I also don't want anyone to feel any fear. It's the worst emotion, be it being afraid of a fire, ice storm or the anxiety you feel when your kid is in trouble. . . ."



**Sonya Crawshaw**  
Hanover Park  
Village President

"I hope all families in Hanover Park find inner peace, health and prosperity. As far as the village is concerned, I hope we continue in the direction we're started for fiscal prosperity. I would like to see the continued development of the business parks, because that's good for all of us."



**Al Larson**  
Schaumburg  
Village President

"Community policing. I just think it's the kind of approach we ought to be heading toward in terms of crime prevention. Community policing allows officers to use the skills they have more effectively to prevent crime. (I'd also like) to begin the redevelopment of Town Square."

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

### Wheeling board approves for new Creekside eatery

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved a restaurateur's proposal to open a fast-food eatery in the Creekside Plaza Shopping Center.

In a 6-0 unanimous vote, the Wheeling village board approved plans by Anastasios Markakis to open the Mr. E's Restaurant at 274-278 McHenry Road.

The restaurant will occupy a 2,400-square-foot space at the shopping center and feature mostly Greek cuisine. The eatery will include carry-out entrees as well as 48 seats for diners. The restaurant will employ four people.

Markakis, who operated a similar restaurant in Chicago, said that the hours village officials first proposed for business could be restrictive when he starts serving breakfast there. "I don't want to be restricted by these hours," he said.

Originally, the village said the business could be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Wheeling trustees agreed to allow Markakis to change the hours his restaurant is open to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the business's earlier opening hours probably would not be disruptive to neighboring businesses such as White Hen Pantry.

The shopping center includes three other restaurant businesses including Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Restaurant, El Famous Burrito Restaurant and Yau's Chow Restaurant. Markakis' business will have 25 parking spaces in the center's 184 space parking lot for its patrons.

The location Markakis chose for his business used to be occupied by two other eateries.

No one raised objections to the new eating establishment. Markakis said he will open the business as soon as he obtains a business license from the village.

Markakis will probably start serving breakfast there in the spring, he said.

1-3-95

## 2 Wheeling trash pickup rates to rise

C4

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved rate increases for an extra trash pickup and the disposal of large appliances.

In 6-0 votes, Wheeling trustees recently approved increasing the rate for disposal of large appliances that don't contain freon to \$30 per visit. They also approved raising the rate for residences requesting a second weekly pickup of their trash to \$4.25 per month from \$3.50 per month. Homeowners traditionally use

the second pickup annually offered from April 1 to Nov. 30 for the disposal of yard waste.

John M. Boyer, a division president with Waste Management-Northwest, the village's contracted residential waste hauler, said the increases are necessary because of increased disposal costs for the company.

"If you look at the fees we're charging, it's a break-even proposition at our costs," he said.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato asked whether the company would consider changing the length of the season in

which it accepts yard waste from May 1 to Oct. 31, because she noticed in her neighborhood that more yard waste disposal occurred then.

Boyer said the company could adjust the time it accepts such disposals if the village wants it changed.

He also said that starting in April the company traditionally notices yard waste disposal, especially if there's been a mild winter and people start landscaping earlier in the year.

The company will maintain its

rates for disposal of appliances containing freon, such as refrigerators, at \$30 per visit.

Under Wheeling's contract with the company, it was within its rights to request the increase, village officials said.

Boyer said he does not anticipate having to return to the village board for any other increases in the immediate future.

The new appliance fee increase will be instituted by the company early next year.

The optional trash pickup increase will be in place April 1.

# Rural fire district ups levy

*Courtesy*  
By CHERI DENINUP  
STAFF WRITER  
1-5-95

Residents of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District will see a jump in the amount of property taxes they pay for fire service next year.

The three-member board voted 2-1 Dec. 26 to adopt a \$871,676 levy, about a 60 percent increase over last year's \$544,326 levy. The increase raises the tax rate from 42 cents per \$100 equalized assessed valuation to 60 cents.

Board member Peter Urban cast the lone dissenting vote, saying he felt the increase was not justified.

"The reason given was for future expenses," Urban said, noting that the district has a \$423,000 cash reserve.

"From the reaction of people in the crowd, everyone was very satisfied by the fire service we have now," he said of the estimated 300 people who attended last week's public hearing about the proposed tax increase.

"We'll be covered by a volunteer department if they go through with their plan," Urban said. That plan includes building a fire station on the east side of Prospect Heights, he added.

Calls to Board President Anthony Carlin were not returned, and board member Joseph Wolf could not be contacted. Both voted in favor of the increase.

The district currently contracts most of its fire protection service from the Wheeling Fire Department, at a cost of about \$545,000 a year though that figure varies annually, said Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Perricone.

"Basically we charge them 18 percent of our operating budget for the department, and they account for about 21 or 22 percent of the service we provide," Perricone said.

Wheeling firefighters have been providing service

(Continued on page 7)

## Levy Continued from page 5

to residents of the Rural Fire District since it was formed in 1952, he said.

Perricone estimated that Wheeling firefighters serve about 70 percent of the rural district, while the Buffalo Grove and Prospect Heights Rural fire departments serve the remaining 30 percent.

Though being served by several departments may be confusing for some residents, Perricone said, each department does a good job of letting residents know which department provides their fire protection service.

Likewise, the departments know each other's service areas and are able to redirect any misplaced emergency calls, he added.

Perricone is concerned

that the Wheeling Rural Fire District plans to contract more of its fire protection service from the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Department.

"The board is trying to break the contract with us and contract more with Prospect Heights" rural fire department, Perricone said.

That loss of revenue would eventually hurt the Wheeling Fire Department, he said.

"We'd be cutting the number of runs by 21 or 22 percent. It's hard to say what effect it will have on our overall department but, yes, we'd feel it," Perricone said.

The possibility of a longer response time also concerns Perricone.

"They're (located) at Camp McDonald (Road) and Route

83," he said. "If there's a call at Route 83 and Hintz, we're a block away. It's not in the best interests of the citizens to give them service farther away."

Also, he said, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire District employs part-time firefighters who are paid on call, he said, whereas Wheeling has full-time firefighters.

However, Perricone said, he has no objections to Prospect Heights establishing its own municipal fire district and department.

"If the city of Prospect Heights were to start its own municipal fire department, that's their right and we have no problem with that," Perricone said. "We'd be glad to help them."

# Wolf, Hintz intersection work slated for completion by fall

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials said the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection is on schedule and could be completed before the end of 1995.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said the intersection work could be completed before the end of the next year.

"It should all be done before the end of next fall," Stewart said.

The roads are being moved more than 500 feet west and 250 feet north of the airport's longest runway to create a Federal Aviation Administration-required safety zone. That work is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million project to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

Airport officials are also moving the intersection so motorists don't get a close-up view of arriving planes.

Stewart said some Wolf Road work, such as the installation of storm drains, will continue throughout the winter.

So far, said Stewart, crews have completed two new bridges over the Wheeling drainage ditch

for both roads.

Airport officials hope to relocate the drainage ditch to create more developable land at Palwaukee.

With more buildable land, airport officials said they can place additional hangars for aircraft storage at Palwaukee to generate extra revenue.

To complete relocation of the drainage ditch, airport officials hope to acquire 23 acres of the adjoining 31-acre Twin Drive-In property at 1010 S. Milwaukee Avenue.

Earlier this year, state transportation officials said that relocation of the drainage ditch would not harm animals or the endangered species in the area.

Palwaukee officials have also said they are working on an agreement with Skokie-based M&R Properties Inc., owners of the property, to acquire the drive-in which is one of the last in the Chicago area.

That sale could be completed sometime next month, officials said.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agreement between Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

# Wheeling keg law an attempt to curb underage drinking

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday put into effect a new law requiring liquor sellers to place identification tags on beer kegs.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved a new ordinance that will make it easier for police to discover who purchased kegs for parties where underage drinking occurred.

"The bottom line is limiting the amount of beer at parties where minors might be," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The new ordinance, which goes into effect immediately, requires liquor sellers to affix a numbered tag to beer kegs. They also must keep a record of the kegs, noting the purchaser's name and address.

The new measure also requires keg sellers to take a deposit of at least \$20 for the keg and \$50 for a keg with a beer pump.

Customers who don't return the kegs with the identification tags within 60 days would forfeit the deposit. The liquor seller is also required to inform the vil-

lage about its forfeited deposits on a monthly basis.

The ordinance also makes it illegal for anyone in Wheeling to possess a keg without an identification tag or proof of purchase for a keg from another community.

Those liquor sellers caught violating the ordinance could face fines ranging from \$35 to \$500. Wheeling officials said that four businesses in the village sell kegs.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she heard that liquor stores like the new keg ordinance.

No liquor sellers came forward Monday night to oppose the measure.

She also said she hoped other nearby towns would adopt a similar measure. Prospect Heights and Buffalo Grove have similar ordinances in place.

The new ordinance is the latest village law targeted to minors in Wheeling.

In November, Wheeling trustees approved a tougher parental responsibility ordinance that includes restrictions on underage drinking and giving minors access to weapons.



Crews are finishing the renovations at the Wheeling Shopping Center at 291 E. Dundee Road for The Water Market grocery, opening in March. Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

## New food store to fill spot once occupied by Franklin's

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new food store is opening in March in the Wheeling Shopping Center space, formerly held by Franklin's Finer Foods.

The Water Market, a store featuring fresh produce, will open in the 12,500-square-foot space at 291 E. Dundee Road in mid-March by partners Nick Merikas of Lincolnwood and Dino Svigos of Wilmette.

The new store, costing about \$1 million, will occupy the space formerly held by the Franklin's Finer Foods Store, which was operated by Frank and Elaine Kurnkoski for five years. That store was destroyed more than a year ago in a Christmas Eve fire.

"We had been looking at the site for two years. We like that it's centrally located, and everybody going through Wheeling and Buffalo Grove has to pass through there," Merikas said.

Merikas said the new store would feature a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and some imported specialty grocery items.

The grocery also will carry other everyday items — such as trash bags and catsup — that stores such as Dominick's would have, Merikas said.

Merikas said he previously owned grocery stores, and his partner now owns two other groceries. Merikas also said they like that their store would be the only grocery in that part of Wheeling, and that it was opening when the Dominick's Finer Food Store in the village is closing.

Officials for the grocery chain said the Wheeling store was too small to meet its current needs.

Some residents were concerned about Wheeling's economy when the Franklin's store was destroyed and Dominick's Finer Foods announced it would close its Wheeling location at the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center in February.

"I think that location is particularly significant, because so many people walked to that store. It's close to a lot of seniors. We're pleased to have that store open," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

## Retail vacancies prompt call for Wheeling to take action

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said too many stores are leaving the village and called for officials to take action to retain them.

Abruscato, who is seeking re-election to her village board seat, said Wheeling has too many vacant store fronts and said other towns seem to have fewer retail vacancies.

"As you go through town it's distressing to see that. I know we're not in the real estate business, but can't we attract businesses?" she said.

To illustrate her point, Abruscato named a number of businesses that have left the village including the Dominick's Finer Food Store at Lynn Plaza that is closing soon.

Abruscato said she was uncertain what the village could do, but said perhaps trustees could receive a report from the village's community development department on its activities.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the retention of businesses could be one of

the topics discussed at an upcoming village board retreat.

She also said other towns have retail shopping center vacancies and that officials are working on the problem.

"I do think we are doing a lot. Can we do more? Probably. When someone finds the magic thing to do, we'll do it," Schultz said.

Trustee Lois Gaffke, who is also seeking re-election, said store vacancies are common in most communities.

She cited the Buffalo Grove Town-Center, that has many vacancies, to support her argument.

Wheeling residents expressed concerns about shopping in town with the loss of Dominick's and the Franklin's Finer Foods Store at the Wheeling Shopping Center. That store was destroyed in a Christmas Eve fire more than a year ago.

Recently, however, there were indications from the center's management company and village officials a new grocery may soon move into the former Franklin's space at 291 E. Dundee Road.

## Wheeling police department asks residents to rate services

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are once again surveying residents for their opinion of the police.

Officials printed 16,000 surveys in the November/December issue of the Village Views, Wheeling's newsletter, and mailed 15,366 to local businesses and residents.

The 14-question survey asks the respondents questions such as whether they have had any contact with Wheeling Police in the past 12 months. They also asked residents to rate the services provided by the department.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the department surveys the town annually to meet accreditation standards for law enforcement agencies.

He also said the surveys are used to determine residents' concerns for the department's planning.

"If we have a number of people identifying something we need to be concerned about, we will look into it," he said.

Haeger said he is uncertain how many surveys will be returned, but the response rate is usually less than 10 percent of

Wheeling's population.

Wheeling currently has about 30,000 residents.

Results of the latest survey will be unveiled to Wheeling trustees at an unspecified date in 1995 after the results are tallied, Haeger said.

Wheeling Police started the annual survey of the village in 1987.

In parts of 1992 and 1993 Wheeling Police conducted a 32-question survey from June to February to meet accreditation requirements. Police also expanded the focus of that survey to ask residents about other village departments and the Wheeling Park District.

In that survey residents listed Wheeling's appearance as their top concern.

About 8 percent of Wheeling's population, or 1,033 residents, returned those surveys.

At the time, Haeger said he was disappointed only a small percentage of minority residents responded to that survey.

For the 1992-93 survey 89 percent of the respondents were white.

The rest of those responses came from residents from Asian, black and Hispanic ethnic backgrounds.

## Palwaukee traffic continues to rise

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the second consecutive year take-offs and landings have increased at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. reported that for the 1994 calendar year there were 204,108 flight operations, a 21.3 percent hike over the 168,139 operations recorded in 1993.

Stewart said after several years of declining operations at Palwaukee, the airport posted an increase in 1993 because of an

upturn in the economy. He again attributed the increased activity at the airport in 1994 to an improved economy.

"I think it's the economy because in 1993 the economy turned around and it increased to 168,000," he said.

In 1988, Palwaukee had a record 251,277 operations, which at the time made it the 51st busiest airport in America.

Currently, Stewart is uncertain of where Palwaukee would rank among the nation's busiest airports but said more than 200,000

operations makes it an important facility.

After 1988, the number of operations at Palwaukee declined for several years until 1993. In 1992, the facility located at Milwaukee Avenue just north of Palatine Road hit a record low 143,314 operations.

Stewart said during bad economic times one of the first areas corporations trim is their aviation departments as they cut back on travel. Much of the air traffic at Palwaukee comes from corporate jets.

Palwaukee also serves as a

reliever airport for O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, taking on its business aircraft traffic on occasions to relieve overcrowding there.

With its three runways and 24-hour, year-round schedule, Palwaukee handles a variety of general and business aviation aircraft.

In the last year, the airport received equipment for its own Automated Surface Observing System, making it possible for pilots to get a complete weather forecast for Palwaukee available by phone.

# Big boost in levy puts spotlight on Wheeling Township fire board

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board increased its levy by nearly 50 percent the usually obscure panel became a hot topic.

When the fire board raised its levy 49.6 percent from \$582,826 to \$871,676, some residents said the hike was a political move to get Prospect Heights its own fire department.

The township district contracts with the Wheeling Fire Department to protect an area that includes most of Prospect Heights and nearby unincorporated areas but excludes the village of Wheeling.

Fire board President Anthony Carlin said the increase was needed to raise \$258,000 for reserves, to fund a consultant's study of future protection in the district and for possible construction of a fire station on the east side of Prospect Heights.

Carlin said Wheeling's firefighters don't respond to emergencies there fast enough.

"There are some real problems

to people in this district," he said

Some residents said the study is a ploy by the fire board to break the Wheeling contract and build the Prospect Heights fire station.

"We have the chief in Wheeling and the chief in Prospect Heights. Let's have them tell us what we need," said Bill Mayyou, a district resident.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford has said getting the station built is the first step in consolidating his city's fire protection. Rotchford said that he would like to see the district build a fire station in Prospect Heights as it has previously done in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

"There's no secret. We have been wanting to go to a municipal fire department," Rotchford said.

Carlin said the court-mandated contract the district has had with the Wheeling Fire Department since 1982 makes the Cook County board-appointed panel "three puppets" that only approve paying monthly fire coverage bills.

Carlin and fire Trustee Joseph Wolfe, who were endorsed for

appointment to the board by Rotchford, backed the tax hike while Trustee Peter Urban, who was endorsed by Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, opposed it.

Urban said the board has a "hidden agenda" and he released a memo from Carlin that called for the fire trustees to challenge the Wheeling contract in court and give the station it would build in Prospect Heights to the city.

The memo, which hasn't yet been discussed by the board, also called for asking the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District to cover unincorporated areas of the Wheeling fire district.

Carlin has said he heard the Cook County board wants the district dissolved someday because of its odd configuration.

Prospect Heights currently is served by the Wheeling Fire Department, the Prospect Heights Rural fire Protection District department, the Mount Prospect Fire Department and Glenbrook firefighters.

In the last consolidation push, a Cook County Circuit judge ruled a spring 1988 referendum the

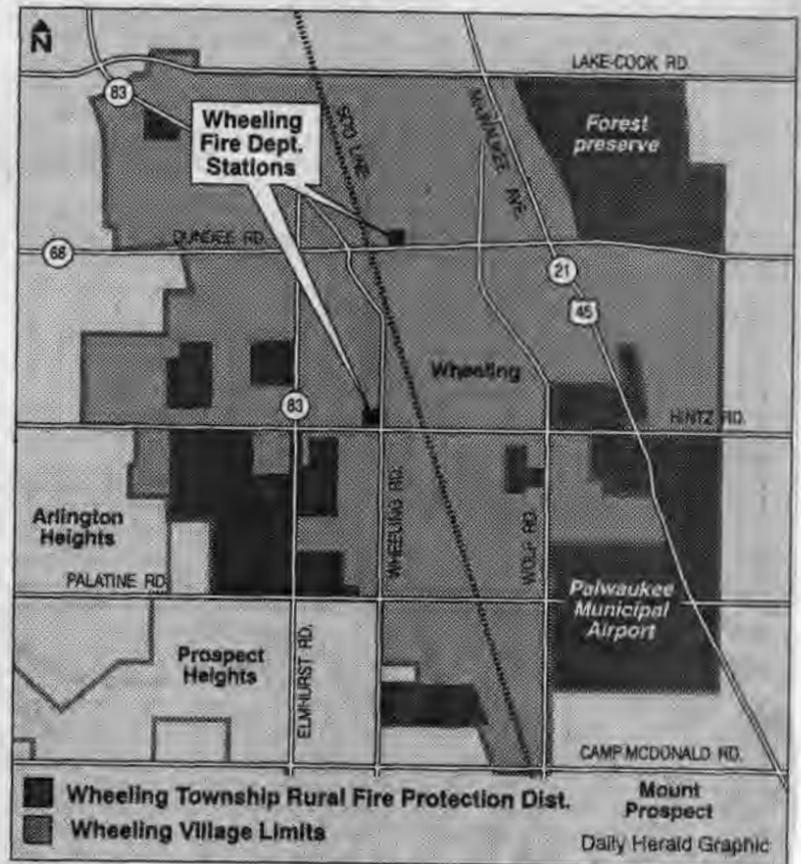
Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District sponsored to merge the two districts failed because voters in each fire district did not separately approve the measure. Wheeling officials fought that merger in court.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac questioned the latest call for a merger saying his department serves the area well and has an agreement with Mount Prospect's fire department to respond first to emergencies on the district's east side.

He noted Wheeling firefighters responded to 697 calls in 1993 in the nearly four square-mile district that has about 8,000 residents. Wheeling's fire department received \$541,679 from the district under its contract in 1993, which is about 18 percent of its \$3.01 million 1993-94 budget.

"I don't think you can get a full-time fire department for \$500,000," he said.

MacIsaac also noted the district's low fire insurance ratings, resulting from an independent evaluation where low numbers signify better fire protection quality, don't support Carlin's argument about the Wheeling Fire



Department. Wheeling officials indicated that if the district moves to break the fire contract the village would

consider suing that board. "We cannot start building that fire house until we get that (court) decision," Urban said.

## Fire department emergency calls on the increase

By Cheri Beckrup  
Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire Department answered 300 more calls in 1994 than it did in '93, and a trend toward increasing service requests may keep that number rising for years to come.

"Our calls are up dramatically," said Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac. Wheeling firefighters answered 3,323 calls in 1994, compared to 3,071 in 1993.

Of those 3,323 calls, 265 were service-related, MacIsaac said. This quickly growing category includes calls from residents who lock themselves out of their home, unfounded carbon monoxide hazards, and even people stuck in elevators.

"Our service requests are up and that's a sign that all fire departments are becoming more service oriented. When people don't know who to call, they call us," MacIsaac said.

### More service

In December alone, MacIsaac said, firefighters received 25 service requests for possible carbon monoxide poisonings. "Only two were valid," he said.

"Service requests have been going up steadily for the last five years. In fact they've tripled in the last five years, and I think that's only going to continue," MacIsaac said.

The Wheeling Fire Department serves an estimated 40,000 residents in a 12-square-mile area which includes all of Wheeling, Palwaukee Airport, pockets of unincorporated Cook County and much of eastern Prospect Heights, he said.

About 23 percent of the calls were generated from the Wheeling Township Rural Fire District while 77 percent were from Wheeling residents, he said.

In 1994, the department answered 192 fire calls — 83 structure fires, 36 vehicle fires and 73 others which include trash bin, grass and tree fires, MacIsaac said.

**Medical calls**

Most calls, 2,052, were medical-related, MacIsaac said, noting that 619 of those required advanced life support for conditions such as strokes or heart attacks.

Firefighters responded to 197 hazardous condition calls such as gas leaks and downed power lines; 66 "good intent" calls in which callers thought there was a fire or problem; and 551 false alarms.

Overall, MacIsaac said, calls for fires and service were up while medical calls decreased from 1993.

"Fires are cyclic," he said. "We only had two last year I'd call major. Minor fires are up."

MacIsaac said the decrease in medical calls was not predicted, as those calls are determined by the village's makeup and Wheeling has a substantial senior population.

"We had been seeing a steady rise, but there was a slight drop this year. Next year it may be back up," he said.

The 1994 statistics also show that Monday was the busiest day of the week, with over 500 of the department's calls landing on a Monday, MacIsaac said. The busiest time of day was noon to 6 p.m. when 1,113 calls were received.

"That's when people are most active. Industry is at its peak, traffic is at its peak. The slowest time is midnight to 6 a.m.," MacIsaac said.

Just as the number of calls rise when people are mobile, calls generally increase when the weather warms up and people become more physically active. But last year, January garnered the most calls.

# Mall owner hopes for extension

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

1-12-95  
Prospects

Countyside

Time is running out for Hein's Pub & Restaurant at 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., but the owner of the strip mall where the pub is located hopes Wheeling trustees will extend a previous agreement and allow the business to remain open past its spring deadline.

When it was discovered about five years ago that the mall lacks adequate parking as required by village code, trustees agreed to allow the businesses to continue operating on the property, said Village Manager Craig Anderson. That agreement expires April 30.

Howard Kagay, a partner of Progress Investments which owns the property, approached trustees last week and asked that the agreement be extended for two years. If the agreement isn't extended, Kagay said, Hein's will be forced to close.

Kagay said he has encountered some difficulty in leasing the mall's two retail spaces. Because of the parking shortage, prospective tenants have to appear before trustees and the Zoning Board for approval and variances, he added.

He claims he lost a prospective tenant, a motorcycle accessories store, in June to Libertyville because of the village's strict zoning codes. Anderson said he knows possible tenants have located elsewhere rather than complete the village's lengthy approval process.

The village's top concern seems to be lack of adequate parking.

"It was built more than 20 years ago and is woefully short on parking," Anderson said. So far, though, parking hasn't been a problem, he said.

"As a practical matter it hasn't presented a problem" because the retail spaces were vacant, but parking has been an "ongoing concern" of the village, Anderson said.

With the restaurant and both stores occupied, Anderson said, 80 parking spaces should be the minimum required by the village. Currently, the site has 33 spaces, he added. "It's never had proper parking," he said.

## Parking

Kagay doesn't see parking as a

major problem.

"My parking isn't any worse than others in the village of Wheeling," Kagay said. "Wheeling has had a lot of problems, a lot of places have closed down. The zoning should be more lenient in times this tough. We plan some good uses and they (the village) still have problems with them."

A retail bread store/distribution center and a retail fitness store are now interested in the site, Kagay told trustees last week. Trustees have requested more information.

"We asked him to give us more information about the operations," Anderson said of the latest proposal. "We'll see whether it fits zoning and what effect that will have on the parking. It's a difficult situation."

Kagay said he hopes to make the mall a success with "patience, persistence and prayer."

"I've dealt with a lot of towns and Wheeling is tougher than most. I've heard a lot of businesses saying the same thing," he said.

"I want to find something to meet their requirements. We don't want to fight. We want to get something in there to pay the mortgage and the taxes," Kagay added.



Tim Tuffy/Pioneer Press

## Time capsule

Countyside 1-12-95

Village president Sheila Schultz seals Wheeling's Centennial time capsule as Village manager Craig Anderson assists. The

capsule will be cemented into the centennial fountain outside Village Hall sometime this spring.

# Mathias unopposed in bid for re-election in Buffalo Grove

By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1-24-95

DEMOCRACY '95

It's official. Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias will not face opposition in the April 4 municipal election.

No one had filed nominating petitions to run against Mathias by 5 p.m. Monday.

Village Clerk Janet Sirabian was the last person to file in Buffalo Grove. She will be unopposed in her bid for re-election.

Not all of the village elections will be that quiet. Seven people filed at 8 a.m. Jan. 16 — the first day of filing — for three village trustee seats.

Sirabian held a lottery for ballot position just after filing closed. The order of the trustee candidates' names on the ballot will be: incumbent Brian Rubin, Philip Horn, Louis Eisenberg, newly appointed incumbent Gerard Moons, Louis Windecker, DeAnn Glover and incumbent John Marienthal.

Sirabian warned that the trustee race will likely be decided by only a few votes.

"This will be a low turnout election, and a few votes will make a difference," Sirabian said.

In Wheeling, the field is even more crowded. Nine candidates have filed for three, 4-year trustee seats.

Incumbents Lois Gaffke and Anthony Altieri Jr. are running on a slate with Village Clerk Jeanne D. Selander.

If Selander wins a board seat, the trustees would appoint someone to fill her vacated clerk's post, officials have said.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato is running as an independent.

While no issues have surfaced, the diverse field of trustee hopefuls includes police officer Robert J. Heer, insurance broker Stuart Shapiro, small business owner Pat Horcher, senior citizen Steve Telow, William Spangenberg, and a banker.

Mathias will be on the ballot. The Buffalo Grove Park District, including the townships of Buffalo Grove and Buffalo Grove, have filed for

the four-year seat.

## The April 4 ballot

Filing closed Monday for the upcoming municipal election. Here is the complete list of candidates.

### Buffalo Grove

For village president (4-year term): Sidney H. Mathias (I)

For village board (three 4-year terms): Louis Eisenberg; DeAnn Glover; Philip Horn; John Marienthal (I); Gerard Moons (I); Brian Rubin (I); Louis Windecker

For park district board (three 4-year terms): Don Hedlund (I); Larry Reiner (I); Martha Weiss

For Vernon Area Public Library District (three, 6-year terms): Jane S. Berman; George I. Goldstein (I); Susan M. Kenski-Srokka (I); (For one 4-year term): Bettina C. Mall (I)

### Long Grove

For village clerk (2-year term): Donald Pochopien

For village board (three 4-year terms): Joseph Barry; Bruce T. Klein (I); Maria Rodriguez (I)

For park district (three 6-year terms): Judy Deagan (I); Scott Hoyne (I); Edward Wachs III

### Wheeling

For village board (three 4-year terms): Judy Abruscato (I); Anthony Altieri Jr. (I); Lois Gaffke (I); Robert J. Heer; Pat Horcher; Jeanne D. Selander (I); Stuart Shapiro; William Spangenberg; Steven Talow

For park district board (three 4-year seats): Dennis Drake (I); George Hernandez; Cheri Klump (I); William Mathias (I); Jeff Winkler

For library board (three 4-year seats): Larry Cahall (I); Mary Ellen Mattson (I); Tom Murray (I); (One 2-year seat): Earl Sabes

for re-election to 6-year terms on the Long Grove Park District Board also will be uncontested, said park board secretary Andrea Krakora.

Larry Reiner, an incumbent commissioner on the Buffalo Grove Park District, filed late Monday afternoon to join fellow incumbents Martha Weiss and Don Hedlund. The three will not be opposed.

At the Indian Trails Public Library District, three incumbents are seeking three, 4-year seats and newcomer Earl Sabes filed for the open 2-year spot.

At the Vernon Area Public Library District, George I. Goldstein and Susan M. Kenski-Srokka and Jane S. Berman filed for the three, 6-year seats available. Incumbent Bettina C. Mall filed for the four-year seat.

# Wheeling trustees OK train station, borrowing authority

1-21-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved a train station and authority to borrow up to \$4.5 million to keep the Wisconsin Central Railroad on schedule in the village.

The Wheeling village board recently gave its approval for the construction of a commuter station for the 53-mile line targeted for eight acres just south of West Dundee Road and west of Northgate Parkway.

Wheeling officials have said that the train station, that will feature 626 parking spaces for commuters, would cost \$2 million to build excluding land costs. The 12-stop line is expected to start operations by spring 1996.

To ensure the project is adequately funded and stay ahead of possible tax restrictions now being considered by state lawmakers, Wheeling trustees also approved a measure allowing them to borrow up to \$4.5 million.

"We want this approved on short notice because of the uncertainty of what will happen in the Illinois General Assembly," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Under the proposed law being

considered, taxing bodies could not have property tax levies that are more than 5 percent higher than the prior year's levy or the cost of living, whichever is less.

Taxing bodies seeking levies that are more than 5 percent higher than the prior year's levy must first win voters' approval of a tax increase referendum.

Wheeling officials said without the borrowing authority they would have to institute a utility tax or raise the village's home rule sales tax to pay for the station.

Officials said the Wheeling stop will be the line's busiest with about 750 riders per day.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz also said that they will not use funds they borrow to help pay off the \$3.5 million towns along the line agreed to pay for their share of its construction.

Concerns by officials that some state and federal grants for the line, which could cost \$61 million, might be slashed lead Wheeling officials to consider helping the towns pay its share of the project.

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove are the only two towns with home rule authority to do such borrowing.

# Wheeling fire district hires consultants to study service

1-19-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board Wednesday hired two consultants to study fire protection and response times.

The fire board hired Richard H. Solomon and Roger W. Bassett to work together on a single study of the district to be unveiled May 9.

Fire board President Anthony Carlin said the study was needed partly because the response time for emergencies on the district's east side in Prospect Heights was too slow.

"I think you're going to find more than a couple of hundred people unhappy with their fire protection once the truth is known," Carlin said.

Some residents have accused Carlin and the fire board of backing the study so it can break its court-mandated fire protection contract with the Wheeling Fire Department and get a fire station built in Prospect Heights.

That station, they said, would help Prospect Heights get its own

fire department. Currently, the city is mostly served by the Wheeling Fire Department.

Wheeling Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Perricone accused Carlin of only mentioning longer-than-average response times to east side emergencies.

Bassett told the fire board his study would take 60 days to complete and cost \$15,000. Solomon said his study would take up to 6 months to complete and cost \$8,000.

A final cost for the work was not determined Wednesday night. However, in the recently approved tax levy increase, fire trustees said some of the additional \$258,000 the levy raised would be allocated for a fire study.

The consultants will meet with fire attorney Karl R. Ottosen to make an agreement on the study.

"I consider it a duty of mine to go out and find people who know fire districts," said fire trustee Joseph Wolfe. "I don't know fire districts."

The district includes most of Prospect Heights and unincorporated areas but excludes the village of Wheeling.

# Wheeling gives Palwaukee permission to buy theater

1-24-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved Palwaukee Municipal Airport's purchase of the Twin Drive-In theater, paving the way for completion of the deal.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved the airport's purchase of 23 acres of the 31-acre parcel at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave. adjacent to Palwaukee.

Airport officials have said the theater land is needed so they can relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through both properties. That work is part of an \$83.5 million project to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

"It will allow the airport to take possession of the property so work on the drainage ditch can proceed," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agree-

ment between Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The Prospect Heights city council approved the purchase last week.

Under the sales agreement, M&R Properties of Skokie, owners of the theater, will receive about \$2.27 million for the land. The airport and M&R agreed to argue about a final price for the land in Cook County Circuit Court.

Airport officials have said the court could rule that they owe more money for the land or that they paid too much for the property.

Officials for M&R have indicated they will accept the deal both sides agree to in court.

Airport officials also said work at the drive-in could start in August. Officials for both sides were uncertain if a drive-in theater would be operated at the Twin this summer.

The Loews-Sony company had previously operated the drive-in there.

# Trustees turn down business

1-26-95  
Howard Kagay, owner of the strip mall at 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., suffered a blow from Wheeling trustees last week when they said a Butternut bread retail shop/distribution center, which was interested in moving to the mall, is not allowed in the business zoning.

Similar businesses are located in the village, but only in industrial areas, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"He's in a difficult situation, but we can't do spot zoning," Anderson said.

Also, he said, village staff has no plans to recommend an agreement with Kagay be extended to allow Hein's Pub & Restaurant to operate past its April 30 deadline. One problem with the property is lack of parking, he said.

# Village bars distribution store at mall

1-23-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials told a local shopping center owner they still oppose his having a bread-distribution store as a tenant.

Wheeling officials told Howard Kagay they will not allow him to have a Butternut Bread store at his strip shopping mall at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Officials said the shopping center is not in a zoning area that allows retail sales and distribution at the same site.

"The question we have here is not the sale of the bread. The question we have here is the distribution of the bread," said Wheeling Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke.

Klitzke said a distribution center at the shopping center gives that location the potential to draw more truck traffic to the area than the village wants.

Kagay reiterated his belief that because of zoning restrictions on the shopping center he has had a tough time attracting tenants.

"This seems to me to be an ideal location. Especially since I don't

have another tenant," Kagay said.

Currently, two of the three store spaces at Kagay's shopping center are vacant.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes told Kagay that the village's zoning codes were generally liberal about listing what kinds of businesses are permissible in certain areas of the village.

Rhodes said any businesses not specified under the zoning codes for Kagay's shopping center were not permitted there.

Wheeling officials said businesses such as the Butternut Bread

store would be permitted only in areas with an industrial-use zoning designation.

Wheeling officials had told Kagay earlier this month that he should have done a better job of telling them the details about the bread store.

Wheeling officials also reiterated their opposition to extending the time that Hein's Pub could be at the shopping center.

The village has placed a April 30 deadline on the pub's stay at the shopping center because they said it did not have enough parking under Wheeling's code.

# Developer eyes Horcher farm

Countrywide  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
1-26-95

Wheeling village officials last week heard initial plans of a proposed shopping center to be built on a 50-acre site at the corner of Weiland Road and Route 83, south of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke met with attorneys and representatives of Centrum Properties Inc. of Chicago to discuss the project, preliminary plans and zoning.

"They really don't have any commitments" from potential retail tenants, he said, not giving any insight into what type of tenants or customers Centrum hopes to attract.

These preliminary meetings, before the development firm has even come to agreement for the

property, are common, Klitzke said, noting that some developers drop their projects after the initial meeting.

However, Centrum's proposal "sounds interesting. It's worth looking at," he said.

Preliminary plans show the shopping center offering anywhere from 150,000 to 250,000 square feet of retail space. The development, he said, would cover about 20 acres of the 50-acre tract.

"It really depends on which users end up there," Klitzke said of the size and design of the center. "It's too early to know. I don't think it will be a strip mall. It won't be an inside mall, there's not enough space.

"It depends on how it gets laid out," he added.

The next step for Centrum may be an informal workshop with village trustees to see how they view the proposal before the firm approaches the

Zoning Board and Plan Commission.

"With a development of that size they'll probably have a workshop (with village trustees), an informal, get-to-know you. You're not approving anything, you're not disapproving anything," he said.

Village Manager Craig Anderson, who did not attend the preliminary meeting, said he's not sure how the plans will proceed, but a village workshop would be a likely step. He had no proposed date for the workshop and was not sure what Centrum's timeline is.

Klitzke said the proposal would have to go before the Zoning Board because the land, commonly known as Horcher farm, is zoned for residential use.

Centrum has developed other shopping centers, but none in Wheeling, he added.

## Trustees find food court plans palatable

1-26-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even though they found parking for the project unpalatable, Wheeling trustees approved plans for a food court at Lynn Plaza.

In a 6-0 vote the Wheeling village board approved a plan by James Kaplan, president of Chicago-based James Kaplan Companies, the center's management firm, for a food court at Lynn Plaza at 520-522 W. Dundee Road.

Wheeling officials approved Kaplan's plan to make space available for a delicatessen and two

other restaurants in a 2,906 square-foot area formerly occupied by a coin-operated laundry at the shopping center.

That food court would also have 42 seats and provide access to the adjoining Baskin-Robbins ice cream store.

However, the trustees omitted several spaces at the south end of Lynn Plaza near a parking lot entrance. Kaplan had said those spaces were needed for the food court.

"A number of them (prospective tenants) have shied away because of the restriction to parking near

the store," Kaplan said.

Some village officials had said that parking near the entrance could be dangerous because of the diners could end up backing vehicles into traffic entering the south end of the lot.

Kaplan proposed turning the vacant space into a food court in part to capture business from commuters on the Wisconsin Central Railroad scheduled to start operation next year.

The commuter station is located down the street from Lynn Plaza south of West Dundee Road and west of Northgate Parkway.

Wheeling trustees specified that if building permits for the food court project aren't taken out by the developer within a year their permission will expire.

Kaplan had said that the center needed the food court to boost business there after the Dominick's Finer Food store there since the early 1970s closes its doors for good in February.

Officials of the supermarket chain, now rumored to be up for sale, said they closed the Wheeling location because it was too small for its current needs.

## Candidates in Wheeling face inquiries on petitions

2-1-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Candidates for Wheeling village board and Wheeling park board had their nominating petitions challenged this week.

In the village board race, Wheeling Trustee Wayne Wisinski filed an objection to nominating petitions submitted by newcomer Steven J. Telow.

Neither Wisinski nor village officials would provide details about the objection saying Telow had not been notified about it Tuesday.

"My interest is the execution of the state statutes as they apply to municipal government and local elections," Wisinski said.

Wisinski ran on Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz's slate in the spring 1993 election. A slate of three candidates loyal to Schultz is among nine now seeking the three open trustee seats.

Next week a review of the objection by a panel comprised of trustees could be scheduled.

"All my signatures were good. I was there in person (for the signings)," Telow said.

Telow is one of nine candidates

seeking the three open 4-year trustee seats.

In the park board race, Park President Francine Melamed filed objections to newcomer Jeffrey S. Winkler's petitions.

Melamed said Winkler's petitions were improperly notarized and signed by some people twice.

She also said Winkler violated election rules by circulating his petitions before he registered to vote.

"People need to know they have to do things within the law," Melamed said.

Winkler said he first had people print their names on his petition, then later he asked them to sign their names when he learned signatures were required.

Winkler also said Telow notarized his petitions because he's a neighbor and notary public.

"With her saying that I was getting signatures before I was a registered voter, that's false," Winkler said.

Next week a Cook County electoral board could schedule a review of the objections.

Winkler is one of five candidates seeking one of three open 4-year park commissioner seats.

## Wheeling panel allows candidate to stay on ballot

2-7-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Independent Wheeling trustee candidate Stephen J. Telow survived challenges to his nominating petitions and will appear on the spring ballot.

A Wheeling review panel without comment Monday dismissed two objections filed by Wheeling Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski over petitions Telow submitted to run for a trustee's post.

"I'm elated. I finally won something," Telow said.

Wisinski charged that Telow submitted petitions with 282 signatures, exceeding the 202-signature maximum. He also said Telow did not follow election rules for deleting the additional signatures from his petitions.

"Other candidates were able to follow the laws. I would only hope that a candidate running for office to make laws would be able to follow laws," Wisinski said, noting his disappointment over the panel's decision.

Attorney David W. Borenstein,

representing Telow, said that even if Telow had extra signatures, enough residents still wanted him on the ballot. He also said Wisinski didn't properly state his objection to how Telow deleted some signatures in a letter to the panel.

"If this board cites the sanctions Mr. Wisinski is seeking, they will have violated my client's due process rights," Borenstein said.

Telow, 73, is now free to join a field of eight other candidates running for one of three open four-year seats on the Wheeling village board.

Other candidates include the slate of incumbents Anthony Altieri Jr., Lois Gaffke and current village clerk Jeanne D. Selander.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato is also seeking re-election as an independent.

Other newcomers in the race are Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher, Stuart Shapiro and William C. Spangenberg.

Telow garnered 752 votes in a failed bid for a Wheeling Park District commissioner's seat in the spring 1993 election.



With only a few employees still here, this Dominick's Finer Foods store in Wheeling will close Saturday after 22 years.

## Wheeling grocery to ring up its last sale

At 5 p.m. Saturday, Dominick's Finer Foods in Wheeling will close, ending a 22-year relationship with the town. While the Northlake-based food store has been renovating

and enlarging other suburban stores, the small Wheeling store on Dundee Road has been destined to close for a while, despite local efforts to save it. Story on Page 7.

# Wheeling bids Dominick's farewell

## Village braces for harsh impact of store's closing after 22 years

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

By 5 p.m. this Saturday a Wheeling grocery will have closed its doors after 22 years in the village.

Dominick's Finer Foods will close its store at the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center, 550 W. Dundee Road, as part of the company's cost-cutting measures.

While residents have known about the closing for months, it doesn't lessen the impact of the loss, they say.

"I've been shopping here since it's been here. Actually, I think it's bad (the closing) for Wheeling," said Delores Doetsch, a 28-year Wheeling resident.

Company officials did not return phone calls Monday but have said they decided not to renew their lease for the store, which had about 24,000 square feet of sales space, because it's too small for their needs.

They already have transferred most of the store's 90 employees to other stores in Buffalo Grove and Northbrook, where Dominick's stores have undergone dramatic enlargements.

Denise Kennedy, owner of the

Travel Wise, Ltd. travel agency at Lynn Plaza and president of the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce economic development committee, said the closing is a truly a loss for Wheeling.

"I think it's going to impact the shopping center. Customers I talked to said they shopped here because it was convenient," Kennedy said.

"I've been here the 22 years Dominick's has been here. I still get a feeling in the pit of my stomach (over the loss) when I go into the store," she said.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato helped residents launch an unsuccessful petition drive this past summer to raise 15,000 signatures to persuade officials of the Northlake-based grocery chain to keep the store open.

"The impact is the inconvenience to residents and the loss of tax dollars to our village," she said. "It's a sad thing. It's a dramatic impact on the people."

Abruscato said the closing will force residents of nearby senior housing developments to travel farther to shop.

After Saturday, Wheeling's gro-

cery stores will include Aldi, Garden Fresh Food Market and Sam's Club, a warehouse store that only sells to its members.

Also, The Water Market Grocery store is slated to open at 291 E. Dundee Road in March.

That grocery is opening at the site of the former Franklin's Finer Foods store that burned down on Christmas Eve 1993.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village is sorry to see the Dominick's store go. She said officials tried to work with Dominick's to keep the store open, but the company was not interested.

"It was frustrating," Schultz said. "They said they weren't interested in staying. It wasn't a case of working with them to find a way for them to stay and it not working out. There was no point at which they gave an option to work with us."

Schultz said the village was able to find out that the store was making money for the company.

"They said certainly they were making a profit but not enough of a profit," Schultz said.

While village officials decried the

store's closing, James Kaplan, president of James Kaplan Companies Inc., Lynn Plaza's management company, said the shopping center has a good location and he's hopeful a new grocery tenant will soon occupy the space.

"Dominick's decision is not a reflection on the quality of the center. It's just time for them to move on," he said.

Lynn Plaza is the closest shopping center to Wheeling's stop on the Wisconsin-Central Ry. commuter line set to begin operations in April, 1996.

Officials have said that stop will be the busiest on the 53-mile line, attracting about 750 commuters a day.

The closing of Dominick's Wheeling store comes on the heels of rumors the 84-store chain may be for sale.

Sources have said the 70-year company is for sale following the recent death of founder and Chairman Dominick DiMatteo Jr.

Company officials have said they won't comment on those rumors.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Larry Smith contributed to this report.

### Lottery determines ballot spots

The five independents running for Wheeling village trustee April 4 selected their ballot positions with a Feb. 1 lottery held at Village Hall.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato will be first on the ballot, followed by Robert Heer, William Spangenberg, Stuart Shapiro and Patrick Horcher. These five names will be listed on the ballot below the Wheeling United Party candidates, incumbents Lois Gaffke, Anthony Altieri Jr. and current Village Clerk Jeanne Selander.

Independent Stephen Telow was the last candidate to file for election, and will appear last on the ballot if the village Electoral Board finds his nominating petitions acceptable.

Three trustees will be elected.

# Electoral board rejects challenges to petition

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustee candidate Stephen Telow will remain on the April 4 ballot after the village's Electoral Board on Monday rejected challenges to his nomination petitions.

Trustee Wayne Wisinski last week filed objections to Telow's petitions, saying they did not follow state statutes.

"The objections were made on two grounds. One, the number of signatures on the petitions, there were too many. And the way he deleted signatures off of his petitions was done incorrectly," said Wisinski, who was elected trustee in 1993 on a slate with Village President Sheila Schultz.

Illinois statutes limit the number of signatures to a maximum of 202, Wisinski said. "He had 282," Wisinski said of Telow's petitions.

Wisinski said he checked all the candidates' petitions, and Telow's was the only one that raised objections.

"The rest have followed all the regulations, as far as I can tell," he said. "I believe at this point it's up to the Electoral Board

and how they rule it."

After hearing Wisinski's objections, Telow's attorney, David Borenstein of Alfred D. Stavros & Associates, Wheeling, said Telow did not receive adequate notification of Monday's hearing.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said Telow's wife was given notice when the objections were filed, a certified letter was sent to his home Feb. 2, and a community service officer delivered a notice to his home.

Borenstein argued that removing Telow from the ballot "would be a violation of his due process rights." Borenstein presented a federal court case concerning a similar petition challenge in which the court decided the candidate should remain on the ballot.

After a 10-minute executive session, the Electoral Board, consisting of Trustees Robert Todd, Elizabeth Hartman and public member Judith Kolman, unanimously rejected Wisinski's objections and accepted Telow's petitions.

"I'm elated," Telow said. "Thank you very much."

Telow is one of nine candidates seeking three trustee seats in the April election.

# Suburban grocery war

## Stores see service as their key to survival

By STEVE WARMBIR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Tony Cirrincione, the manager of an independent grocery store in Hanover Park, knows how brutally competitive his business can be.

"Let's see, I've got two Jewels,

West Coast firm purchases  
Dominick's — Business

two Dominick's, a Cub's, a Sam's, an Eagle," all within a short drive of his store, Dino's Finer Foods, he says.

To lure consumers, Cirrincione puts Hispanic products on the shelves for his Latino customers. About a month ago, the store started renting videos and plans to expand the service.



Grocery store competition is fierce in the Northwest suburbs, not only on pricing but also to provide the best customer service.

The casualty list among grocery store competitors will grow by two stores by the end of the day. Piggly Wiggly in Palatine and Dominick's Finer Foods in Wheeling will close their doors

for good today. A Piggly Wiggly official said the store just wasn't profitable. Dominick's officials have indicated that its small Wheeling store wasn't profitable enough. Like other major grocery chains, the company is opting for larger,

See GROCERY on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

more profitable stores.

These store closings follow several in the past few years in the suburbs. Last year, Eagle Food stores decided to stop operating five suburban stores.

Welton's Village Market closed in the spring in Mundelein.

A Jewel has long been shuttered in Des Plaines, eventually to be replaced by an Osco Drug and food mart. Another Jewel store in Arlington Heights was long rumored to be closing but has remained open after lobbying by community officials.

The closings have some independent grocers worried.

"I'm just trying to hang in there," said Richard Silko, owner of Rich's Food & Deli in Arlington Heights, who puts in 80 hours a week running his store.

From renting videos to selling gourmet foods, customers want the convenience of one-stop shopping, grocery store managers say. And as the competition grows more fierce, consumers may see more services

at some stores looking for an edge to survive, industry observers say.

The competition may grow even tougher as a huge California holding company announced Friday it will buy Dominick's Finer Foods Inc., the No. 2 grocery store in the Chicago area after Jewel Food Stores. The buyer, Yucaipa Cos., likely will expand the grocery store chain.

"The people who win in this area are consumers," said Jonathan Ziegler, vice president of research at Salomon Brothers in New York.

"Customer service. That's the name of the game in the business," Ziegler said.

After the sale of the Dominick's chain, for instance, consumers could benefit in a number of ways.

Yucaipa Cos. may add services for Dominick's customers or possibly even lower prices to lure more people to the stores, according to Ziegler.

Ziegler speculated that Yucaipa could use its growing number of stores to bargain aggressively with its suppliers, which could result in lower prices for consumers.

## WEEKLY DIGEST

Countryside - 2/16-95  
Gaslight gets new restaurant

Wheeling trustees last week granted a parking variance and a special use permit for a fast-food restaurant to open at 747 W. Dundee Road in the Gaslight Shopping Center.

Trustees agreed to reduce the number of required parking spaces for the proposed hotdog stand from seven to five, given that no customer seating is available. The restaurant would be carry-out only.

In a memo to trustees, Anderson said, "It does not appear that the reduction in required parking spaces would present any problems for operation of the proposed restaurant or Gaslight Shopping Center in general."

### Gash receives award from Wheeling

State Rep. Lauren Beth Gash, D-Deerfield, received a Champions of Local Government Award at the Feb. 6 Wheeling Village Board meeting. The award was presented by Village President Sheila Schultz in recognition of Gash's support of local issues and commitment to local governments.

Other legislators who received the award from the village of Wheeling, but did not attend last week's meeting, were Sens. David Barkhausen, Martin Butler, Grace Mary Stern and Reps. Carolyn Krause and Bernard Pedersen.

# Wheeling resident seeks help to expand grant guidelines

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling resident is asking the village to expand its program that funds improvement of houses owned by low-income residents to include multi-family dwellings. Frustrated that she cannot receive any of the Community Development Block Grant funds the village receives to upgrade

her town house in Tahoe Village subdivision, Jenny Jenkins asked that officials consider expanding the program.

"I'm trying to get help with my house, and I keep getting turned down because it's a town house," she said.

Under the program, Wheeling receives federal funds administered by Cook County for improv-

ing the single-family houses of residents meeting certain income guidelines.

The village funding covers improvements to plumbing, wiring, roofing and other infrastructure to upgrade housing so it meets local building codes.

Wheeling Village Manager said officials will investigate expanding the program, but are uncertain if

they could receive additional funding from the county.

The village has received \$50,000 annually for the program over the past few years, Anderson said.

"I think we can expand it to do multifamily, the question is, do we have the money?" he said.

Jenkins said the village can either seek more funding from the county for multifamily housing

improvements, or they can ask for separate funding to cover those dwellings.

Anderson said the village's current \$50,000 allocation is nearly spent for the year thanks to work being done for recent applicants.

Last year, officials said the program was underutilized by residents and only nine of them had received CDBG funding from 1991

to 1993.

Wheeling officials were uncertain when they would again discuss the block grant program.

Expenditures for block grant projects are approved by Wheeling trustees.

Details of the residential projects are kept confidential and do not appear in public village board literature.

# Trustees vote to tag kegs sold in village

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
2-2-95

Wheeling trustees last week unanimously approved an amendment to the village's liquor ordinance with hopes of restricting underage drinking.

Effective immediately, all beer kegs sold in Wheeling must have a numbered, plastic tag affixed to them, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Liquor stores are required to keep a log of who purchased the keg, their address, telephone number, driver's license number, birthdate and signature.

This log book is to be available for inspection by police officers during normal business hours, the amendment states.

## Identification

The revised ordinance should help police officers determine who purchased the alcohol when they respond to calls of loud parties.

"If a keg is found at a party where there's underage drinking, we may be able to find who supplied the liquor," Anderson said.

The keg must be returned to the liquor store within 60 days of purchase with the tag in place, or the buyer forfeits his deposit, he said.

The revised ordinance states that the deposit must be at least \$50 for a keg and pump and \$20 for a keg without a pump. Only one deposit is required for multiple purchases.

## Not unique

Similar ordinances have been well received in other communities, Anderson said, as they also protect the store owners.

Buffalo Grove adopted a similar ordinance as part of the village's parental responsibility package in October 1993. Village Finance Director Bill Brimm said only three package liquor stores in Buffalo Grove continue to sell kegs.

Though village officials initially planned monthly checks of businesses selling kegs, Brimm said, those checks are now performed quarterly because of the light volume.

"We've had no complaints," Brimm said, adding that a meeting with vendors last year produced good reviews for the program.

## Deterrent

Anderson hopes the Wheeling ordinance makes it "less likely someone over 21 would buy a keg for someone under 21."

If a keg is purchased outside the village, those giving the party must be able to show proof of purchase, such as a receipt, including the name and address of the seller.

Local liquor store owners have mixed opinions about the new requirements.

Young Choi, owner of Bell Liquors at 767 W. Dundee Road who said he sells about two kegs each weekend, doesn't think the new requirements will require much more work on his behalf.

"It's a good idea," Choi said, noting that Buffalo Grove has a similar ordinance.

Mike Campobasso, owner of G&O Liquors at 890 S. Milwaukee Ave., said the new ordinance may complicate his business even though his store is located outside of Wheeling, in unincorporated Cook County.

Campobasso said his store already issues receipts to keg buyers for the deposit and taper. The purchaser's name and telephone number also is recorded, he said.

"It's going to be a hassle," he said. Until kegs are issued from the brewery with a number, he said, it could be difficult to determine who purchased which kegs.

# Drive-in land provides room for ditch move

Palwaukee Airport is in the fifth year of a 12 year safety improvement plan.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
2-2-95

Wheeling trustees recently agreed to a temporary purchase price for 23 acres of the Twin Drive-in property to be used by Palwaukee Airport for relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch.

Moving the ditch away from the runways is part of a long-range improvement plan to bring the airport in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration safety standards, as was shifting the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads to improve clearance between planes and road traffic.

Trustees on Jan. 23 unanimously approved a tentative \$2.27 million price tag for the drive-in theater at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The actual purchase price will be determined by a Cook County court condemnation proceeding against

deciding only the amount necessary for the ditch relocation should be purchased.

The FAA is paying about 90 percent of the \$2.27 million purchase price for the property, Anderson said.

Of the remaining 10 percent, the Illinois Department of Transportation will cover half while the other half is paid by the airport, which is operated jointly by Prospect Heights and Wheeling, Anderson said. Prospect Heights trustees agreed to the tentative purchase price two weeks ago, he added.

The money used for this purchase has been generated by the airport, not from the village, Anderson noted.

The remaining drive-in land, eight acres along the Hintz Road frontage, could be used for future retail development, Anderson said.

Future plans call for small hangars to be built on the former drive-in property, south of the relocated drainage ditch, Stewart said.

M&R Theaters of Skokie which owns the drive-in, he said.

"This temporary settlement amount allows us to take possession and do the work" without waiting for the condemnation ruling, Anderson said. Work on the drainage ditch could begin sometime this year, he said.

The ditch currently wanders throughout airport property and near two of the four runways which could create a dangerous situation according to the FAA, said Airport Manager Fred Stewart. "We need to get it out of the safety area," he said.

Once relocated, the ditch will be on the former theater property, Stewart said.

Part of the relocation project will include building a bridge on Milwaukee Avenue so the ditch can run underneath the thoroughfare, Stewart said. The ditch drains into the DesPlaines River.

Originally, Anderson said, the airport planned to buy the entire 31-acre tract of drive-in property, but the FAA thwarted that effort by (Continued on page 16)

Palwaukee is in its fifth year of the 12-year safety improvement plan required by the FAA, Stewart said. The next major project will be building taxiways and aprons, he said.

Besides the relocation of the drainage ditch and the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection, the airport has demolished 41 T-hangars that were too close to Palwaukee's longest runway, said Dennis Rouleau, assistant manager of operations and maintenance at the airport.

"We've done a lot of demolition and clearing of trees that penetrate the approach" to the runways, he said. Future safety improvements slated for Palwaukee include removing one runway and building a new control tower this summer, Rouleau said.

Village officials were unsure whether M&R Theaters would operate the drive-in this summer. No one could be reached for comment at M&R Theaters.

# Grocer may open in March

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
2-2-95

If all goes as planned, Wheeling residents on the village's north side will be without a local grocery store for only a month.

Renovations are under way at the Wheeling Shopping Center for The Water Market to move into the former Franklin Foods site at 291 E. Dundee Road.

The Water Market is scheduled to open in March, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

A fire in December 1993 destroyed Franklin Foods, and village officials recently learned that Dominick's at 550 W. Dundee Road is closing in a little over two weeks, Feb. 4.

"If we're lucky it will be only a month" without a local grocery store, said Anderson, who has been working for months to find a grocery store to open in Wheeling.

Renovations should move along quickly as the store shouldn't encounter any zoning delays because the site previously housed a grocery

store, he said.

The only variance The Water Market may need would be regarding the type of sign the owners select, he added.

"I think it will fill a void," Anderson said. "It's certainly great that they're coming" to Wheeling.

The owner of the Wheeling Shopping Center did confirm that the former Franklin Foods site is being renovated, but would not discuss any details of the future grocery store.

# Wheeling manager gets 4% pay hike

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
2-10-95

Wheeling trustees have given Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson a 4 percent pay raise hiking his annual salary to \$84,770.

In a unanimous vote, the Wheeling village board approved the annual pay raise for Anderson retroactive to Dec. 1. Anderson had been earning \$81,510.

"Craig is doing an excellent job as manager. He's responsive to both the board and the citizens of the community," said Wheeling

Trustee Lois Gaffke.

In Buffalo Grove, Village Manager William Balling has a \$107,500 compensation package that includes \$102,600 in salary and a \$4,900 bonus.

In Long Grove, Village Manager D.M. "Cal" Doughty earns \$89,000, \$79,000 of which is salary and the remaining \$10,000 is a bonus.



**Craig G. Anderson**

During the past year Anderson has been involved in a variety of projects including finding developers to make proposals for redeveloping the village's tax increment finance district by the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection.

Village officials are currently reviewing proposals from suitors for that location.

Anderson has also spearheaded the village efforts to develop its commuter station for the Wisconsin Central Railroad that will be located just west of Wheeling village hall immediately south of 425

W. Dundee Road.

Officials have said the Wheeling stop on the 53-mile rail line will be its busiest attracting about 750 riders per day. The commuter railroad is scheduled to begin operations in April, 1996.

Anderson's daily responsibilities include overseeing a staff of about 190 employees and supervising the village's budget of \$28.5 million.

Anderson has been with the village for 5½ years.

Last year, Wheeling trustees raised his salary 4.5 percent from \$78,000 to \$81,510.

# Local officials brace for tax cap

**Park districts, libraries and maybe even home rule municipalities would fall under the constraints of a tax cap if legislators approve the measure, already in affect in the collar counties, for Cook County.**

2-9-95  
By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

While some local officials watch intently as state legislators debate the possibility of a Cook County tax cap, the director of the Buffalo Grove Park District said the proposed cap would have no effect on his district.

Some of the Park District lies in Cook County, but because the majority is in Lake County, it has been operating under the collar counties' tax cap since the Legislature approved it in 1991, said Parks Director Mike Rylko.

In addition to the Lake County tax cap, a simulta-

puts many of the Park District's plans on hold, he said.

A Cook County tax cap would leave the Wheeling Park District in a similar predicament.

Wheeling Parks Director Karop Bavougian said a Cook County tax cap, which he feels is inevitable, also would limit the district's ability to maintain current buildings and prevent some new development.

"In the long run it could be very devastating," Bavougian said. "What it (the tax cap) boils down to is getting education off of the property tax rolls. If a county or municipality sends a dollar down to Springfield and only gets 30 cents back, what's wrong with this picture?"

"Our part of the tax bill is minuscule, about 5 percent," he said, noting that education expenses account for the largest chunk out of a homeowner's tax bill. "Park districts have done a better job than most (taxing bodies) in keeping costs down."

Bavougian said he voiced opposition to tax caps in 1991 when the collar counties were capped. "I've said for several years it's imminent it will come to Cook County," he added.

Anticipating the Cook County cap, Bavougian said, the Park District has been finishing some projects and putting some money aside.

A cap on tax revenue and limited funding options could affect proposed development at Childerley Park and the possible renovation or

Chen said, he doesn't anticipate it will lead to any elimination of programs or cutbacks in service.

A spokesman at Indian Trails Library said it's too early to determine what impact a Cook County tax cap would have on the library's finances.

"We'd have to know the

cutbacks, he said. "We've heard 5 percent (cap) the first year, the inflation rate the next year. I really can't comment without knowing" what legislation, if any, is approved by the Legislature.

At a recent Village Board meeting, Buffalo Grove trustees expressed their disappointment at the possibility of a Cook County tax cap, particularly for home-rule communities such as Buffalo Grove.

Village President Sid Mathias has contacted local legislators by mail, asking

them to exclude home-rule communities from any tax cap plan.

The current bill being debated in Springfield does not include Chicago or home-rule communities, though House Speaker Lee Daniels has said home-rule communities may be included in future legislation.

Anticipating a Cook County tax cap, Buffalo Grove trustees unanimously authorized a \$3 million bond issue to pay for capital improvements projects planned for the upcoming fis-

cal year.

The village plans to expand the police station by building a 5,700-square-foot addition and contribute money to regional road improvements.

Neighboring officials in Wheeling, another home-rule community, also have asked state legislators to reject a tax cap, especially for home-rule communities.

"We've sent letters and talked to them personally in public meetings," said Village President Sheila Schultz. "Our local legislators who are

usually so supportive felt so compelled by the public that this is what everybody wants. I think people should be careful what they wish for."

Home-rule communities won't be hit with a tax cap in the current legislation, but Schultz said she has heard about plans to cap home-rule communities as well.

"I think we need to be prepared for that," she said. "It looks like we may be spared this time at the rush they (legislators) feel to get it through."

## Tax levy history

If the state Legislature approves a Cook County tax cap, local taxing bodies would be required to limit their levy increases to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Current legislation does not include home-rule communities, such as Wheeling. The following are adjusted levies for 1992 and '93 for Wheeling, the Park District, Indian Trails Library District and the village of Buffalo Grove. Levies for 1994 have not yet been made available to the assessor.

Taxing district	1993	1992
Wheeling Park District	\$3,522,938	\$3,293,347
Indian Trails Library	\$2,487,033	\$2,137,682
Wheeling village	\$6,850,498	\$6,327,976
Buffalo Grove village	\$5,956,481	\$5,962,708

Source: Wheeling Township and Buffalo Grove

Pioneer Press Graphic

## Wheeling agrees to join partnership to train firefighters

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday agreed to become the third partner in a joint training facility for area firefighters.

Wheeling trustees unanimously approved the village joining Buffalo Grove Fire Department and the Long Grove Rural Fire Protection District to build the \$540,000 facility, to be located on Deerfield Parkway in Buffalo Grove.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said the facility is needed so firefighters can train near the village and save traveling expenses.

"This is effective for us, especially since we run a lot with Buffalo Grove," he said.

Under the agreement, the three departments will share the cost for the facility that is expected to start operating later this year.

Buffalo Grove and the Long Grove Rural Fire Protection District have already approved the agreement.

The facility will include a tower to be used for ladder training and simulation of high-rise and elevator fires.

The facility also will have a small building with single- and two-story burn rooms for firefighters to practice extinguishing live fires.

MacIsaac said that other than the fire training facility, the only other training site available is one in Arlington Heights that's used by the University of Illinois for its fire training.

He said scheduling conflicts often leave that facility unavailable.

MacIsaac said the joint facility will probably be used for weekly training exercises.

The agreement the three linked also includes provisions for a fourth department to become a partner.

Officials said the Verron Fire Protection District also may want to participate in the future.

That group had agreed to be a partner in the facility but later opted out due to financial constraints.

While firefighters from one department are using the facility, fire departments from the other communities will cover one another's fire stations, MacIsaac said.

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Some of the Park District lies in Cook County, but because the majority is in Lake County, it has been operating under the collar counties' tax cap since the Legislature approved it in 1991, said Parks Director Mike Rylko.

In addition to the Lake County tax cap, a simultaneous freeze on the equalized assessed valuation of Cook County properties made financial planning even more challenging for the Park District, he said.

"I think we got a double-edged sword," Rylko said.

As mandated by the Lake County tax cap, the 1994 levy, to fund the 1995-96 fiscal year, was capped at a 2.7 percent increase, he said. The cap, which is determined by the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less, has been as high as 3.1 percent for the 1992 levy, he added.

Though some taxing bodies in Cook County are opposed to the tax cap, Rylko considers them at an advantage over the collar counties because the proposed cap is higher, starting at 5 percent the first year then being limited to the lesser of 5 percent or the rate of inflation, he said.

In addition to the tax cap, the Park District was stripped of its authority to issue non-referendum bonds, he said, leaving the Park District with limited

funds to renovate parks and develop new ones.

"We're watching the tax rate continue to go down. We've been paying off withstanding debt and not issuing new debt," Rylko said.

One funding source the Park District has been seeking out more aggressively

since the tax cap is grant programs, he said.

The district recently received grants to develop Parkchester and Cherbourg parks, he said, adding that the district's matching funds will come from developers' donations.

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Park District in a similar predicament.

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Anticipating the Cook County cap, Bavougian said, the Park District has been finishing some projects and putting some money aside.

A cap on tax revenue and limited funding options could affect proposed development at Childerley Park and the possible renovation or rebuilding of Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Currently, he said, park districts are allowed to issue half of 1 percent of rollover bonds in any given year, a benefit that would no longer be allowed under the tax cap.

The lack of flexible funding options could leave a park district in a precarious situation if a roof would collapse or a building would deteriorate, he said.

"The people in our community have a tremendous investment in the capital buildings" in the district, he said, specifically mentioning the new Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center. To let these buildings deteriorate because funding is not available "doesn't make much sense," he added.

Though a tax cap will require more financial planning to keep buildings in good condition, Bavougian said, he doesn't anticipate it will lead to any elimination of programs or cutbacks in service.

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The agreement also includes provisions for a fourth department to become a partner.

Officials said the Vernon Fire Protection District also may want to participate in the future.

That group had agreed to be a partner in the facility but later opted out due to financial constraints.

While firefighters from one department are using the facility, fire departments from the other communities will cover one another's fire stations, MacIsaac said.

# Salvation Army will collect reusable household goods

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Salvation Army has come to the rescue of Wheeling's reusable household goods collection program and will start such pick-ups in April.

On April 5 the Salvation Army will take over the collection of reusable household goods such as clothing, books, toys, small appli-

ances and other items in the village.

The Salvation Army is taking over such collections for Goodwill Industries that terminated its agreement with the village late last year saying it could not make monthly residential pick-ups.

Under its agreement with the village the Salvation Army will offer the same service Goodwill

Industries offered. The agency will make such pick-ups during the first week of each month.

Residents who live west or north of Route 83 will receive service on Wednesday while those living east of Route 83 will have their items collected on Thursday.

Salvation Army Major Gerald Smelser said his organization will soon place bags with the organiza-

tion's red cross printed on them on the doors of households throughout the village informing them of the program.

Wheeling officials will also spread news about the collections in the village newsletter.

Waste-Management, that provides scavenger service to Wheeling, will give residents a one-page flier with a map detailing where

they live for collection purposes.

The Salvation Army and Waste-Management operate a similar program in Elk Grove Village that officials said is successful.

Smelser said if any residents want a receipt for their donations there will be a phone number provided for residents to call the Christian social service organization.

The Salvation Army would make the collections itself. Previously, the program was operated with assistance provided by Goodwill Industries, officials said.

When the agreement with Goodwill Industries ended some trustees suggested names of charitable organizations could be printed in the village newsletter giving residents options on where to donate reusable items.



An employee peers out from under the sign informing customers that the Lynn Plaza Dominick's is closed. The plaza owner hopes to attract another grocery store.

## Dominick's closes door at Lynn Plaza location

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Just as one business in Wheeling's Lynn Plaza closes its doors, several others plan to open.

After serving residents on the village's north end for 22 years, Dominick's Finer Foods at 550 W. Dundee Road closed Feb. 1. Cheryl Robertson, manager of consumer relations at Dominick's corporate headquarters in Northlake, said the Wheeling store was just too small for the company's needs.

"It no longer offers all of our services and items our larger stores offer," Robertson said.

The closing leaves residents without a local grocery store until The Water Market opens this spring in the former Franklin Foods, 291 E. Dundee Road, which was destroyed by fire December 1993.

### Food court

While looking for a tenant to replace Dominick's, James Kaplan Cos. of Chicago, which manages Lynn Plaza on the 500 block of West Dundee Road, is proceeding with plans to convert a former laundry into a food court.

"The concept design calls for two or three vendors in addition to the Baskin-Robbins which is already there," said James Kaplan, company

president. The spaces would be adjoined by a common seating area, he said.

Kaplan said his firm has established food courts in other malls it manages, but "this is the first time we're trying it in a community/neighborhood center."

With the 30,000-square-foot former laundry vacant, a number of food vendors were interested in the location, but most wanted a smaller site, he said.

The court will feature fast-food restaurants that won't conflict with other Lynn Plaza tenants, Kaplan said. The project already has received a special use permit from the village of Wheeling.

### Parking

"We'd love to do it in 90 days or so," Kaplan said of opening the food court.

The only obstacle is parking. Some trustees voiced concern over parking spaces in front of the proposed food court, saying traffic could be congested with cars entering the plaza, he said.

"To my knowledge, there's never been an accident or incident involving any vehicle or pedestrian traffic" at the plaza, Kaplan said. "The village expressed concerns about parking, thinking there will be greater traffic than the laundromat" attracted.

Kaplan said he plans to work cooperatively with the

village to agree on the number of parking spaces and their location.

In front of the food court, Kaplan said, a handicapped parking stall and several short-term parking spaces would be useful.

"I think that could be accomplished without creating a major traffic jam," he said.

### Grocery store

The parking situation "could question the feasibility" of developing the food court, he added.

To replace Dominick's, Kaplan said, "We're working with a couple or three independent retailers who have expressed an interest."

A new tenant has not yet been confirmed, but Kaplan said, discussions are ongoing. He hopes a grocery store will lease the space.

"That's our first choice, I think it's the community's first choice and it's the right use for the space," Kaplan said.

Village officials also would like to see a grocery store take Dominick's place at Lynn Plaza.

"The intent is to get another food store in there and that's the village's wish," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "If Dominick's takes out all its equipment (counters, cash registers, shelves) it would cost a lot to set it up. That's a big hurdle to get over."

# Ice Partners would consider Wheeling site

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

If Buffalo Grove does not approve plans for the Twin Ice Rinks Pavilion to be built along Weiland Road, the Ice Partners say they'll begin looking elsewhere for property.

"There's nowhere else in Buffalo Grove we can go," said partner Garry Benjova. "Our desire is to be in Buffalo Grove. This is where we live, this is where we work. Without question, this is our first choice."

However, if the project continues to stall in village proceedings, Benjova said, Ice Partners will look elsewhere to build the two-rink, 62,940-square-foot facility, complete with concession stand and pro shop.

"We would look in Wheeling, Vernon Hills, Lincolnshire," Benjova said, adding that he would want to stay close to the Lake Cook corridor if searching for land in Wheeling because there is a rink in nearby Northbrook.

"I've talked to Vernon Hills already, and they'd love to have us," he said. "If this doesn't go through, we won't come back to Buffalo Grove."

Benjova said he needs about eight acres of open land on which to build the ice rink.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he hasn't seen the Ice Partners' plans, but he would be willing to work with them.

"I'm not sure what their plans are, but we're always willing to talk," Anderson said.

Plans for the Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion, to be built on Weiland Road between Busch and Aptakisic roads, were snagged early this month when the Plan Commission said the plan would

not be accepted unless it included a road to connect the extension of Thompson Boulevard to Abbott Drive.

As part of the construction plans, Thompson Boulevard would be extended onto the east side of Weiland, but rather than cul-de-sac, the village wants the road to continue south and connect with the cul-de-sac of Abbott Court, creating a loop road and two access points on Weiland.

According to Garry Benjova, the three partners met with Village President Sid Mathias, Village Manager Bill Balling, Village Planner Bob Pfeil and Ed Weiner, owner of the Concrete Doctor, which owns some of the land necessary to build the road.

The purpose of the meeting was to come to an agreement about how the road be built, and return the plan to the Plan Commission. Weiner is willing to let the village annex his property, which includes his business and the land that would be dedicated for the road. However, he has several conditions he has presented to the village to protect his interest.

"He's willing to dedicate the property based on specific criteria submitted to the village, negotiations have begun," said Benjova. "We are in the backseat now."

After last week's meeting, Benjova said he is again confident plans will move along.

"They really didn't say no to any of the conditions" presented by Weiner, Benjova said. "It looks like we're past the issue. If all goes the way we think it will, the next meeting will be fine."

Benjova expects to appear before the Plan Commission (Continued on page 16)

2-16-95 *Courtesy*

## Design fees add \$4,300 to commuter stop price

The Wheeling village board approved a \$4,300 change order for work related to the village's commuter stop on the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

The additional money is being used to pay for design fees related to the enlarged bus turnaround area being located on Wheeling Park District property and the installation of a larger commuter shelter on the station's north end.

To be located south of 425 W. Dundee Road, officials have said the more than \$2 million commuter station in Wheeling will be the busiest along the 53-mile line, attracting about 750 riders a day.

Subdivision at 200 Sixth Street. As a part of their acceptance of the sewer, the village agreed to release \$1,162.04 it had kept as a surety bond on the project.

### Board OKs purchases for Palwaukee airport

Wheeling trustees approved the purchase of two vehicles for Palwaukee Municipal Airport. The board approved the purchase of a pickup truck for \$18,998.96 and a four-by-four station wagon for \$26,972.48 from Tom Todd Chevrolet Inc. of Wheeling.

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

#### Picardy Place upgrades get tentative approval

Wheeling trustees tentatively accepted public improvements made by the developer in the Picardy Place Unit No. 2 subdivision.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board tentatively accepted the installation of pavement, storm sewer, gutters, sidewalks and other infrastructure upgrades placed in the subdivision by developer Joseph Freed and Associates of

Wheeling. The subdivision is located on Picardy Lane west of Wolf Road.

As part of the acceptance, village officials accepted a \$59,074 bond from the company that it will hold for a year.

#### Trustees approve Yi's Sixth Street sewer

Wheeling trustees also gave their final approval of a sanitary sewer installed at the Yi's Sixth Street

### LOCAL REPORT

## Airport commissioners nix idea of updates at meetings

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials said a proposal for an airport commissioner to address Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials every month won't fly.

Airport commission Chairman Dan Quiry had suggested that at least once a month, one of the commissioners address the Wheeling village board and Prospect Heights City Council to keep those officials abreast of developments at the facility.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agreement between the two towns.

"I wanted the city council in Prospect Heights and the village board in Wheeling to know those commissioners better," he said.

Quiry noted that the only time officials from the two towns usually talk to the airport commissioners is during joint meetings held twice a year.

Quiry also said that while Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. often meets with municipal officials, he does not regularly report to them.

"I go (to municipal meetings)

when I'm asked to go. I answer questions only, but I don't make a report," Stewart said.

Previously, Prospect Heights council members have complained they are not fully informed about airport matters and delayed approving some Palwaukee items for further study.

Airport commissioners from Prospect Heights also have voiced concerns over the content of memos Stewart has sent to officials in both towns.

None of the members of the commission are Prospect Heights aldermen, though some of those appointed to the panel are from the city.

In contrast, Wheeling officials routinely approve Palwaukee items placing them on the village board's consent agenda where they're usually voted on without comment.

Wheeling members on the commission include Trustees Anthony Altieri Jr. and Elizabeth Hartman.

While commissioners were not enthused about addressing officials from both towns every month, they did agree to discuss their communications with the municipalities again.

## Ice Continued from page 5

on March 1. To show that community support of the project exists, he hopes residents pack the council chamber at that meeting.

"We are looking for support from people who want this rink," he said.

Ice Partners have established an information line for residents wanting updates on the projects' progress. Residents can call 821-RINK (821-7465) for updates, or leave a message on voice mail. Benjova said calls will be returned.

Additional comments can be sent to Ice Partners at Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion, P.O. Box 5512, Buffalo Grove

60089.

Benjova hopes to break ground on the ice rink in May, with it opening in November.

"I think we came to an agreement," Benjova added.

Village Manager Balling said he's "optimistic" after meeting with Ice Partners and Weiner.

Several issues involved with the land dedication require approval by village trustees, such as annexation and setback variances.

"I don't want to second guess them," Balling said. "There is still a lot of planning at the site" that needs to be addressed, he added.

# Fast-food chain hopes to fill orders soon

2-24-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A representative for the Checkers fast-food restaurant chain said the company could soon start developing restaurants on two sites in Wheeling.

John D. Terzakis, a representative for Chicago Double Drive-Thru Inc., the Willowbrook-based franchisee for Checkers, said the company now has new management and hopes to complete a restaurant at 625 W. Dundee Road in time to get some summer business.

"Hopefully we can go forward and get into business," he said.

A shuttered former Brown's Chicken & Pasta Restaurant now sits on the 32,000 square-foot W. Dundee Road site.

Terzakis said that building could be demolished sometime next week.

Wheeling trustees granted permission for the company to build on that site in 1993.

Late last year, Wheeling officials said they considered withdrawing approval for the restaurant

because the company had not sought building permits for the project for more than a year.

Wheeling officials complained that the closed building was a visually unappealing site and a safety hazard on the main street through the heart of the village.

Terzakis also said the company will soon proceed with plans for developing another location at Lake-Cook and Weiland roads.

Terzakis said the delay in building the restaurants was caused by a reorganization of the Clearwater, Fla.-based chain that had lost

an \$80 million line of credit to build 20 Chicago area units.

On the West Dundee Road site, the company hopes to build a 1,150 square-foot eatery with drive-up windows.

He added that the franchisee was purchased by the restaurant group of a securities company. That company, he said, had management with experience in restaurant development.

Terzakis said mismanagement caused the collapse of the company's prior ownership.

## A-1 Liquors closed for selling to minor; Pizza Hut faces fine

2-1-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials Monday issued one three-day suspension and fines to local establishments that sold liquor to minors.

In their role as the village's liquor commission, Wheeling trustees slapped A-1 Liquors at 50 N. Wolf Road with a \$1,000 fine and closed the store for three days for a Nov. 17 incident when a 19-year-old purchased beer and wine.

The village gave the Pizza Hut restaurant at 150 E. Dundee Road a \$500 fine for allowing a 19-year-old customer to purchase beer at the eatery.

A third case of alcohol sale to minors, involving the Walgreens store at 548 W. Dundee Road, was continued to March 27 to give the company's officials time to respond to the charges.

Attorney Michael Hovde, who represented A-1 Liquors owner Scott Matiya, said the incident occurred because the clerk was working alone during a busy period.

To ensure minors cannot purchase liquor at the store, Hovde said Matiya has begun a policy that includes having two clerks working during busy times at the store and having clerks sign a statement saying they will not sell alcohol to underage buyers and will check identifications.

The statement will also be posted in the store, Hovde said.

Wheeling Village Manager Sheila H. Schultz told Matiya it was to his "advantage" to ensure his clerks were properly trained. Matiya had his employees undergo liquor selling training offered at Harper College.

More than a year ago, the store was slapped with a \$300 fine for allowing a minor to purchase alcohol.

The store will serve its three-day penalty on March 9 through March 11 next week.

Pizza Hut's violation was the first at the restaurant, officials said. Store officials admitted the incident occurred.

Wheeling police said a Walgreen's clerk sold beer and wine to a 19-year-old buyer working undercover.

## Complex provides Sportmart new Wheeling headquarters

2-27-95  
BY ANGELA R. CULLITON  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sportmart Inc., a sporting goods retailer, is expanding and relocating its corporate headquarters from Niles to 1400 S. Wolf Road in Wheeling.

"This is a historic transaction for Sportmart as we move our headquarters from our original offices," said Andrew Hochberg, executive vice president of Sportmart.

"We needed a lease that provided us with tremendous flexibility and significant growth as our business expands," said Mitchell P. Kahn, Sportmart's vice president of real estate.

The 43,000-square-foot facility in Wheeling's Corporate Square will serve Sportmart employees from its Niles and Park Ridge offices. However, Sportmart isn't completely leaving its Niles facility because it plans to expand its retail store there.

John Homsher of Podolsky and Associates represented Sportmart. Jay Gitle of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson provided legal counsel to Sportmart. Alan Pearlman of Schain, Firsell and Burney Ltd. provided legal counsel to the owner.

Corporate Square is a 118,000-

square-foot, single-story office complex at the corner of Wolf and Palatine roads in Wheeling. With this signing, the complex is 100 percent occupied. The long-term lease is valued at over \$5.5 million.

Sportmart expects to relocate this spring.

### LOCAL REPORT

## Restaurant gets green light to build valet parking shelter

2-24-95 Herald  
The Wheeling village board approved a request by Bob Chinn's Crabhouse Restaurant to build a valet parking shelter at the eatery.

The single-story shelter will measure 10 feet 6 inches by 5 feet 6 inches, and be on the south side of the restaurant. It will have heating, insulation and sprinklers. The structure will resemble the rest of the building.

## Church gets OK for liquor at dance

Wheeling trustees approved a Class G liquor license for the sale of beer and wine at the St. Joseph The Worker Hispanic Catholics Dance. The dance will be held at the parish hall at 181 W. Dundee Road May 13 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

## Trustees approve mutual aid agreement

Wheeling trustees agreed to an automatic aid agreement for the village's firefighters to cover parts of Northbrook during emergencies. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said the agreement would enhance the

### WHEELING BOARD NOTES

response to fires in Northbrook and Wheeling.

Wheeling currently has such mutual aid agreements in place with Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect and the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District. The agreement with Northbrook is the fifth one of its kind the Wheeling Fire Department has with a neighboring community.

## Village to pay more for cleaning service

Wheeling trustees approved an amendment in the village's agreement with QBM Maintenance Inc. for cleaning Wheeling Police Department facilities and the Pavilion Senior Center.

The amendment changes the amount the Chicago-based company received from the village from \$36,936 to \$48,156.

Officials said the increased time the company has to spend cleaning the police areas is the reason for the hike.



Sportmart Inc. will relocate its corporate offices from Niles to 1400 S. Wolf Road in Wheeling this spring.

Photo courtesy of Mark A. Samuels

# Loss of business among issues in Wheeling village board race

increasing loss of commercial businesses.

Extraordinary measures must be implemented to revive our commercial tax base and repair the appearance of our village. Because the "buck stops" with the Village Board, I propose eliminating appointment commissions which pass judgment on development but are not required under state law.

Beginning immediately, the functions and responsibilities of the village departments must be reviewed and redefined with the goals of promoting, preserving and expediting business development.

**Steven Telow:** There are two issues in Wheeling that are a "bone of contention" with Wheeling voters and taxpayers.

One is to be able to eat watermelon while taking a shower.

Two is to eliminate those three "sitting ducks" (Gaffke, Altieri, Abruscato) who play "follow the leader" (Schultz) to cause the pathetic look of Wheeling today.

Schultz makes the proposal, Gaffke makes the motion and Altieri or Abruscato seconds it.

Three other trustees pass the motion.

forgotten village.

**Jeanne DiVall Selander:** It has been my experience that residents are looking for a friendly, safe town which is well maintained and honestly governed.

Quality schools, attractive parks and recreation facilities, a variety of religious institutions, vital neighborhoods and a strong and stable tax base are all elements which contribute to the quality of life in Wheeling. As a board member I would work in cooperation with residents, business people and government officials to ensure Wheeling's vitality

**Stuart Shapiro:** In my opinion there are several pressing issues that have an effect on all of our residents.

The loss of Dominick's as well as the loss of other businesses, Wheeling's image, the TIF district and Wheeling's future are just some of the issues that are on the minds of residents.

There's no quick fix to our problems but when I'm elected I would certainly recommend that we become more proactive in seeking out businesses.

**William C. Spangenberg:** The

continue to vote on each issue keeping their wishes, needs and concerns in mind.

**Robert J. Heer:** The issue is: The village of Wheeling from the loss of businesses to the general appearance. This has a tremendous effect on the quality of life in Wheeling and how people view their community.

I think we need to establish a liaison committee between the village and the business community.

This committee would identify and solve the reason(s) why businesses are leaving and explore how to encourage new businesses back into the community.

**Pat Horcher:** The loss of jobs resulting from businesses leaving and few willing to run the gauntlet required to set up shop in Wheeling.

More businesses in the community translates to greater income opportunities directly and through taxes. More disposable income means a higher quality of life. The incumbents seem more interested in controlling than developing.

I am an entrepreneur and lifetime resident. I understand growth and development.

I want a thriving Wheeling, not a



out increasing property taxes is first and foremost. These services include an adequate, safe water supply and police and fire protection, to name a few.

Controlling our costs and increasing revenues to meet the demand of increasing costs above and beyond the village's control is the real issue.

This can be done by operating in the most efficient, cost effective way possible and expanding our tax base.

**Lois Gaffke:** I believe that most residents want a safe, attractive community that satisfies their everyday needs. They also want this at reasonable cost.

They want a village that is steadily improving, without the burden of spiraling taxes. They also want leaders who are responsive to their concerns.

We are fortunate that the village is in good financial health. I would

One in a series of questions and answers with candidates for the Wheeling village board.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato, incumbent Anthony Altieri, incumbent Lois Gaffke, Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher, Wheeling Village Clerk Jeanne DiVall Selander, Stuart Shapiro, William C. Spangenberg and Steven Telow are running for three, 4-year terms.

**Q: What is the most pressing issue affecting the quality of life in Wheeling for residents and how would you address that issue?**

**Judy Abruscato:** The continuing loss of retail business in our community. I would recommend more communication with shopping center owners and the retail owners within our village to see what we can do to have their businesses remain in Wheeling.

I would work with the Realtors and the Chamber of Commerce to see how they can help us keep and attract effective retail facilities into our community.

Along with that I would contact a outside consulting firm.

**Anthony Altieri:** The ability to continue to deliver services with-

Wheeling residents win scholarships  
Two Wheeling residents were awarded Sheila Schultz/Private Industry Council scholarships at the Wheeling Village Board's Feb. 21 meeting.  
Shirley Tracy was given a \$1,000 scholarship and Steven Beres received a \$500 scholarship.

## Wheeling officials to review first redevelopment proposal

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday will consider the first new building proposal for the Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment district.

The Wheeling village board is expected to discuss a proposal by local developer Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. to develop town houses on a 7-acre parcel at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave., site of the now shuttered Billy & Co. Restaurant.

"If they approve it, they (the developer) will have 120 days to give the village a development plan it finds acceptable," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said noting the company would later have to present more detailed plans for the project.

The project is the first one Wheeling trustees are considering that has been formally proposed for the 125-acre tax increment finance district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. In the TIF district, the assessments of properties are frozen for a period. Later, public improvements in the district are funded in part by revenue

received from those sites by increased sales and property taxes.

Wheeling targeted the area for redevelopment as a way to stimulate the local economy.

The village's TIF district authority also allows them to purchase properties to sell to the developer in a block, which Anderson said may be done for the town house project.

Joseph Freed and Associates is one of two developers vying to develop a 13.5-acre parcel on Milwaukee Avenue just north of the proposed town house site.

Freed's plans call for a mixed use development with condominiums, professional office space and 30,000 square feet of retail space.

Wheeling officials are now reviewing Freed's proposal for the 13.5-acre site along with

one from Hiffman Shaffer Associates Inc. of Chicago. HSA proposed building a 125,900 square-foot shopping center.

However, some developers have told village officials the TIF district is unattractive for large-scale retail projects because the nearby Cook County Forest Preserve is a barrier to traffic.

## Wheeling backs plan to protect rights of mobile home owners

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday supported a state proposal to expand the rights of mobile home owners.

The Wheeling Village Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting "The Manufactured Home Owner's Bill of Rights Act," sponsored in the Illinois House by Rep. Larry Wennlund, a New Lenox Republican.

"It wraps what's currently on the books into what one of the consumer groups recommended for manufactured housing," said Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes.

Wheeling officials said they backed the proposed measure at the request of the bill's sponsor and residents of the Whippletree Village mobile home park at 525 N. McHenry Road.

In a November lawsuit, park residents accused the Whippletree management of alleged rights abuses. They charged that Whippletree made it difficult to sell their homes by requiring costly repairs before the units could be sold and not providing details on costly water bill increases they received.

The proposed bill attempts to

rein in the power of mobile home landlords by requiring, among other things, five-year minimum leases and ordering the landlords to provide mobile home owners with details of what evictions and rent increases are based on.

Some Whippletree residents and former residents filed a class action suit in November in Cook County Circuit Court against park owner Richard J. Klarck and his Lake Forest-based Capital Development Corp.

"I think it's wonderful the village of Wheeling is considering us," said Elyayne Heltinger, a Whippletree resident who has served as a spokeswoman for her neighbors.

Some residents of the 413-unit park plan to testify on behalf of the bill before the General Assembly March 14, Heltinger said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that if the house bill ends up watered down with amendments, the village could pass its own mobile home rights ordinance based on the measure.

Wheeling trustees may hold a workshop later in the year to review the act, Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

# Police, state's attorney spar over gambling raid

## Each blames other for court's dismissal of case

BY JOHN CARPENTER  
AND DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Wheeling AMVETS post was due to shoddy police work, not shoddy prosecution.

When police moved in on the Wheeling AMVETS hall on March 16, 1994 and seized several video poker machines, it immediately touched off emotions in the village. Some people said the local police had better things to do than target veterans.

But the controversy died in August when Cook County Associate Judge Michael J. Pope tossed out the misdemeanor charges, say-

ing the arrests and property seizures were improper.

This latest round of fingerpointing began with a Feb. 6, 1995 memorandum, recently obtained by the Daily Herald, in which Haeger told Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson that Wheeling officers properly handled the investigation. Haeger said the case could have been successfully prosecuted if the assistant state's attorney handling it "was familiar both with a gam-

"There were questions asked of the assistant state's attorney he couldn't answer."

— Wheeling police chief Michael Haeger



See AMVETS on Page 1

## AMVETS: Decision points to search warrant problems

Continued from Page 1

bling case and the law governing searches and seizures incidental to an arrest."

"My understanding was there were questions asked of the (assistant) state's attorney that he couldn't answer," Haeger said Wednesday. "The judge was asking questions that would have enabled him to make an informed decision."

State's attorney spokesman Andy Knott, however, said Pope's ruling was based on the simple fact that there was no search warrant obtained.

"The judge suppressed various items in the arrest and it was all based on the conduct of the police, not the conduct of the state's attorney's office," Knott said.

Pope's ruling points squarely at the lack of a search warrant.

"It is the conclusion of this court that the arresting officer in this case entered the AMVETS facility to effectuate an arrest under circumstances which necessitated the first obtaining of an arrest warrant," Pope said at the time.

Haeger contends that laws of search and seizure do not require police to secure warrants when they see a crime take place, as an Evanston undercover officer working for Wheeling allegedly did at the AMVETS hall.

But Pope said in his ruling that if the officer entered the AMVETS hall legally she could have carried

out the arrest on the spot without a warrant. Instead the officer left the building, consulted with other officers and returned to make the arrest. With no danger to anyone's lives and no risk of flight by the alleged perpetrators, the arresting officers should have obtained a warrant, Pope said, noting that the point was moot because a warrant should have been obtained before the officers even entered the hall.

Haeger's report came at the request of Wheeling Trustee Anthony Altieri, who wanted to know how much the case cost the village.

In all, Haeger said, Wheeling officers spent 130 hours on the case, not counting supervisory and command salary. More than \$3,600 was spent on the case, he said.



The gambling machines are back at the Wheeling Amvets hall, as blame for losing the case bounces back and forth.

"The (judge's ruling) was all based on the conduct of the police."



Jack O'Malley

— Andy Knott, spokesman for Cook County State's Attorney Jack O'Malley

## Wheeling board approves plan for town house development

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposal by a local developer to build town houses in Wheeling's Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment area has been approved by trustees.

Wheeling trustees this week unanimously approved an agreement with local developer Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. to develop an unspecified number of town houses on a 7-acre parcel at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave. A shuttered Billy & Co. Restaurant now sits on the property.

Under the agreement, the developer has 120 days to return to the village board with an acceptable plan for the town houses.

While Wheeling officials are uncertain of the design of the proposed development, they said the company understands what they want at the Milwaukee Avenue location.

"I think they have some basic direction from us," said Craig G. Anderson, Wheeling village manager.

The agreement is the first

one for a new building project in Wheeling's 125-acre tax increment finance district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

In the TIF district, the assessments of properties are frozen for a period. Later, public improvements in the district are funded in part by revenues received from those sites by increased sales and property taxes.

Wheeling targeted the area for redevelopment as a way to stimulate the local economy.

The village's TIF authority also allows them to purchase properties to sell to the developer in a block, which Anderson said may be done for the town house project.

Wheeling officials said once the village has accepted a development plan from the company, they would move to approve construction of the town houses.

The developer also has another proposal before Wheeling officials to build a condominium, professional office and retail space development elsewhere in the district.

## Bits and pieces tell police department story

By Larry Mayer  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Wheeling police officer Rick Sheffer is living proof that one man's clutter can become another man's hobby.

Since he joined the force 12 years ago, Sheffer has preserved the history of the Wheeling Police Department by gathering artifacts scattered throughout the building.

His collection of memorabilia includes a display of old badges, photographs and documents that provide a glimpse of life in Wheeling half a century ago.

### Yesterday

Badges in Sheffer's collection date to the 1940s, while photographs are of former police chiefs, old patrol cars and various police functions. The collection also includes a bill of sale from a 1948 automobile.

The most interesting items may be vintage documents that describe old laws. One prohibits the racing of horses and wagons on Wheeling streets; another requires wagon drivers to give proper turn signals with their arms or whips.

Another law prevents citizens from disposing of manure on public thoroughfares such as Milwaukee Avenue.

"Years down the road, when I retire or leave the police department, I'd like to give it to another officer to continue the collection," Sheffer said.

The Wheeling Police Department has come a long way, of course, since the early days when the force consisted of one village marshal.

The marshal was paid 25 cents per day, plus 50 cents for each wild or stray dog that was destroyed.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 3-5-95

# Wheeling fire district board can wait to replace president

3-13-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Though the three-year term of Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District President Anthony Carlin ends in May, residents shouldn't expect a three-alarm effort to replace him.

Several residents of the district, which includes parts of Prospect Heights and nearby unincorporated areas, but excludes Wheeling, are interested in being named to the fire board presidency that is appointed by Cook County Board President John Stroger.

Their interest in the post is sparked by the fire board's recent 50 percent increase in its property tax levy along with indications that it may want to build a fire station on the east side of the district and break its fire protection contract with the Wheeling Fire Department.

"A lot of people feel the Wheeling Fire Department adequately serves their needs and would not like to see the expenditure for a new fire station," said Lowell Stolerow, a district resident who has expressed interest in the appointment.

"If this is going to be done right, somebody's name should be offered to Stroger," he said.

Tina Dean, another district resident who has been critical of the fire board, said she would serve as president if drafted by residents, though she isn't actively seeking the appointment.

Cook County Board Commissioner Richard Siebel, whose district includes the Wheeling fire district, said candidates for the appointment should send a letter of interest to the board.

The board will review interested candidates in committee and offer Stroger a candidate's name for appointment.

Stroger then will make an appointment that must be confirmed by the board.

Beforehand, however, Siebel said he would speak with the potential appointees to see who is most qualified for the office.

"I'll communicate with the mayors and elected officials of the fire district and request letters of recommendations if they wanted to give one," Siebel said.

Incumbent Carlin, 54, of Prospect Heights, recommended by Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford for appointment, said he plans to stay in his position at least until a study of the district's fire coverage is completed by the two consultants the fire board hired in January.

"I'm going to stick this out until the end," said the 54-year old Carlin.

The fire study could be com-

"A lot of people feel the Wheeling Fire Department adequately serves their needs and would not like to see the expenditure for a new fire station."

— Lowell Stolerow,  
district resident

pleted by the fire board's May 9 meeting.

County officials have said while Carlin's term ends in May he could stay in his post for an undetermined period.

The board has not made new appointments for other panels where the terms expired, officials said.

Carlin has been critical of the court mandated fire protection contract the district has had with the Wheeling Fire Department and said that department cannot respond in time to emergencies on the east side of the district.

Critics alleged that Carlin and board member Joseph Wolfe, also appointed with Rotchford's endorsement, are trying to have a fire station built in Prospect Heights.

Rotchford has said getting the station built is the first step in consolidating his city's fire protection. Prospect Heights is now covered by four fire departments.

Carlin and Wolfe make up a two-to-one majority that outvotes Peter Urban, a fire board member appointed with the endorsement of Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Urban, of Northbrook, has accused his fellow board members of having their own agenda for the district.

Schultz said she invites any interested residents to apply for the appointment.

But she does not currently have a candidate for Carlin's post.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac has said he won't get involved in the politics of the district but has been openly critical of Carlin's view of his department.

MacIsaac, whose department received \$541,679 under its fire district contract last year, said fire insurance ratings prove Carlin's assertions about the department are unfounded.

Wheeling officials have said if the district breaks its contract with their department they probably would file a lawsuit.

# Mild winter saves public works money

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

By Chicago standards, it's definitely been a mild winter — a couple heavy snowfalls, a few ice storms, even a few days in the low '60s. Spring may be only a few weeks away according to the calendar, but Wheeling's Public Works Department hasn't put the snowplows into storage yet.

"We're just about out of the woods, but I can remember when we've had snow in April," said Bob Gray, director of public works.

This winter, the village has used 800 tons of the 1,200 tons it contracted last fall to purchase from the state, Gray said.

A village estimates how much salt it will need, but the contract allows the village to purchase 75 percent below that figure, or 125 percent above, whatever the weather dictates, he said.

"Overall, we'll be under (salt usage of) the previous two years, if the weather holds," he said. Less snow also gave his crews a well-deserved break, he said.

Not only has the mild winter saved the village from spending additional money on road salt, fewer infrastructure problems have been reported.

"Winter increases water main breaks. The old cast iron pipes are more susceptible to breaking. We've had our share of water main breaks" this winter, Gray said.

Whether the village becomes dotted with potholes remains to be seen, Gray said.

"The thawing action of

moisture enter the roadway creates potholes," he said, adding that generally doesn't happen until spring arrives.

"We'll have to wait until the end of next month to see," Gray added.

This may have been an easy winter, but Village Manager Craig Anderson said it won't produce any changes on the village's salt allowance.

"Every year is different, you just never know. We guess based on past experience," he said of contract-

ing to 1,200 tons of salt each year.

"One concern always is having the salt available," he said, referring to the winter of 1993 when municipalities were "shopping" other communities for surplus salt.

"We have good cooperation between municipalities. We've been able to borrow or trade in emergency situations," he said, noting that Wheeling does not have a large salt storage facility. "We usually find a way to work it out."

# In 'nonpartisan' suburban elections, party backing carries lot of weight

3-11-95

By TERESA MASK  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Most Northwest suburban municipal elections are billed as nonpartisan, leaving the impression that voters are not concerned with party affiliation.

But the Democratic Party's endorsement this week of Schaumburg Village President Al Larson, a longtime Republican, showed that there are still some people out there who think party endorsements are sacred.

The ruffled feathers were in the Republican camp, where officials said the GOP endorsement carries with it a pledge of support by its members to carry a candidate through the election.

Party affiliation may rarely come up after an election, but Republicans say it plays a crucial role in campaigns.

"In terms of the party, you better believe it does matter," said Judith Pietrucha, Republican candidate for Schaumburg vil-

lage president.

She calls it an issue of loyalty for which Larson, a registered Republican, could lose credibility with voters, she said. Larson was not available for comment Friday.

But those affiliated with the Democratic Party disagreed and said party affiliation may have a role in state and federal elections but not in local races.

In fact, the community is better served when party affiliations are not made an issue, said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, one of the Northwest suburbs' few Democratic village presidents.

Schultz, who has served since 1981, said she has garnered bipartisan support during the years because voters have looked



Al Larson



Sheila H. Schultz



Michael J. O'Malley

at her record of service and her message, not her party connection.

Still, a party endorsement, particularly one from the GOP, which has a long history of strength in the suburbs, could be very helpful in an election, said Schaumburg Township Republican committeeman Donald Totten.

"What it does mean is that you will get help in passing out literature, which will save you mailing costs. Precinct captains will be

See ENDORSE on Page 4

## ENDORSE: Race raises partisan question

Continued from Page 1

talking to friends and neighbors who may not have normally gone out to vote," Totten said. "It can have an influence on an election."

Besides, he added, there is "a Republican way to run a municipality, just as there is a Democratic way."

Pietrucha agreed, saying "the Republican philosophy is less government, less regulation."

"I'm not saying we're going to go in there and change ordinances, but there is a difference (in philosophies)," she said.

That attitude is old hat, said Schaumburg Township Democratic committeeman Michael Schaefer, who added that municipal elections are more community-oriented than party-oriented.

And, he said, an endorsement from the Republicans may not

be worth as much as it used to be since the Democratic Party continues to grow.

"The gap is lessening," he said.

Hoffman Estates Village President Michael J. O'Malley said party affiliation was not a factor in his election, either. O'Malley, a Democrat, has been at the village's helm since 1989.

"I've successfully worked with both sides," he said. "I'm not detracting from any endorsement Al Larson got. However, there is no Democratic or Republican way to make sure streets are fixed, (that) there is adequate staffing on the police and fire departments, or that street lights are put up."

"We're here to serve," O'Malley added. "When the people call this village looking for help, we don't check their record to see if they are a Democrat or a Republican."

## Townhomes may begin TIF plan

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

3-16-95  
Community

The long-awaited development of Wheeling's TIF district in the Dundee Road/Milwaukee Avenue area may be getting under way, but first with a residential, rather than retail area.

Developer Joseph Freed & Associates is expected to present a plan to the Village Board within 120 days to build townhomes on the former Billy & Co. restaurant/Union Hotel site and two smaller lots, 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Trustees on March 6 made Freed the "developer of record," meaning the village will not consider plans from other developers for this site within these 120 days.

With the site being in the TIF district, Anderson said, the village will purchase the property then sell the land to Freed.

"That's a bit of a simplification, but basically, that's what we'll do," he added.

The site, on which townhomes are

expected to be proposed, is triangular-shaped and would be difficult to put business development, Anderson said.

"I think it would be difficult to put a business development there because of the (limited) frontage on Milwaukee," Anderson said.

While a business would desire more street frontage to make the store more visible to passers-by, that's not necessary for a residential development, he said, noting that Freed may come back with a plan that includes an aesthetic gatelike entrance to the development.

"The townhomes will work well there," Anderson said. "We're trying to revitalize a business/downtown area. It does make some sense to have residential development near the businesses you hope to develop."

Anderson expects a townhome development to attract senior citizens and young professionals — residents who wouldn't want a large yard area and would appreciate the convenience of being close to retail stores.

Village President Sheila Schultz said this development is the beginning of what the village hopes to do in the TIF

district — consolidating smaller properties to make them more attractive to developers.

Of Freed & Associates, Schultz said she's anxious to see their plans for townhomes.

"We're very interested in having them bring a proposal to us," Schultz said. "This will clean up some properties along Milwaukee and that's a push for more development on Milwaukee."

Village officials and developers have been discussing the Union Hotel property for years.

A Northbrook restaurateur in late 1992 proposed to turn the property into a night spot, complete with live music and dinner-and-show promotions to energize Milwaukee Avenue's business district.

The restaurateur also questioned whether the building could achieve historical landmark status, as it had the village's first telephone and polling place.

Because of major renovations for Billy & Co., the building was not historic enough to be considered for the National Register of Historic Places.

# Six candidates challenge party slate



Gaffke



Altieri



Selander



Heer



Abruscato



Shapiro

Incumbents Anthony Altieri and Lois Gaffke have banded together with clerk Jeanne Selander to run as the Wheeling United Party, challenged by Judy Abruscato and a host of newcomers all running on their own.

*Countywide 3-1-95*

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

The village trustees' race for the April 4 municipal election is shaping up as an interesting race for Wheeling residents to watch.

Three trustees will be elected to four-year terms next month, and three village officials, incumbent trustees Lois J. Gaffke, Anthony Altieri Jr. and Village Clerk Jeanne DiVall Selander, have decided to run as the Wheeling United Party in hopes of filling those seats.

Another incumbent, Judy Abruscato is running as an independent, as are newcomers Robert Heer, Patrick Horcher, Stuart Shapiro, William Spangenberg and Stephen Telow.

Telow, who ran unsuccessfully for the Wheeling Park Board in 1993, made news earlier this year when his nomination petitions were challenged by Trustee Wayne Wisinski. The challenges were rejected and Telow's petitions were accepted by the Wheeling Electoral Board.

## Lois Gaffke

Lois Gaffke is running for her second term as vil-

lage trustee. Prior to her election to the board in 1991, she served as village clerk from 1989-91 and a Plan Commission member from 1986-89.

Gaffke, 46, is a Holmes Junior High PTO member, director of St. Joseph's Familyfest and treasurer of the Picardy Place Homeowners Association. She also is involved with Wheeling High School's Instrumental League and Spur Club.

A Wheeling resident for 18 years, Gaffke said the most important issue in this race is to continue providing residents with the police, fire and street services they have grown accustomed to, despite limited resources and increasing demands.

"I personally feel the stability of the government is the biggest concern. Fortunately, Wheeling is financially sound at this time," Gaffke said. "We need to keep the government as financially sound as possible without further burdening the residents."

Gaffke and her husband, George, have two daughters, Meredith, 16, and Carolyn, 12. Gaffke is vice president of Henry Boysen Co., Hainesville, and enjoys reading in her leisure time.

## Stuart Shapiro

Stuart Shapiro has been learning about village government by attending Village Board meetings, and says he has attended 95 percent of the meetings over the last two or three years.

"We need some changes," Shapiro said. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of opinion voiced by the current trust-

ees. Mostly they have unanimous votes.

"You can't always agree with everything. Not that agreement isn't good, but disagreement isn't bad. You can't be 100 percent all the time," he said.

Shapiro's concerns for the village are the businesses that have left Wheeling, most notably Dominick's and Dollar Bills, the village's image and its future.

Shapiro, 39, is an insurance broker. He has lived in Wheeling for eight years with his wife, Sharon. They have four children, Jordan, 15; Rachel, 6; Randy, 17 months; and David, 4 months.

He is a member of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago & Northeastern Illinois Underwriters Association and the Picardy Place Homeowners Association board.

## Stephen Telow

Stephen Telow, 73, has lived in Wheeling for seven years with his wife, Shirley.

One reason he is running in the trustees' race is to give residents an alternative to the candidates who support Village President Sheila Schultz, who Telow called a liberal Democrat.

"This board has been tax and spend for years. I don't care if they don't vote for me, but let's get those three (incumbents) out of there and get Schultz out in two years," Telow said.

A conservative Republican, Telow is a member of SAPS (Seniors Against Political Stupidity), the Northwest Tax Watch and the Wheeling Republican

Township Organization. He also works on a committee that is urging state legislators to allow a casino at Arlington Racetrack, saying it would benefit all area communities.

As a trustee, Telow said he would address the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue area.

"Look what you have there — garbage, abandoned buildings and for-sale signs in the midst of renowned eateries," he said, adding that the TIF in the area needs to move along.

"We need that area to be cleaned up. We have to stop building residential. We're overloading our school system. We should allow it to remain commercial and industrial as it has been," Telow said. Government-subsidized housing also should be kept out of Wheeling because it "destroys communities," he said.

Telow has four adult children.

## Jeanne Selander

Jeanne DiVall Selander was elected village clerk in 1993 and is making her first run for trustee.

Selander, 40, is a past president of Twain PTO, member of the Holmes Junior High PTO board, member of the District 21 Middle School Transition Team, a director of St. Joseph's Familyfest and a member of the Illinois Municipal Clerks Association.

She is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Champaign, and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honorary society through Harper College.

Top issues that concern Selander are economic development, the TIF for the Milwaukee/Dundee area and the overall appearance of Wheeling. Some of that development has to coincide with the Illinois Department of Transportation's plans to widen Milwaukee Avenue, she said.

"The United Party also has discussed forming a citizens group to see what ideas they have in mind for the future," she said.

Keeping neighborhoods safe and vital should be a priority of government, while simultaneously realizing the limits of government, she said.

Selander and her husband, John, have three daughters, Christine, 12; Katherine, 8; and Megan, 6. They have lived in Wheeling for 15 years.

## Patrick Horcher

If candidate Patrick Horcher's name sounds familiar, it's with good reason. Horcher, 32, is the sixth generation of the Horcher family who moved to Wheeling in 1848.

Horcher and his brother own the farm on Old McHenry Road and operate the landscaping business, Horcher Brother Enterprises. Being a farmer and landscaper, Horcher said, he has a wide variety of experience that would be useful on the Village Board.

"I have a lot of practical experience on the farm. We handle chemicals, build things, deal with people," Horcher said.

The current Village Board hasn't earned Horcher's confidence.

(Continued on page 8)

## ■ Candidates

Continued from page 7

"I don't have confidence in those people. I get the feeling they think they are better than the people they represent, the people who put them there," he said. "They've lost contact with reality."

Being self-employed, Horcher said, he knows how to make a project successful.

Creating an inviting business environment is Horcher's priority.

"If you go into Barrington and say you want to open a business, they say, 'What can we do to help?' In Wheeling, they say this is what you have to do," Horcher said, adding that developers are subjected to months of commission and board meetings before receiving approval.

"I don't think any of them (trustees) has ever been directly responsible for their paycheck, and I don't think they understand the entrepreneurial spirit," he added.

Horcher and his wife, Stacey, are expecting their first child in mid-March.

### Robert Heer

Robert Heer wants to see Wheeling thrive.

Heer, a Buffalo Grove police officer for 16 years and Wheeling resident for 13 years, said trustees need to first determine why businesses are moving out of the community.

"I think that Wheeling has to address why these businesses are leaving," he said. "I'm concerned about the appearance of the village and the pride people have in the community where they live."

Heer, 38, has learned about the workings of government by watching his employer, the village of Buffalo Grove, and said he could offer a new insight as a trustee.

"These two communities aren't that far off from one another. They both have the same concerns. I think Wheeling could come back and be viable. It certainly could become as progressive as Buffalo Grove and Northbrook," Heer said.

Future development of Horcher Farm and Milwaukee Avenue is also a concern of Heer's.

Heer is an elected School Board member of St. Joseph's School, and is active in the parish. He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. He and his wife, the former Cathy Trunda, have three children, Nicholas, 10; Andrew, 7; and Kaitlyn, 5.

### William Spangenberg

Candidate William Spangenberg believes the private market will dictate how the village of Wheeling develops. The TIF district at Dundee and Milwaukee, where the

village closed several viable businesses, was "ill conceived," he said.

"A great deal of money was used to acquire it — now what? That property has to be available with a lot less restrictions. The private market sources should be allowed to prevail, to a certain extent," he said. "We have to stick with the traditional functions of government — police, fire, water, sewer, streets, filling potholes."

In addition to making Wheeling more inviting to prospective businesses and expediting the approval process, Spangenberg also is concerned about the village's appearance.

"When you enter the village at Milwaukee and Dundee, the first thing that hits you is boarded-up buildings. Owners should either redevelop it or knock it down," he said, adding that those properties are an eyesore and hazard to children. "There should be more vigorous enforcement of the ordinances, and perhaps some new ones, in respect to the appearance of commercial properties."

A graduate of John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Spangenberg is an attorney in private practice. He is a member of the Wheeling Township Republican Organization and has volunteered his time campaigning for Republican candidates.

Spangenberg and his wife, Sharon, have lived in Wheeling for 11 years. They have three children, Allison, 11; Charlotte, 8; and Rachel, almost 6.

### Anthony Altieri

Anthony Altieri Jr. was first elected to the Village Board in 1983, and is now seeking his fourth term. A 31-year resident of Wheeling, he also serves as a Palwaukee Airport commissioner and has been chairman of that commission for two years.

Altieri, 56, served on the Plan Commission for nine years, was the first Wheeling Jaycee to receive the Jaycees International Senatorship Award, is a past curator of the Wheeling Historical Museum, and is second vice commander of Wheeling AmVets Post 66.

While other candidates remark about Wheeling's appearance and lack of new businesses, Altieri said, "The picture is not so dismal as some paint it." The village has a thriving Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, several new shopping centers that continue to attract retailers and many profitable restaurants, he said.

Concerning the Milwaukee/Dundee area, he said, "It's kind of disappointing. Some proposals came forward

but nothing caught our fancy. We'll have to re-assess things. We're getting an up-to-date appraisal of the property."

Removing utility poles, burying cables and creating a landscaped area along that corridor are in the village's future, Altieri said.

"Over the years, we've continued to move forward," he said. The commuter train station and safety upgrades at Palwaukee will further enhance the village, he said. "I can see five or 10 years down the road there will be dramatic differences."

Altieri and his wife, Kathy, have five sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren. He is a senior mechanical designer with Fluid Management and has been awarded two U.S. design patents.

### Judy Abruscato

Judy Abruscato, who is seeking her third term as trustee, said Wheeling needs to be more aggressive in attractive retail businesses to the village.

"The main issue is to strengthen the retail base of our community," Abruscato, 60, said. "We need to work with developers, residents and businesses to see what they need. We have to be aggressive. People aren't going to come to us."

Retailers need to be informed about Wheeling, its location, its amenities and its demographics, she said.

"Wheeling is the center of the suburbs. I don't think there are a lot of retailers who realize that. We need to get out there and do some PR," she said.

"I don't see anything wrong with looking at an outside firm," Abruscato said. "Sometimes an outsider might see something you miss. Maybe that's the way to spend the money."

Abruscato also is concerned with the Dundee/Milwaukee development, more stringent enforcement of village appearance ordinances and the future commuter rail station.

Before being elected to the Village Board in 1987, Abruscato served on the Zoning Board for two years. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Wheeling Historical Society, Wheeling Township Task Force, began her Neighborhood Watch program and works with the DARE program.

She is an assistant vice president of First National Bank of Wheeling. She and her husband, Mario, have two adult children.

"We really have to be more aggressive, let people know who we are. We're a great place to live, we have great schools and a great Park District," she added.

# Social groups look to Wheeling for help offsetting funding cuts

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday heard from several social groups seeking \$113,225 from them under the 1995-96 budget, which is 7.4 percent more than they received this year.

The Wheeling village board heard from six social service agencies that are seeking allocations under the village's proposed \$31.8 million 1995-96 spending plan.

The agencies perform a variety of social services — including counseling troubled youths and pairing senior homeowners with people who need a residence.

Officials for Omni Youth Services, Horizons Children's Center and Salvation Army Counseling said that they expected their contributions from the United Way agency to be slashed.

Officials from Horizon's Children's Center and Omni Youth Services, who are seeking the first- and second-largest allocations from Wheeling, said they could see reductions in state and federal funding.

"I think it's fair to say increases in those areas aren't likely," said Harry Wells, executive director of Omni Youth Services.

Omni Youth Services is seeking the largest slice of Wheeling's social service pie at \$75,300, which is 4 percent more than it received this year. The Horizons Children's Center is seeking \$20,000, which is 21.2 percent more than the center received this year.

Agencies seeking Wheeling funds included the Arlington Heights-based Resource Center for the Elderly; Shelter, Inc. of Arlington Heights; the Children's Advocacy Center based in Hoffman Estates; Salvation Army Community Counseling; Wheeling-based Horizon Children's Center and Omni Youth Services of Buffalo Grove.

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said Wheeling officials will release their social service allocations when the new budget is approved April 3.

Wheeling's proposed 1995-96 budget is 10.3 percent higher than the current \$28.8 million spending plan.

6 Section 2 Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, March 14, 1995

## Hospice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

South opened its "office" 15 years ago in a volunteer's dining room. Now it has an administrative staff of three, a real office and 46 volunteer caregivers.

At Hospice of the North Shore, which serves northern Cook and Lake Counties, a handful of volunteers cared for four to seven patients a day when the program started in 1978. Today, the agency cares for 150 a day.

Hospice workers attribute the boom to greater awareness of comforting care, changing attitudes about dying, rising hospital costs and the fact that the federal government now will foot the bill for most patients.

"One of the big myths about hospice care is that it's just for cancer patients," said Valerie Larkin of Hospice of Northeastern Illinois. "As we're educating more physicians and people in the community that we care for patients at the end stage of any illness we've just experienced explosive growth."

Nationwide, nearly 80 percent of all people who died last year did so in a hospital bed, but 290,000 died at home under hospice care — more than four times the number a decade ago, according to the Hospice Association of America.

From the government's standpoint, hospice care is more cost-effective than prolonged hospital stays and expensive treatments. This is particularly true as medical breakthroughs extend life beyond its natural stopping point.

So when Congress started approving full hospice coverage in the 1980s for the elderly and poor,

# For Wheeling village board

Interest in the April 4 election for Wheeling trustee is high this year; nine candidates are running for the three available seats on the board.

That may be because economic development has become a hot issue in town. Although Wheeling has attracted a university and has a number of businesses in town, one very visible business — a Dominick's grocery store — has closed, leaving the

town without a major grocery store. This has become a sore point for some residents and some candidates.

Incumbent **Anthony Altieri**, a mechanical designer, says that Dominick's wanted a superstore and there wasn't enough room at its former location. Incumbent **Lois Gaffke**, a company vice-president, notes that a new food store, although not part of a major chain, is opening next month.

There is much that the incumbents have accomplished, including planning for a Metra station, and they, along with incumbent **Judy Abruscato**, a banker, are endorsed. All three note they are very concerned with the appearance of Wheeling, and Abruscato has waged a campaign against unsightly garbage. She voiced a need to work with businesses and find out what the village can do to help them improve appearances.

Two other noteworthy candidates are **William Spangenberg**, an attorney, and **Stuart Shapiro**, an insurance broker. Both have their offices in Wheeling. Spangenberg notes that the board and village departments have to become easier for businesses to deal with. He maintains that some business is drawn off to other communities where government is more responsive.

Shapiro, who has been a homeowners association board member and a chamber of commerce member, says he sees little discussion on the board and feels more questioning would be healthy. He suggested putting the meetings on cable television.

Other candidates running are **Robert Heer**, a Buffalo Grove police officer who stresses improving Wheeling's appearance and image; **Jeanne DiVall Selander**, the current village clerk; and **Patrick Horcher**, whose family farm is being annexed to the village.

We have to issue a warning about the ninth candidate, **Steven Telow**. Although he campaigns as an anti-tax candidate, which appeals to many voters, Telow has on several occasions made defamatory public statements about other ethnic groups, and we urge residents not to vote for him.



# Candidates have different views of Wheeling's future

Second in a series of questions and answers with candidates for the Wheeling village board.

Incumbent **Judy Abruscato**, incumbent **Anthony Altieri**, incumbent **Lois Gaffke**, **Robert J. Heer**, **Pat Horcher**, **Wheeling Village Clerk Jeanne DiVall Selander**, **Stuart Shapiro**, **William C. Spangenberg** and **Steven Telow** are running for three, 4-year terms.

**Question: Where do you see Wheeling going in the next decade, and what things do you think should be done now to prepare for those eventualities?**

**Judy Abruscato:** I visualize improved transportation bringing commuter rail service and upgraded bus service into our village.

The Milwaukee/Dundee corridor completed along with buried overhead wires, modern lighting and extensive landscaping.

Retail again will be strong along with new real estate developments.

Preparing for this we need to construct a strong development plan to work with the village, IDOT, retailers and Realtors.



This will bring all residents and businesses into a prosperous next decade.

**Anthony Altieri:** Wheeling will continue being a convenient, safe and affordable place to live. High service levels and desirable amenities coupled with financial stability and economic growth make this possible.

Wheeling's large industrial and retail base, based on fact, are continuing to grow. To see that this trend is not compromised, I will continue working with the village board, staff, representatives of commerce and industry and residents to keep our programs and priorities on track.

**Lois J. Gaffke:** The next decade will be a time of terrific renewal for the village. The Metra commuter line will be operating, Milwaukee Ave. improvements will be completed, and property

values will soar. I foresee that the retail property owners will finally have the impetus to improve their properties to make them competitive.

I believe that single-family residential developments should be encouraged on undeveloped properties so that we further support the existing retail along Dundee Rd.

**Robert J. Heer:** This will depend on how our elected officials plan for the future. A realistic and workable village-wide plan should be developed and implemented in a timely fashion.

This plan should include but not be limited to the redevelopment of Milwaukee Ave. (Centralized "old" downtown, similar to a Libertyville). Also the future of the business community, to the general appearance. If these plans are executed properly Wheeling could be a very desirable place to live.

**Pat Horcher:** Our forefathers laid a foundation that provided growth opportunities into our future. (Would a commuter train station be possible without the tracks they laid?)

They planned to fulfill the needs of our growing community. The incumbents seem more interested in controlling our future than cultivating it.

I don't believe our future under the control of these people is promising.

If they were planning our future would they use a microscope or a telescope?

**Jeanne DiVall Selander:** In the next decade Wheeling will have a center of town evolving around the train station, including the municipal complex, park district and new businesses. Single-family homes will be developed, enabling residents to remain in the community. The Milwaukee Avenue corridor will be enhanced through TIF and possible annexation.

A strategic plan for the village and review of the comprehensive plan can be worked on now to prepare for the future.

**Stuart Shapiro:** We'll become more prosperous if we're willing to make the necessary changes to protect our future.

The perception of Wheeling needs to change! I recommend that we hire a P.R. firm and a consulting firm to help attract new businesses and residents.

Changing our image will allow businesses and developers to look at Wheeling first, rather than not at all.

A higher tax base will allow us to offer needed service at a reason-

able cost.

**William C. Spangenberg:** Wheeling is now an "older suburb." Development of large tracts of vacant land is almost over. Redevelopment of older land uses is now our task.

Village government must recognize this mature status and adjust its attitude and planning. We must aggressively promote our advantages in order to compete with other "older suburbs" and the new "boomtown" areas, which we were thirty-five years ago. We must preserve our quality of life and tax bases.

**Steven Telow:** With the exodus of business, commerce and industry from what was known as Chicago, I find that much of this "fleeing" the city will find its way into Wheeling and surrounding villages.

The "slumville" that now constitutes Wheeling from Milwaukee-River Road north to Lake-Cook Road can do nothing but prosper. First we must stop any motion of residential development in this area.

This further overfills our already overburdened school system.

## WHEELING CANDIDATES offer different ideas to aid local business

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustee candidates said Tuesday that if elected, they'd get busy getting businesses into the village.

Speaking at a forum held by the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, eight of the nine Wheeling trustee hopefuls offered ideas on boosting the local economy.

Newcomer **Stuart Shapiro** called for outside consultants to help market Wheeling. Shapiro said he spent \$8,700 to promote his insurance business while village officials allocated about \$6,000 for similar services.

"And that's part of the problem," he said.

Candidate **Robert J. Heer** said "communications between the village and business community" should be improved and called for formation of an economic development commission.

Village board aspirant **Pat Horcher** suggested a "development specialist" to serve as a liaison for businesses and the village. Wheeling Village Clerk **Jeanne**

**DiVall Selander**, running on a slate loyal to Wheeling Village President **Sheila Schultz**, advocated a "shop Wheeling" campaign.

"It is very important we get the message out that people should shop in their community," she said.

Incumbent **Judy Abruscato** said she'd work hard to draw more businesses to Wheeling.

"What kind of retailers do you want? A shoe store? Another hot dog stand?" she said.

Incumbent **Lois J. Gaffke** said having Wheeling run well would "provide the basic foundation in which a business can thrive."

Independent candidate **William C. Spangenberg** said the village should prepare to compete with Lake County's lower taxes.

"Wheeling government better get itself in shape to compete with these other towns," he said.

Trustee candidate **Steven Telow** called for more business people to attend municipal meetings.

"I have never seen any of you at board meetings," Telow said.

Candidate **Anthony Altieri** did not attend the forum.

# Wheeling trustee candidates discuss minority involvement

3-16-95 Herald



This is one in a series of questions and answers with candidates for the Wheeling village board.

Incumbents Anthony Altieri, Lois Gaffke and Judy Abruscato are seeking re-election to the three open four-year seats.

Newcomers in the race include Jeanne DiVall Selander, the current village clerk, Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher, Stuart Shapiro, William C. Spangenberg and Steven Telow.

**Question:** Wheeling's Hispanic residents make up a sizable portion of the village's general population yet they are nonexistent in its politics and government. What would you do to get them and other minority groups more involved in the life of the village?

**Judy Abruscato:** I would continue to work with the Wheeling Community Resource Center and the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force by personally encouraging their leaders and members to become involved with our policy-making commissions such as zoning, planning and appearance commissions.

Along with this, I would work with the school district and park district by having informational seminars on how to become

involved in politics and government in our community.

**Anthony Altieri:** The most recent census figures indicated that approximately 9 percent of Wheeling's population is Latino. Several other minorities also reside in Wheeling.

Everyone's input is important to me and I'm happy to receive it. Anyone wishing to get involved should feel free to contact me or the village for information.

With respect to elected office, you must comply with the election laws of the state of Illinois and be elected by the voters of Wheeling.

**Lois J. Gaffke:** Non-participation in government is not unusual. The number of residents who register to vote and turn out for elections is poor in all segments of the community. Wheeling is wonderfully diverse. The village's Community Resource Center, schools, and local churches act as a bridge to welcome all new mem-

bers into the village.

Several commissioners and employees of the village represent various cultural backgrounds. I invite every resident to participate in the governmental process.

**Robert J. Heer:** Village government is accessible for anyone who wishes to serve regardless of their sex, race or ethnic background. To get people involved, our village government should be approachable and encourage residents to get involved.

This might be accomplished by appointing community members of different ethnic backgrounds to various committees in their village government. We all win, people are involved in their community and we all get a better understanding of the needs and wants.

**Pat Horcher:** I'm probably the candidate most familiar with the "Latino residents."

Minorities are part of life in the village. With jobs, homes, and businesses; using the library, parks, social, economic, and religious services minorities are involved in village life.

Minorities aren't involved in politics for their own reasons as individuals: Why don't more regis-

tered voters vote?

If people know their options it's their responsibility to act. The village's responsibility is to educate citizens about their options.

**Jeanne DiVall Selander:** There are many ways to get involved in the community, and certainly there is work to be done which invites new faces and volunteers. Wheeling's Resource Center helps immigrants assimilate into our culture and also encourages new residents to become naturalized citizens.

As clerk, I held a voter's registration drive at the Resource Center. If elected trustee, I would continue to encourage all citizens to register to vote and become involved in community activities.

**Stuart Shapiro:** I would recommend a community relations commission be formed that would work with the existing community resource center in hopes of getting more of our minority residents involved in Wheeling government.

Workshops and more communications are essential! I'd also like to see the village use its newsletter to help attract more residents into volunteering their time.

We should all be working

towards one common goal and that's to make Wheeling a better place to live.

**William C. Spangenberg:** Latino and other minority groups are currently quite involved in the life of the village through churches, schools and park district programs. They will become involved in Wheeling politics and government if they feel the need to do so, as did ethnic groups who were themselves "newcomers" in the past.

Registration, voting and running for office are less difficult than ever in our nation's history. These rights are available to be exercised at any time.

**Steven Telow:** Yes — the Spanish community in Wheeling has been here for more than 50 years. Longer than any of the trustees and way longer than I.

Why should they get involved with Wheeling politics? They "quietly" took over most of "old Wheeling" and they don't want anybody looking into what they are doing? Or working at? Or shopping wherever?

They, the majority, don't speak English. Those that do make money from them by controlling the Spanish shopping habits.

## Candidates give voters choices in trustee race

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

3-23-95

improving its appearance. Altieri said, the picture isn't as dismal as some think.

"I see a lot of good things happening," Altieri said. "I know a few years down the road, terrific things will happen."

Abruscato, who is seeking her third trustee term, said the village needs to promote itself. Abruscato said she would consider hiring an outside image/public relations firm to aggressively introduce retailers to Wheeling, and show them the benefits of locating to the village.

"We're all there for one common goal and that's to improve the village. There are a lot of good people here and they deserve a good community," Abruscato said.

Though incumbents generally agree that the village is making progress, albeit slowly, the challengers say the only way to spark change in the village is to elect new faces to the board.

Independents Robert Heer, Patrick Horcher, William Spangenberg and Stephen Telow have entered this spring's trustee race.

Heer, a Buffalo Grove police officer, said Wheeling should "accent what you have, an old downtown at Milwaukee and Dundee."

Trustees, he said, need to be a little more daring if they are going to lead the village into the next century. "You have to have long-range planning. Take some challenges, some risks. I truly believe the future hinges on a new board getting in there," Heer said.

Horcher, admittedly a little disgruntled that the village annexed his family's farm without any prior notification, wants to create a favorable business environment in Wheeling. He said a movie theater would be ideally located in the TTF district.

He, too, believes it's time for changes on the Village Board. (Continued on page 19)

### Trustee

Continued from page 5

Board. "I think they've been in office a little too long," he said, adding that if elected, he would limit himself to two terms.

One complaint Shapiro has about the Village Board meetings he has attended is that there is limited discussion among trustees. "I doesn't seem anyone has... I'd like to..."

Incumbent...

## Three for trustee

Countywide 3-23-95  
Nine candidates are running for three spots on the Wheeling village board. Two incumbents and the village clerk have united under a party banner, while six other candidates are running on their own. Voters should elect newcomer Robert Heer and return incumbents Lois Gaffke and Judy Abruscato.

The village had been moving forward in plans to improve the downtown area and enhance its image, but that progress has been slow. Heer, a 13-year resident of the village, has new ideas to bring to the board and could provide the spark to re-energize board level decision-making. As a patrolman in Buffalo Grove, he has a unique perspective from which to draw. He is an elected member of the St. Joseph's school board and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Gaffke has served well during her first term as trustee. Prior to her election, she served as village clerk and as a member of the plan commission. She also has a long record of community service including as a Holmes PTO member, director of St. Joseph's Familyfest and treasurer of the Picardy Place Homeowners Association. She has a strong desire to see Wheeling maintain police, fire and street services while remaining financially sound.

Abruscato provides a different viewpoint from the majority on the board. Her concern for the village's appearance and her involvement in the Fourth of July committee has provided her with many contacts in the community. Abruscato boasts of her approachability and would like to see the village get more aggressive in pursuing its goals.

Residents would be best served by electing a variety of views to the board, and should select Heer, Gaffke and Abruscato to provide that mix.

# Candidates answer questionnaires

The following answers were given by the candidates running for Wheeling trustee. It is the Countryside's intention to provide an opportunity for candidates to address the issues in their own words. The answers are printed in alphabetical order.

Voters will elect three trustees to four-year terms on April 4. Candidates were asked to limit their answers to five sentences.

**Q: General appearance of the village is a concern for many residents. Should the village have an appearance review commission?**

**Judy Abruscato:** The village of Wheeling has an appearance commission which reviews all landscaping and colors on buildings. We



Abruscato

also have a sign board commission to review these issues. To address the appearance on a daily basis we need stringent enforcement of our ordinances.

**Anthony Altieri:** The village has an appearance review commission and they do an excellent job. Just look to the new and redeveloped areas and you can see what the village is trying to do.



Altieri

The problem is that the regulations only apply to new development and redevelopment projects. It's a shame that a few individual landowners don't take more pride in maintaining their property without local government intervention.

**Lois Gaffke:** The village does have an appearance commission made up of residents. The commission reviews site plans as a part of the permitting process. The commission also gives out yearly awards to attractive, well-maintained properties in an effort to foster community

pride. Occasionally a home does fall into disrepair as a result of hardship. We have Community Block Grants available to assist those homeowners. The village



Gaffke

must set reasonable standards for appearance, health and safety. However, we would be foolish to try to legislate "good taste."

**Robert Heer:** No, I don't think a commission is the answer. Enforcement of the village ordinances that are



Heer

already on the books pertaining to this area is the answer. Make people accountable for their actions, from the village government to the community member.

**Patrick Horcher:** Wheeling already has ordinances regarding the upkeep of properties. They also have an appearance committee that makes recommendations to the board regarding any new construction or developments. Plus, when a petitioner needs something from



Horcher

the board, if their appearance is not up to someone's standards, approval for whatever the petitioner wants can be withheld until the petitioner submits.

I think the village would do a fine job improving its appearance if they would exercise the control mea-

sures they currently have at their disposal. Concerning more regulations and regulators: It makes no difference how much food is on the table, if you don't have the sense to eat it you'll starve anyway.

**Jeanne Selander:** The village of Wheeling has an appearance commission which consists of resident volunteers who review site plans, landscape plans and additions to homes and businesses for appearance. Homeowners and businesses are encouraged to take pride in their property and keep it in good repair. When violations occur voluntary compliance is



Selander

sought. If ordinance violations continue, warnings are issued and fines imposed. In addition, Community Development Block Grant funds are available to single-family homeowners for repair of their homes when funding is a hardship. Residents and business owners alike share in the responsibility for a well-maintained village.

**Stuart Shapiro:** The village already has an appearance commission. Many hours are spent by these commissioners trying to improve the overall appeal of the village.



Shapiro

We really need to try and enforce our ordinances better. If the enforcement process were better and more fines were imposed, the general appearance of the village would improve greatly. When I'm elected, I would push for more enforcement procedures by all of our village employees.

**William Spangenberg:** The village has an appearance commission. However, it does not have the power to initiate a review of the appearance of property. It can act only  
(Continued on page 9)

# Butera Finer Foods looking at space in Wheeling plaza

3-29-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials say the Butera Finer Foods grocery store chain is considering opening a store in retail space formerly occupied by Dominick's Finer Foods.

Wheeling officials said the Elgin-based company is considering opening a store in the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center at 550 W. Dundee Road where Dominick's Finer Foods had a store for 22 years until it closed in February.

Wheeling Trustee Lois J. Gaffke and village Clerk Jeanne D. Selander said the company has had preliminary discussions about the site with village officials.

"There were some tentative contacts made," Gaffke said.

Thomas Fennell, Wheeling's building, housing, planning and zoning official confirmed a meeting occurred between the village and Butera representatives.

The indication that Butera is considering the space is the first solid sign officials have received about a prospective

grocery tenant for Lynn Plaza.

Joseph Butera, vice president of operations for the chain, said it was too early for his company to announce a decision about the Lynn Plaza location.

"We have no opinion on the subject space. It's too early in the discussion to indicate if there's interest or not," said Butera.

James Kaplan, Lynn Plaza's leasing manager, was out of town Tuesday and unavailable for comment. However, he has previously said his firm would actively seek another grocery store tenant for Dominick's former location.

According to the "Directory of Supermarket, Grocery and Convenience Store Chains" Butera now has 15 locations in the area and \$130 million in annual sales.

Dominick's officials let its Lynn Plaza lease expire because they said the store was too small to meet the company's needs.

The closing of Dominick's has become a campaign issue in the Wheeling trustees race where some candidates have said measures should be taken to encourage businesses.



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**GORGEOUS NEW LISTING**  
Unbelievable 4 br, 2 1/2 ba, colonial in Wheeling totally updated & breath taking! Large kit rmdld w/solid hickory cabnbs, ceramic flr, mstr br. w/sitting room, fin. bsmt. has wet bar. Fabulous Florida rm. overlooks yard w/pool & patio. 2-zone heat, air. Hurry!... Won't last at \$249,900.  
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**Debbie Leibovitz 634-6200**

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## ■ Candidates Continued from page 8



**Spangenberg**

when a property owner petitions to develop or redevelop.

The last thing Wheeling needs is another commission or a commission with expanded powers. The Village Board has the legal authority to do much to improve the appearance of Wheeling, if only it was motivated to do so.

**Stephen Telow:** Not till your paper addresses those who presently sit on the Village Board and are the cause of their tenure on this board causing the "slumville" appearance of Wheeling, will we be able to get to the "root of the problem."

Gaffke, Altieri, Abruscato must be replaced (if not by me) by any of the other can-



**Telow**

didates who I believe will do a better job. Sheila Schultz makes the proposal, Gaffke makes the motion and Altieri or Abruscato seconds the motion and it passes 6-0 — no debate, no discussion, no deliberations, no dialogue. I call them "the sitting ducks."

The main artery into Wheeling begins at River Road and Milwaukee Avenue, goes past Palwaukee Airport, past Bob Chinn's to the main intersection of Milwaukee and Dundee, and what do you see? "Tobacco Road."

Do we need an appearance commission? No! Don't pass the buck. It stops at the door of the trustees.

**Q: What should be done to get redevelopment started in the Dundee/Milwaukee area? Or should the village focus further west on Dundee where the new commuter train station will be built? What should the plans be for these areas? Why the delay?**

**Abruscato:** The redevelopment off Milwaukee/Dundee corridor needs to have a developer of record in order to go forward. We need to be aggressive in obtaining a

developer to go forward. Along with this IDOT needs to start their project which is slow in coming. The village has made a commitment to the area for the new commuter rail service and should be starting this sometime in the spring or early summer for completion of the spring of 1996. Upgraded landscaping and buried overhead wires would improve the Dundee Road corridor.

**Altieri:** Some proposals are being reviewed by the village at this time and once the Milwaukee Road improvements are in place, I'm sure other projects will quickly follow. Legal challenges to the formation of the TIF district have delayed the process for seven or eight years. Subsequently, condemnation proceedings were held. The good news is the village prevailed and the hodgepodge will be replaced with modern attractive redevelopments. In the interim the unsightly buildings on the village-owned property have been removed.

The commuter train station is a reality and we need to deal with that area as well as the TIF. The village is ready to move forward in both areas and is actively involved soliciting proposals for projects. Commercial ventures that cater to the commuting public are appropriate around the commuter station.

I'm just as frustrated by the delays and as anxious to get things moving as everyone else is. The fact is that everyone is entitled to their day in court; we all know that this takes time, we must be patient and prevail.

**Gaffke:** Milwaukee Avenue is scheduled for a massive rebuild project in the next two to three years. The state is condemning and acquiring property. This will have an impact on all businesses and future development along Milwaukee Avenue. Many buildings will be demolished, others will require variances. The old Billy & Co. site has recently been combined with other parcels, and a developer has been named for this seven-acre TIF project.

The village is moving with deliberation in respect to the northwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee. Too few proposals have been presented for consideration, and the board realizes that whatever develops on the site will characterize our eastern gateway. We want an attractive, viable project for that corner.

The commuter train station will begin operating next spring. This will stimulate redevelopment along Dundee Road. Fortunately many of the existing businesses along this corridor are already considered desirable by commuters.

The village is in a position where little appears to be happening now, but planning

for both areas in ongoing. There will be an explosion of development in the very near future as all of the "drawing board" projects solidify in concept.

**Heer:** I feel the village should start with the Milwaukee/Dundee area first then proceed with the area around the train station. I would like to see the Dundee/Milwaukee area developed into a centralized "old" downtown, similar to a Libertyville, not with strip malls and townhomes. Why the delay? I can only guess at the reason. The elected officials over the last 15 to 20 years could not agree on what should be placed in this area. I hope for the future of the village they address all possibilities including the one mentioned above, because what is planned for today will be there for a lifetime.

**Horcher:** Someone on staff at the village might try finding new developers with more ideas about such a strategically placed piece of property. At a workshop meeting a developer said Target wouldn't take the land at Milwaukee and Dundee if you gave it to them. If this is the response of retail developers to the property, maybe we should look to some other type of development.

I have thought for some time this location would be excellent for a small movie theater. Anyone ever been to Barrington Square Six? How far away is that to go to see a second run movie? But you still go. Would a small (possibly only two screen) theater be able to stay in business? Seems to be doing all right in Libertyville. Would a theater fit in with the restaurants in the area? I think dinner and a movie makes a nice combination. That is only my thought about the corner. If someone were to present me with a better idea I would be open to it.

But, hey, Village Hall, wake up! If one type of developer doesn't want the land look into something new. Adapt. The location of the property sure isn't going to change. Maybe your expectations of what it can be used for should.

And the property near the planned station will be a magnet to any smaller developer who recognized that when you have a train station, you will have a captive market. It won't be long before people will show up wanting to start the standard array of shops and services normally found at train stations.

### COMMUNITY NEWS?

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# Wheeling selects company to head redevelopment plan

3-23-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday named a company with experience building shopping centers to develop a parcel in the heart of the Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment area.

Ending months of speculation, the Wheeling village board named Chicago-based Hiffman Shaffer Associates, Inc. to develop a 13.5 acre parcel at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road in the village's tax increment financing district.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the company's belief that commercial development could be located at the intersection is the reason trustees chose HSA.

"This is a developer who always thought it could be successfully done and now we've given them time to talk to retailers," she said.

The company has 120 days to return to Wheeling officials with a specific development plan for the property.

Last year, HSA had proposed building a 125,900 square-foot shopping center at the intersection.

Some developers had said the neighboring Cook County Forest Preserve east of the site is a barrier to retail traffic.

Schultz said a state project to widen a 3-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue through Wheeling convinced officials the district would be good for retailers.

Richard E. Hulina, president of HSA's retail division, said he was uncertain what the company would propose but it would be different from its previous proposal.

HSA was chosen over Wheeling-based Joseph Freed and Associates which proposed a mixed condominium, office building and retail development for the parcel.

Freed recently was named the developer for a town house project in the TIF district just south of the HSA site.

In the TIF district, the assessments of properties are frozen for a period. Later, public improvements in the district are funded by revenue received from those sites by increased sales and property taxes.

Wheeling targeted a 125-acre area at the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection as a way to stimulate the local economy.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

3-23-95

## Irish cuisine

Maureen Dabeck slices up a corned beef for seniors at the Pavilion Center. The seniors were treated to a Irish luncheon for St. Patrick's Day.

# Wheeling candidates focus on development at forum

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Questions about the village's development and appearance dominated a Wheeling candidates forum sponsored Monday by a local seniors group.

Seven of the nine Wheeling village board candidates answered questions from the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons.

Asked what development should be placed in Wheeling's tax increment finance district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, newcomer Pat Horcher recommended a theater.

"This is the best thing I could think of to put in an area some developers have rejected," Horcher said.

Wheeling Village Clerk and trustee hopeful Jeanne D. Selander recommended careful study of any proposal for the district.

"It is important that we look at the options and don't jump into something," she said.

Newcomer Robert J. Heer called for a downtown development in the district similar to

Libertyville's.

"I, myself, would like a centralized area," Heer said.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato said the district should have a mixed use development that includes retail stores and theaters.

"I, myself, would like to see some entertainment," Abruscato said.

Trustee hopeful Stuart Shapiro reiterated his call for village officials to hire outside consultants to decide the district's fate.

"As long as we waited this long, let's get some professional people to give us some recommendations," he said.

Candidate William C. Spangenberg said the marketplace should determine development in the district.

"Government should stay out of the real estate business," he said.

Incumbent Trustee Lois Gaffke said the village board scrutinizes the area's redevelopment.

"We are concerned that whatever goes in there is viable for the community," she said.

Incumbent Anthony Altieri and trustee candidate Steven Telow did not attend the forum.

# School panel proposes smoke-free ordinance

3-23-95  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Kildeer School District 96 may have unknowingly started a trend when students and administrators approached the Buffalo Grove Village Board last fall to request an ordinance to require bicycle helmets for children.

That proposed ordinance was recently rejected by trustees, but is under study for reconsideration.

Now, a Smoke-free Committee at Cooper Junior High School in Consolidated School District 21 plans to ask trustees to approve an ordinance that would outlaw smoking in public by minors. The committee includes five teachers and about 30 students.

Within two months, Cooper Principal Kathryn Schoenwetter hopes to present Buffalo Grove trustees with a

petition signed by students and adults who support a ban on underage smokers.

"We see visible evidence of children smoking, and I think we're seeing it more," Schoenwetter said.

On the petition circulating at Cooper, statistics tell signers that 3,000 students try cigarettes for the first time each day and that cigarette smoking is the nation's leading preventable cause of death.

Cooper Junior High is a smoke-free environment for students and adults, Schoenwetter said, but children need to be discouraged from smoking regardless of where they are.

An ordinance would give teachers and parents another tool to warn students of the hazards of smoking.

"Wheeling has an ordinance that minors can't smoke in public," Schoer

wetter said, noting that she was previously an assistant principal at Holmes Junior High in Wheeling.

"We certainly saw situations where the police helped us out," she said of enforcing the ordinance. While students can't smoke on school grounds, once they're walking home, nothing can be done to stop them from lighting up, she said.

"Mainly where our biggest enforcement takes place is around the high school," Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said.

In addition to an ordinance that prohibits anyone under age 18 from smoking, Wheeling also has an ordinance against the purchase or possession of tobacco for anyone under 18, and an ordinance that prohibits anyone from giving or selling tobacco products to minors, Hermes said.

(Continued on page 5)

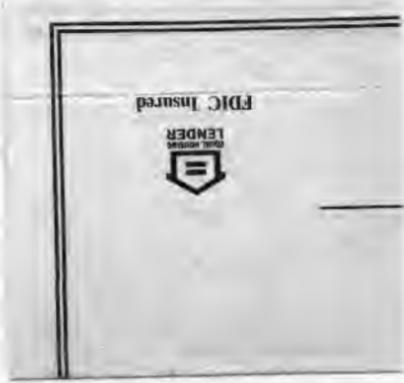
## Smoking

Continued from page 5

The ordinances were approved by the Village Board in 1986.

Officers who see minors in possession of cigarettes or smoking can issue local ordinance tickets, which require a court appearance, Hermes said.

"The main enforcement we



LOCAL REPORT

# Wheeling board alters zoning to allow Milwaukee widening

BY DEBBIE HARMSEN  
Daily Herald Correspondent

To accommodate area improvements, Wheeling trustees approved zoning changes for two Milwaukee Avenue properties in the village's redevelopment district.

Wheeling trustees approved zoning changes for an attorney's office at 47 S. Milwaukee Ave. that included changing its front-yard setback from 25 feet to 3.74 feet from the road.

They also approved a front-yard setback reduction for a building housing a shoe repair store and retail shop at 67 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Zoning changes for the buildings were made to accommodate the widening of a three-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue through Wheeling being scheduled by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

As a part of the project, IDOT is claiming some of the land at the front of both buildings.

IDOT officials say that work on the Milwaukee Avenue widening project could start sometime next year.

Under village code, if zoning changes had not been approved for the building at 47 S. Milwaukee Avenue, it would have to be torn down by 2003 because its original classification made it a legal nonconforming use in the district.

Wheeling officials have targeted the 125-acre area at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road as its tax increment financing district.

As a part of those efforts, officials are trying to eliminate or change properties that don't fit the zoning classification of the district.

In that district, the assessments of properties are frozen for a period.

Later, public improvements there are funded in part by revenue received from those sites by increased sales and property taxes.

Wheeling targeted the area for redevelopment as a way to stimulate the local economy.

The village also can make TIF bond financing available to developers for redevelopment of the area.

QUESTIONING THE CANDIDATES

# Wheeling village board hopefuls discuss east, west divide

This is the last of a series of questions and answers with candidates for the Wheeling village board.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato, incumbent Anthony Altieri, incumbent Lois Gaffke, Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher, Wheeling Village Clerk Jeanne DiVall Selander, Stuart Shapiro, William C. Spangenberg and Steven Telow are running for three, 4-year terms.

**Question:** Wheeling is seen by many of its residents as having an older, less affluent east side and a newer, more upscale west side. What needs to be done, if anything, to ensure prosperity reaches all parts of the village?

**Judy Abruscato:** We are, as you know, a diversified community that offers many things to all residents regardless of where they live in our village.

By working together and by helping each other, this will continue to bring us prosperity and affluent quality of life to all in our village.

**Anthony Altieri:** Wheeling has affordable, comparably priced, older and new, rental,



multi-family and single-family homes throughout the village.

New industrial, commercial and residential development continues. Listed among the newer residential developments are Abourndale Court, Picardy Place, Eastwood Trails, Maplewood Meadows, Brookvale Terrace and Hillcrest subdivision.

Additional development and redevelopment proposals continue to be evaluated and will soon become reality. This illustrates the fact that Wheeling continues to grow and is a great place to live.

**Lois J. Gaffke:** As an east side resident, I was taken aback by this question. The east side is older, but has the charm of large lots and beautiful mature landscaping. The east-side residents see it as a desirable place to live.

The remaining undeveloped

land is distributed throughout the village. As trustee I will continue to work for the attractive, logical and economically beneficial development of all vacant land.

**Robert J. Heer:** Wheeling is not unlike other communities, which have older sections and newer sections. Both of which offer a sense of character and uniqueness to a community. To see that prosperity reaches "all" sections of the village, we must have a comprehensive economic development plan that will benefit the entire community, no matter what side of town you live on.

**Pat Horcher:** Our diversity of dwellings is a result of constantly changing housing trends. Growth oriented maintenance programs are needed to concentrate efforts in problem areas without neglecting the rest.

If your roof leaks do you ignore it, or budget for repairs plus regular expenses?

Wheeling is our house, and it's time for rehabbing. Otherwise, when we head into the new century the neighbors are not going to want to visit.

**Jeanne DiVall Selander:**

Wheeling's east side is indeed older than the west side, and some of that area is in need of redevelopment. Older buildings have been torn down, a town house development has been proposed for the Billy & Co. parcel, Milwaukee Avenue will soon be improved and the TIF district will bring renewal to the Milwaukee/Dundee corridor. In addition, there are many new housing developments that have been built over the last several years.

**Stuart Shapiro:** All communities have the same problems. As new development takes place, other parts become older. That's normal progression.

As the needs of our residents change and they're attracted to new developments, others are attracted to their former residences.

Keeping people from moving out of Wheeling to other areas as their needs change, to me, is more of an important issue.

Prosperity hinges on our ability to attract new development and businesses to Wheeling.

**William C. Spangenberg:**

Residential areas on both sides are equally attractive, prosperous and reflect owners' pride. Once commercial areas looked slightly better on the west side. Now, Wheeling has equality in commercial area deterioration.

Village government must develop a sense of pride in the appearance of this community. It must be ready for the new Milwaukee Avenue in the east and passenger railroad in the west. Innovative, independent thinking elected officials are needed to meet these challenges.

**Steven Telow:** East will never meet west. Because of age and because Village of Wheeling trustees have sat on their butts while surrounding villages have upgraded the central part of their towns.

Located in this area are the "Grandfathered" citizens (notably the Spanish Mexicans — seniors — and middle class blue collar workers). On the west end (and south and north) from Prospect Heights to Buffalo Grove new developments brought in yuppies.

I'm against government interference on how people want to live.

These races, while seemingly glamorous, often have the biggest impact on daily life.

Get out and vote

3-30-95

On Tuesday, residents will have the opportunity to vote for those who will represent them on local village, park and library boards. In addition, some voters will see referendum questions from a variety of taxing districts.

Voting is an important responsibility for all residents. And these races, while seemingly not all that glamorous, often have the biggest impact on daily life. These boards decide how local property tax dollars are spent. They decide what developments are allowed in the village and what developments aren't. They decide on the appearance of the village, your neighborhood or your street. They decide how money is spent to fix or upgrade local streets. They decide what parks are improved and what programs are offered. It is vital to know as much about the candidates as you can before you vote. These representatives will be making a vast number of decisions for you on a myriad of issues small and large.

This newspaper has carried articles about the candidates during the last several weeks. In this issue, a voter's guide summarizes that information. Some local organizations have also held candidates' nights live or on cable television. We encourage every resident to find out as much as you can about the candidates, and make your vote count on April 4.

Below is a recap of the endorsements made by this newspaper.

Wheeling Village Board:

- Lois Gaffke
- Judy Abruscato
- Robert Heer

Wheeling Park Board:

- Dennis Drake
- William Mattes
- Cheri Klumpp

## Director of finance receives award

Robert W. Falkowski, director of finance for the village of Wheeling, was recently honored with an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement. Falkowski earned the award for being primarily responsible for the village of Wheeling being awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This certificate is the highest recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

# Trustee candidates respond

*Countryside 3-23-95*  
The following trustee candidate answers to the second question on the survey were inadvertently omitted from last week's Countryside. Nine candidates are running for three seats on the board. Answers to the first question and the other candidates answers to the second question appeared in last week's issue. The Countryside regrets the error.

**Q: What should be done to get redevelopment started in the Dundee/Milwaukee area? Or should the village focus further west on Dundee where the new commuter train station will be built? What should the plans be for these areas? Why the delay?**

**Jeanne Selander:** I see the widening of Milwaukee Avenue by IDOT as a starting point for redevelopment. Roadway location is essential to developers in visualizing concept plans. Businesses may also be reluctant to set up shop in the midst of a major road project. While several proposals were submitted to the village during the past year, they were at considerable cost to taxpayers, (i.e. giving the land away). We are all anxious to see this area redeveloped, but must carefully review the proposals so that we don't end up with another mess a few years down the road. Meanwhile, the TIF district generates \$1.4 million per year in new revenue for the taxpayers.

The train station development is of equal importance. Staff and board have worked

diligently over the past several years to make this a reality. Plans are coming together and trains will be operating in 1996. This will result in increased property values and a surge in business for local retailers.

**Stuart Shapiro:** I think that our focus needs to be concentrated on all areas of the village and not just these two areas. The perception of Wheeling needs to change! We need to hire a public relations firm and a consulting firm to help us improve our image and help bring new businesses and residents to Wheeling. It's time that developers and businesses look at Wheeling first, rather than not at all.

**William Spangenberg:** The village should focus on both areas and a few others as well. Development trends in the private sector should be given great deference. Within reason, market forces should be allowed to determine what is the best use for a particular area. The delay has been caused by the inflexible Village Board ignoring business reality and the expertise of successful, experienced developers.

**Stephen Telow:** Boarded-up buildings, closed store fronts, for sale signs, bad roads, garbage in the forest preserve and along the DesPlaines River. Many times I have visitors who fly into Palwaukee Airport and when I tell them Wheeling is 100 years old, the vision a modern booming metropolis. They see

Lord & Taylor, Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom, Nieman Marcus on all four corners of Milwaukee and Dundee. But what do you get? "Slumville." I tell them, "The sitting ducks on the Village Board haven't acted on this yet (after four years in office)."

What do these trustees vision at Billy & Co (the Union Hotel where Lincoln slept), but further residential. We need more kids in our school system like a "shot in the head." It's already overburdened and overflowing with children.

Should it start at the proposed railroad station? Not till you get rid of Pritzker's, Meyer's Material, the old horse meat company (Evanger's), Tom Todd Chevrolet, the asphalt plant, the paint company. Do we want to get rid of these industries? No! Because they create jobs and big taxes — I mean real big taxes. That's what we need on Milwaukee Avenue and the TIF area — business, commercial enterprises and light manufacturing — not homes, not condos, not townhomes. Don't let these greedy, quick buck housing developers get their hands into this TIF area. We don't need Section 8 housing and more welfare-subsidized housing.

Wheeling is a dollar 'burb with a \$20 appetite. We are not Lake Forest, Lincolnshire, Riverwoods or Long Grove. Develop it for the working man with working-man industries. Chicago will chase enough of them out here, eventually.

# Palwaukee closes curtain on long-standing drive-in

*4-1-95*  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

One of the last remaining drive-in theaters in the North and Northwest suburbs came to the end of its long run this week, when Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling officially took control of the Twin Drive In.

Word came down Friday that the theater, an entertainment staple in the area for around 30 years, will not reopen again. Instead, a popular flea market run at the Twin will be there again this summer.

A Cook County Circuit Court judge this week awarded Palwaukee ownership of 23 acres of the 31 acres at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave. as part of a sales agreement with M&R Inc. of Skokie, which owned the property.

"We have title to the 23 acres," airport manager Fred Stewart Jr. said Friday.

The Twin's closing leaves drive-in

theaters in West Chicago, Grayslake and McHenry.

Palwaukee officials wanted the neighboring drive-in land so they can relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch through both properties as a part of an \$83.5 million renovation project.

As part of the purchase agreement, the airport will allow M&R to hold business operations at the drive-in until work starts there.

Officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, who operate the airport, would have to grant M&R such permission.

Stewart said work could begin in August depending on when federal funds are released.

The airport and M&R are still haggling in circuit court over a final price for the Twin land.

Airport officials paid \$2,268,000 for the property and may have to pay more, or they could receive money back on its acquisition.

# Fire brings arson charge

*3-30-95*  
By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
Wheeling police have charged the owner of a Wheeling business with arson following a suspicious fire last week at Knight Printing.

Charged was John A. Hansen, 52, of Long Grove, the owner of the printing business.

The fire was discovered at about 10:30 p.m. March 19 when a Wheeling police officer on routine patrol discovered smoke and water coming out of the Knight Printing building at 593 N. Wolf Road.

Police said Hansen arrived on the scene minutes after the first fire units arrived, and told investigators he had been moving out of the building since about 8:30 p.m. Hansen said he left briefly to go to a convenience store and returned to find the emergency vehicles.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac noted that the fire was mostly extinguished by the time firefighters arrived at the scene, thanks to the building's sprinkler system.

"The fire was put out with very little manual fire-fighting," MacIsaac said. "Without the sprinkler system, damage could have been extensive. It would have been substantially more, if not potential loss of the entire building."

Damage to the building was estimated at \$12,000 to \$15,000, with an undetermined value of personal belongings lost in the fire, MacIsaac said.

As the initial investigator on the scene, MacIsaac said, he noticed "what appeared to be multiple ignition points," which led investigators to consider arson. The early arrival of the owner also appeared suspicious.  
(Continued on page 7)

MacIsaac said.

"Once we determined what we thought made it a suspicious fire, we turned it over to police," he said.

Police conducted their own investigation and charged Hansen with arson March 22.

Hansen was released after

posting 10 percent or \$50,000 bond and is to appear in Cook County court, Rolling Meadows, for a preliminary hearing April 7, said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes.

Hermes said the Cook County State's Attorney

office plans to seek a grand jury indictment for arson against Hansen at a hearing today.

Felony arson is punishable by three to seven years in prison, police said.

# Business environment focus of candidate forum

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*Countyside*  
3-30-75  
All of the Wheeling trustee candidates seem to agree that something needs to be done to improve the village's business environment, but each has unique ideas on how that would best be accomplished.

At a Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week, candidate Stuart Shapiro said his primary goal to improve business in Wheeling is to change the village's image.

He suggested hiring a public relations firm and a consulting firm to help the village achieve this goal.

"We need to change the image of Wheeling to keep business in Wheeling and get new residential growth in the village," Shapiro said. If anything comes from his candidacy, Shapiro said, he hopes it is that Wheeling begins to promote itself.

He noted that the 1995-96 village budget allows less than \$6,000 for promoting the village. That's less than Shapiro said he spends promoting his own business.

Candidate Patrick Horcher agreed that Wheeling should hire a professional to strengthen its business relationships.

"I'd like to establish a position, a development specialist — a liaison who would deal with the business community," Horcher said. This specialist would be responsible for uncovering business owners' concerns and responding to those concerns.

"Contact the businesses already established in the village and ask it there's something we can do to make your business better" before a problem exists, Horcher said.

In addition to building relationships with current businesses, he proposed that the development specialist also would contact businesses outside the community and discover what would entice them to move

to Wheeling.

William Spangenberg, a local attorney, said Wheeling ordinances should be revised, along with tedious village proceedings for prospective businesses, to encourage a solid business base in Wheeling and allow businesses to remain competitive.

"Red tape and delay has driven many businesses away from Wheeling," Spangenberg said.

While the Wisconsin Central commuter rail, scheduled to open next year, will boost Wheeling's economy, Spangenberg said, "Wheeling government had better get into shape to compete with these other towns" which all will be vying for new businesses.

"It's my goal that Wheeling government be reformed," he said.

Robert Heer told Chamber members that better communication between the village and businesses would improve that relationship.

"I would like to see a liaison committee set up between the village and business," Heer said, adding that members could discuss concerns with nearby suburbs in similar situations.

"We cannot rest on our laurels," Heer said. "We must make a progressive step into the future."

Village Clerk Jeanne Selander, running for her first trustee term, wants to begin a "Shop in Wheeling" campaign.

"The small-business owners would especially benefit from this," Selander said. "Those are the people who really benefit from repeat business."

As a small-business owner, incumbent Lois Gaffke said she understands the concerns of business owners.

However, it is government's responsibility to protect the best interests of its residents, which sometimes can be frustrating for business owners, she said.

"Our primary goal as a government is to provide a

business environment in which a business can thrive," Gaffke said, mentioning the need for good fire, police, sewer and water services.

"Fortunately, in Wheeling we have good roads, a great location, even air and rail (transportation) available to us."

Gaffke also said she would like to see single-family home development continue in Wheeling.

Incumbent Judy Abruscato said she'll continue to improve upon what she's done in the past, if re-elected.

"I pledge to you that I aggressively will go out to keep present retailers in our village," she said. Her goal for her next term is to better promote the village, and be aggressive about doing so, she said.

"I need you to help me a little bit. Tell me what kind of retailers you want in this town. I want to maintain and aggressively strive to get new business in Wheeling, not by myself, but with you to help me," she told Chamber members.

Stephen Telow, the first candidate to address the Chamber, warned its members that he's not a "politically correct" candidate and proceeded to ask them what they have contributed to make Wheeling a better place in which to live.

"What input have you provided us? I never see you at meetings. Why don't you ask yourself why nine registered voters are running for trustee," Telow said. "Why didn't one of you run for village trustee? You are the backbone of the community."

If elected, Telow said, his goal is to "contact business and industry to (encourage them to) attend meetings and find out why the taxation on their property is so high."

Incumbent Anthony Altieri Jr. did not attend the Chamber luncheon.

# Wheeling considers imposing transfer tax

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are proposing a real estate transfer tax as a way to increase revenues without having to raise the village's property tax rate.

Wheeling officials are recommending the village adopt a transfer tax that would require a land seller to pay a one time \$3 per \$1,000 of a property's sales price if they're leaving the village.

"It's an attempt to get away from heavy reliance on the property tax. It also would provide a way for us to know when the occupancy of a property changes," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The tax would not apply to those moving within the village.

Under the proposal, property sellers would have to pay the tax when they take their sales documents to Wheeling village hall to receive the village's stamp.

Anderson also said that then officials could also collect other fees for items such as unpaid water bills.

Under the village's proposed 1995-96 budget, officials estimate the tax would generate \$200,000 for Wheeling in its first year.

Wheeling in its first year. Trevor Lehmann said the tax could keep businesses from moving to the village.

Right now, it's a bad idea," he said.

Anderson said he was uncertain what effect lawsuits filed by former residents of Hoffman Estates, Streamwood and Elgin against those towns for their real estate transfer taxes would have on the one proposed for Wheeling.

He also said that Wheeling doesn't have as many taxes as many nearby communities which levy a utilities tax or a fee for vehicle stickers, which Wheeling officials abolished two years ago.

Anderson said Wheeling trustees could discuss the proposed tax during an April 3 budget hearing.

Wheeling trustees are scheduled to vote on final approval of the proposed \$31.8 million spending plan April 17.

Rather than raise property taxes, in recent years Wheeling trustees implemented a home rule sales tax and advocated using the Denver Boot wheel locking device to collect fees from parking ticket scofflaws.

## A bad election for Northwest suburban incumbents

4-6-95  
Village board, city council veterans take particular hits Tuesday

### Bartlett village board

James Patlyek, 4-year member and Dennis Nolan, 1-year member

**Rolling Meadows city council**  
Nathaniel Leighton, 4 years on the council

**South Barrington village board**  
Gene Stepanovic, 8 years of service

**Wheeling village board**  
Lois Gaffke, 4-year member



**Des Plaines city council**  
Carl Haupt  
8 years as 8th ward alderman



**Elk Grove Village board**  
Michael Tosto  
22-year veteran



**Inverness village board**  
James Howley  
9-year representative



**Wheeling village board**  
Anthony Altieri  
12-year veteran

Source: Daily Herald

# Wheeling trustees opt against imposing property transfer tax

9-4-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday opted not to impose a real estate transfer tax as a way to increase revenues without raising the village's property tax.

The village board indicated that it did not favor a transfer tax of \$3 per \$1,000 of a property's sales price that would be levied on land sellers leaving the village.

"While the transfer tax has an advantage for collecting liens and water bills, I'd rather go for an increase in the home rule sales tax," Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski said.

Wheeling officials would have collected the tax at the time a land seller came to village hall to get the town's stamp on sales documents.

Officials touting the proposed charge said that it would be a good way for them to keep track of a property's ownership in case liens for unpaid water bills or other fees had to be imposed on them.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that while Realtors in town had not

been polled on their preference for the tax, he was sure most of them opposed it.

Wheeling trustees reviewed the proposed tax as a part of their discussions of the 1995-96 fiscal year budget.

Under the proposed spending document, the village proposes earmarking \$31.8 million for expenses in the coming year, which is a 10.3 percent hike over the current \$28.8 million budget.

With rejection of the transfer tax, Wheeling officials must look to changing spending in other areas to make up for the \$200,000 the proposed charge would have generated.

"You've increased the deficit by \$200,000," finance director Robert Fialkowski told the village board Monday.

Wheeling trustees are expected to vote on the new village spending plan on April 17.

That document should have final revisions on village spending, including a reduction in allocations for several social service agencies from a proposed \$113,225 to \$109,075.

The new budget will also have details about a phone system upgrade plan being proposed by Fialkowski.

# Nine Wheeling board candidates give voters wide variety of choices

3-30-95 Herald  
Nine Wheeling village board candidates are seeking three, 4-year trustee seats.

Trustee candidates are: incumbents Judy Abruscato, Anthony Altieri and Lois Gaffke; Jeanne D. Selander, the current village clerk, Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher, Stuart Shapiro, William C. Spangenberg and Steven Telow.

To find out their views on local issues the Daily Herald asked them questions on a variety of topics.

**Question: Where do you see Wheeling going in the next decade and what things do you think should be done now to prepare for those eventualities?**

**Judy Abruscato:** I visualize improved transportation bringing commuter rail service and upgraded bus service into our village.

The Milwaukee/Dundee corridor completed along with buried overhead wires, modern lighting and extensive landscaping.

Retail again will be strong along with new real estate developments.

Preparing for this we need to construct a strong development plan to work with the village, IDOT, retailers and Realtors.

This will bring all residents and businesses into a prosperous next decade.

**Anthony Altieri:** Wheeling will continue being a convenient, safe and affordable place to live. High service levels and desirable amenities coupled with financial stability and economic growth make this possible.

Wheeling's large industrial and retail base, based on fact, are continuing to grow. To see that this trend is not compromised, I will continue working with the village board, staff, representatives of commerce and industry and residents to keep our programs and priorities on track.

**Lois J. Gaffke:** The next decade will be a time of terrific renewal for the village. The Metra commuter line will be operating, Milwaukee Ave. improvements will be completed and property values will soar. I foresee that the retail property owners will finally have the impetus to improve their properties to make them competitive.

I believe that single-family resi-

dential developments should be encouraged on undeveloped properties, so that we further support the existing retail along Dundee Rd.

**Robert J. Heer:** This will depend on how our elected officials plan for the future. A realistic and workable village wide plan should be developed and implemented in a timely fashion.

This plan should include but not be limited to the redevelopment of Milwaukee Ave. (Centralized "old" downtown, similar to a Libertyville). Also the future of the business community, to the general appearance. If these plans are executed properly Wheeling could be a very desirable place to live.

**Pat Horcher:** Our forefathers laid a foundation that provided growth opportunities into our future. (Would a commuter train station be possible without the tracks they laid?)

They planned to fulfill the needs of our growing community. The incumbents seem more interested in controlling our future than cultivating it.

I don't believe our future under the control of these people is promising.

If they were planning our future would they use a microscope or a telescope?

**Jeanne DiVall Selander:** In the next decade Wheeling will have a center of town evolving around the train station; including the municipal complex, park district and new businesses. Single family homes will be developed enabling residents to remain in the community. The Milwaukee Avenue corridor will be enhanced through TIF and possible annexation.

A strategic plan for the village and review of the comprehensive plan can be worked on now to prepare for the future.

**Stuart Shapiro:** We'll become more prosperous if we're willing to make the necessary changes to protect our future.

The perception of Wheeling needs to change! I recommend that we hire a (public relations) firm and a consulting firm to help attract new businesses and residents.

See WHEELING on Page 2

# WHEELING: Candidates provide plenty of choices

Continued from Page 1

Changing our image will allow businesses and developers to look at Wheeling first, rather than not at all.

A higher tax base will allow us to offer needed service at a reasonable cost.

**William C. Spangenberg:** Wheeling is now an "older suburb." Development of large tracts of vacant land is almost over. Redevelopment of older land uses is now our task.

Village government must recognize this mature status and adjust its attitude and planning. We must aggressively promote our advantages in order to compete with other "older suburbs" and the new "boomtown" areas, which we were thirty-five years ago. We must preserve our quality of life and tax bases.

**Steven Telow:** With the exodus of business, commerce and industry from what was known as Chicago, I find that much of this "fleeing" the city will find its way into Wheeling and surrounding villages.

The "slumville" that now constitutes Wheeling from Milwaukee-River Road north to Lake-Cook Road can do nothing but prosper. First we must stop any motion of residential development in this area.

This further overfills our already overburdened school system.

**Question:** Wheeling's Hispanic residents make up a sizable portion of the village's population yet they are nonexistent in its politics and government. What would you do to get them and other minority groups more involved in the life of the village?

**Judy Abruscato:** I would continue to work with the Wheeling Community Resource Center and the Wheeling Township Unity Task Force by personally encouraging their leaders and members to become involved with our policy-making commissions such as zoning, planning and appearance commissions.

Along with this, I would work with the school district and park district by having informational seminars on how to become involved in politics and government in our community.

**Anthony Altieri:** The most recent census figures indicated that approximately 9 percent of Wheeling's population is Latino.

Several other minorities also reside in Wheeling.

Everyone's input is important to me and I'm happy to receive it. Anyone wishing to get involved should feel free to contact me or the village for information.

With respect to elected office, you must comply with the election laws of the state of Illinois and be elected by the voters of Wheeling.

**Lois J. Gaffke:** Non-participation in government is not unusual. The number of residents who register to vote and turn out for elections is poor in all segments of the community. Wheeling is wonderfully diverse. The village's Community Resource Center, schools, and local churches act as a bridge to welcome all new members into the village.

Several commissioners and employees of the village represent various cultural backgrounds. I invite every resident to participate in the governmental process.

**Robert J. Heer:** Village government is accessible for anyone who wishes to serve regardless of their sex, race or ethnic background. To get people involved, our village government should be approachable and encourage residents to get involved.

This might be accomplished by appointing community members of different ethnic backgrounds to various committees in their village government. We all win, people are involved in their community and we all get a better understanding of the needs and wants.

**Pat Horcher:** I'm probably the candidate most familiar with the "Latino residents."

Minorities are part of life in the village. With jobs, homes, and businesses; using the library, parks, social, economic, and religious services minorities are involved in village life.

Minorities aren't involved in politics for their own reasons as individuals: Why don't more registered voters vote?

If people know their options it's their responsibility to act. The village's responsibility is to educate citizens about their options.

**Jeanne DiVall Selander:** There are many ways to get involved in the community, and certainly there is work to be done which invites new faces and volunteers. Wheeling's Resource Center helps immigrants assimilate into our culture and also encourages new residents to become naturalized citizens.

As clerk, I held a voter registra-

## Wheeling village board

4-year terms (Pick 3)



**Judy Abruscato,** 60, bank vice president. Wheeling trustee since 1987. Made unsuccessful run in 1993 for the village president's seat retained by Sheila Schultz. The only trustee on the Wheeling village board not in Schultz's camp. Emphasizes village cleanliness issues.



**Anthony Altieri Jr.,** 57, mechanical designer. Wheeling trustee since 1983. Running on the Wheeling United Party slate loyal to Schultz. Vice Commander at the Wheeling AMVETS Post 66. Questioned village legal expenses for failed gambling prosecution of the post.



**Lois J. Gaffke,** 46, vice president of the Henry Boysen Co. Wheeling trustee since 1991. Running on the Wheeling United Party slate. Frequently asks economic related questions about issues the village board is considering. Formerly the Wheeling Village Clerk.



**Robert J. Heer,** 38, Buffalo Grove Police officer. First run for political office. Previously served on the St. Joseph The Worker school board. Running as an independent. Emphasizes village economic and development issues.



**Pat Horcher,** 32, owns a landscaping and lawn maintenance business. Family owns the largest undeveloped tract of land in the village. First run for political office. Running as an independent on a platform that the village board needs new blood.



**Jeanne DiVall Selander,** 40, Wheeling Village Clerk. Elected to post in 1993 as part of Schultz's slate. Now running on Wheeling Unity Party slate. Also a member of the Holmes Jr. High School Parent-Teacher Organization.



**Stuart Shapiro,** 39, insurance broker. First run for political office. Running as an independent. Platform includes positions on the village's economy, image and future plans. He says he has attended as many village board meetings as some trustees.



**William C. Spangenberg,** 39, attorney. Running as an independent. Dropped out of 1993 bid for the village board after his nominating petition was challenged. Says board needs new ideas. Also stresses economic development issues.



**Steven Telow,** 73, retired businessman. Running as an independent. Garnered 752 votes in failed 1993 park board bid. Known for outspokenness on tax and race relation issues. Attempted to get Indian Trails Public Library District's maintenance levy on popular ballot.

tion drive at the Resource Center. If elected trustee, I would continue to encourage all citizens to register to vote and become involved in community activities.

**Stuart Shapiro:** I would recommend a community relations commission be formed that would work with the existing community resource center in hopes of getting more of our minority residents involved in Wheeling government.

Workshops and more communications are essential! I'd also like to see the village use it's newsletter to help attract more residents into volunteering their time.

We should all be working towards one common goal and that's to make Wheeling a better place to live.

**William C. Spangenberg:** Latino and other minority groups are currently quite involved in the

life of the village through churches, schools and park district programs. They will become involved in Wheeling politics and government if they feel the need to do so, as did ethnic groups who were themselves "newcomers" in the past.

Registration, voting and running for office are less difficult than ever in our nation's history. These rights are available to be exercised at any time.

**Steven Telow:** Yes — the Spanish community in Wheeling has been here for more than 50 years. Longer than any of the trustees and way longer than I.

Why should they get involved with Wheeling politics? They "quietly" took over most of "old Wheeling" and they don't want anybody looking into what they are doing? Or working at? Or shopping wherever?

They, the majority, don't speak English. Those that do make money from them by controlling the Spanish shopping habits.

# Voter's Guide: Wheeling Trustees

*Courtesy 3-30-95*

## Voters head to polls

Wheeling residents will head to the polls Tuesday to elect three village trustees to four-year terms and three park commissioners to four-year terms.

Three trustee candidates, incumbents Lois Gaffke and Anthony Altieri Jr. and Village Clerk Jeanne Selander, are running on a slate as the Wheeling United Party.

They are being challenged by incumbent trustee Judy Abruscato and newcomers Robert Heer, Patrick Horcher, Stuart Shapiro, William Spangenberg and Stephen Telow.

In the Wheeling Park Board race, incumbents Dennis Drake, Cheri Klumpp and William Mattes are being challenged by political newcomers George Hernandez and Jeffrey Winkler.

Earl Sabes, Larry Cahall, Mary Ellen Mattson and Thomas Murray are running unopposed for the Indian Trails Library Board.



**ALTIERI, JR.**

**Name:** Anthony Altieri Jr.  
**Address:** 36 Laurel Trail  
**Occupation:** Senior mechanical designer with Fluid Management  
**Experience:** Village trustee since 1983, Palwaukee Airport commissioner, nine-year member of Plan Commission (eight years as Plan Commission chairman)

Altieri is running on the Wheeling United Party slate. While the development of the Dundee Road/Milwaukee Avenue area has been slow, Altieri said, residents will notice significant development changes in five to 10 years. "The picture is not so dismal as some paint it."



**ABRUSCATO**

**Name:** Judy Abruscato  
**Address:** 125 W. Wayne  
**Occupation:** Assistant vice president at First National Bank, Wheeling  
**Experience:** Trustee since 1987, former Zoning Board member, past president of Wheeling's Fourth of July Committee

Among Abruscato's goals are "strengthening the retail base of our community," "promoting enforcement of village ordinances" and "positive prevention programming to deter criminal activity." She also favors hiring a public relations professional to improve the village's image.



**GAFFKE**

**Name:** Lois Gaffke  
**Address:** 143 Meyerson Way  
**Occupation:** Vice president of Henry Boysen Co., Hainesville  
**Experience:** Trustee since 1991, served as village clerk from 1989-91, served three years on Plan Commission

Gaffke is running on the Wheeling United Party slate. Gaffke said the village is moving along with development at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, and the new commuter train station. "The village is in a position where little appears to be happening now, but planning for both areas is ongoing," she said.



**HEER**

**Name:** Robert Heer  
**Address:** 256 S. Wheeling Ave.  
**Occupation:** Buffalo Grove police officer  
**Experience:** St. Joseph School Board member, member of the Fraternal Order of Police

Wheeling needs to determine why businesses, such as Dominick's, are moving out of the village, Heer said, in an effort to retain other businesses. "I'm concerned about the appearance of the village and the pride people have in the community where they live," he said. He wants to work to attract business to Wheeling.



**HORCHER**

**Name:** Patrick Horcher  
**Address:** 596 Lotus Court  
**Occupation:** Owns Horcher Brother Enterprises with his brother  
**Experience:** Years of practical farming experience Horcher says would be valuable as a trustee

Horcher said the current Village Board hasn't earned his confidence and it's time for a change. "I think they've been in office a little too long," he said. One of his priorities would be creating a favorable business environment. His plans for the Milwaukee Avenue/Dundee Road TIF district include a second-run movie theater.



**SELANDER**

**Name:** Jeanne DiVall Selander  
**Address:** 135 Meyerson Way  
**Occupation:** Village clerk  
**Experience:** Elected village clerk in 1993, member of the Illinois Municipal Clerks Association, director of St. Joseph Family Fest

Selander is running on the Wheeling United Party's slate. Development at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road needs to correspond with the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to widen Milwaukee. Selander would like to begin a "Shop in Wheeling" campaign. The United Party wants to form a citizens group for input on the village's future.



**SHAPIRO**

**Name:** Stuart Shapiro  
**Address:** 125 Meyerson Way  
**Occupation:** Insurance broker  
**Experience:** Chamber of Commerce member, the Chicago & Northeastern Illinois Underwriters Association and Picardy Place Homeowners Association Board

Shapiro is concerned that there's not enough discussion on the Village Board before decisions are made. "We need some changes," he said. "You can't always agree with everything." Shapiro is concerned with the village's future and hopes to improve Wheeling's image.



**SPANGENBERG**

**Name:** William Spangenberg  
**Address:** 109 Wilshire Drive  
**Occupation:** Attorney in private practice  
**Experience:** Member of the Wheeling Township Republican Organization

Spangenberg believes the free market will dictate how the Milwaukee Avenue/Dundee Road area is developed. "The private market resources should be allowed to prevail, to a certain extent," he said. He would like to streamline the village approval process for businesses, and remove some of the red tape involved in opening a new business in the village.



**TELOW**

**Name:** Stephen Telow  
**Address:** 62 Mayer Ave.  
**Occupation:** Retired, currently lobbying for casino gambling at Arlington Race-track

Member of SAPS (Seniors Against Political Stupidity), the Northwest Tax Watch and the Wheeling Township Republican Organization. Telow hopes to limit residential development and improve the village's appearance, especially the Milwaukee/Dundee area. "Look at what you have there — garbage, abandoned buildings and for-sale signs in the midst of renowned eateries," he said.

# Fountain on target for summer debut

*4-10-95*

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents could see the village's commemorative centennial fountain make a splash by this summer.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the 50-foot by 50-foot fountain, to be placed in front of village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road, could be dedicated by this summer.

"We might do a formal dedication on Founder's Day on June 25 or the Sunday closest to it," Anderson said.

Anderson said the \$135,000 fountain could be functioning sometime after the dedication but was uncertain of exactly when.

The fountain commemorates 1994, which was Wheeling's 100th year existence.

The installation of a brick path, along with the placement of lights, benches and trash receptacles still must be completed.

Money for the fountain came from the village, which allocated \$100,000, and from local fund-raising events.

The fountain originally was slated for a location on Wheeling Park

District property adjacent to village hall.

However, park officials and village officials disagreed about where it should be placed.

Wheeling officials wanted the fountain closer to West Dundee Road so passersby could easily see it while park officials wanted it further away from the road to draw visitors into the park.

Wheeling officials eventually opted to place the fountain in front of village hall and take responsibility for its maintenance expenses.

Wheeling officials also have not

decided where a 12-foot by 10-foot, three-ringed aluminum kinetic sculpture donated to the village by the Abbott Interfast Corp. should be located.

Village officials had said the untitled sculpture could be placed near the fountain or at a site near the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station.

That station, located just west of village hall near the Wickes Furniture Co. building and Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center, is set to open next April.

# Challengers oust incumbents for Wheeling board

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Independents made major inroads on the Wheeling village board Tuesday, ousting two incumbents and a third candidate endorsed by the majority slate.

With all precincts counted, unofficial results showed the three winners of the 4-year trustee seats were Judy Abruscato (1,149 votes), Pat Horcher (948) and Robert J. Heer (915).

"The questions that need to be addressed will be addressed," declared Abruscato, who promised vigilance on development issues.

Other unofficial totals were William C. Spangenberg with 730 votes, Lois J. Gaffke with 690, Anthony Altieri with 656, Jeanne D. Selander with 648, Stuart Shapiro with 508 and Steven Telow with 232.

Gaffke, Altieri and Selander ran on the Wheeling United Party slate backed by long-time Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

The independents raised concerns about Wheeling's vacant stores and business development, noting the recent closing of a Dominick's Finer Foods Store after 22 years.

"I think it played a major role. I like to think people would associate me with solid growth," said Horcher.

Elected in 1981, Schultz is the longest-sitting head of a major Northwest suburban village. She handily defeated Abruscato for the village president's post in 1993.

Abruscato, who won a third term

## WHEELING

### Trustee (Three 4-year terms)

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□ Anthony Altieri Jr.*	626
□ Lois Gaffke*	684
□ Robert J. Heer	868
■ Pat Horcher	902
□ Jeanne D. Selander	457
□ Stuart Shapiro	516
□ William Spangenberg	860
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Independents said Wheeling's economic struggles were in part due to Schultz's control of trustees and a lack of debate on some issues.

The incumbents fought back by saying Wheeling had a strong industrial base and that most other communities had vacant stores as well.

They pointed to the Wisconsin Central Railroad station, scheduled to open in 1996, as something that would stimulate the local economy.

Just before the election, Wheeling trustees named a developer with experience in building shopping centers to design plans for the 13.5 acre Crossroads project in the heart of the village's redevelopment district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

# Slate's fall shakes up Wheeling consensus

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Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz could have a tougher time achieving a consensus among trustees in the near future as two incumbents she backed lost their seats.

In fact, the entire Wheeling United Party slate backed by Schultz lost, including Trustees Anthony Altieri and Lois Gaffke and Village Clerk Jeanne D. Selander.

Schultz said the independents won because they made "quick fix" promises that swayed voters.

"It's easy to make a case when you don't have to understand it and you don't have to document it," Schultz said adding that the board — three trustees are still in her camp — will strive to work with the newcomers.

Unofficial results showed that with 100 percent of the votes tallied, independent Trustee Judy Abruscato won a third, 4-year term with 1,149 votes. Independent candidates Pat Horcher, with 948 votes, and Robert J. Heer, with 915 votes, took the other trustee posts.

The independent candidates had said the village did not do enough to retain businesses, citing the number of vacant stores in Wheeling and the closing of the Dominick's Finer Foods store after 22-years as examples.

Abruscato agreed that development issues helped her re-election.

"It played a part with the people in their minds. They feel I'll address it," said Abruscato.

Part of Wheeling's problem, independents said, was that little debate ever occurred among the village board, of which five of the six trustees are in Schultz's camp.

One place the change on the village board could become apparent is when they vote on the Crossroads project that is the centerpiece of Wheeling's 125-acre redevelopment district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Wheeling-based Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. was named a developer for the project and must return to officials in a few months with detailed development plans.

The incumbents said the redevelopment district plus the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station opening next April would bring prosperity to the village.

"We ran on our record and they have no record," Gaffke said.

# Village chooses developer

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Countyside

A Chicago developer has about four months to present the Wheeling Village Board with his plans for the village's TIF district at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees last week named Hiffman-Shaffer Associates Inc. the developer of record for 13.5 acres of the TIF district on the northwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee.

Village President Sheila Schultz said being named developer of record gives Hiffman-Shaffer credentials when it approaches prospective retailers.

The developer has told the village it will soon participate in a national convention to discover which retailers are looking to locate to the Chicago area, she said.

"They are convinced that is a viable commercial corner, which was our original hope," Schultz said. "We're looking forward to seeing what they bring to us."

Though the village hopes the corner will be commercially developed, trustees told Hiffman-Shaffer they are open to discussion, Schultz said.

# Trustees OK lease for new airport tower

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees agreed Monday to move ahead with the Federal Aviation Administration's plans to improve safety at Palwaukee Airport.

The airport already has improved safety by shifting the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads to allow for more clearance by planes. A drainage ditch that runs through the airport is scheduled to be relocated to the former Twin Drive-in theater property.

Another major project toward improved safety at the airport will be the new control tower expected to be built within the year.

As recommended by the Airport Commission, Wheeling agreed to lease 1.1 acres of Palwaukee land to the federal government on which to build a new control tower north of the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant.

Prospect Heights, which operates Palwaukee jointly with Wheeling, also was expected to vote Monday on whether to approve the lease.

The lease is retroactive to March 1 and effective to Sept. 30. However, the federal government has the option of renewing the lease annually.

The lease provides for no rent payment from the federal government to Wheeling or Prospect Heights, but does provide a maximum of \$100,000 reimbursement toward the cost of bringing a new water main to the control tower.

Wheeling Village Manager

Craig Anderson said there are no immediate plans to extend the water main to Palwaukee, but discussions have been ongoing.

"At some point the airport will be serviced partially, if not totally, with Wheeling water," Anderson said.

Though the federal government's \$100,000 would not cover the entire cost of laying a water main, Anderson said, it would be beneficial.

"It won't cover the whole project, but if and when we

At some point the airport will be service partially, if not totally, with Wheeling water.

## Craig Anderson village manager

do that, it's a nice feature of the lease, he said.

Trustees also accepted \$36,256 bid from A.C. Pavement Striping Co. for resurfacing of an apron and taxiway at Palwaukee Airport. Priestler Aviation is paying \$4,332 of that figure for resurfacing of its leased property.

The remainder will be divided between Wheeling and Prospect Heights, if the bid also was accepted Monday by the Prospect Heights City Council.

Anderson said some repaving is done each year at Palwaukee.

DEAL  
GREEN  
DON

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full year off, probably longer," said Les Swieca, program development section chief for the agency. "We've been working very closely with the village of Wheeling."

Plans call for double left-turn lanes at each of the four corners at Dundee and Milwaukee, Swieca said. A right-turn lane will be added to one of the corners, he noted.

Milwaukee Avenue, once completed, will remain two lanes in each direction, but those lanes will be separated by a concrete median, he said.

Drainage also will be improved with curbs and gutters running the entire length of the widened highway, Swieca said. "Right now water ponds on the shoulder. This will drain the road, not the nearby properties," he added.

"That'll all be taken into consideration," Schultz said of land necessary for the widening of Milwaukee. "Much of what they'll do could be before" road construction begins, she said.

# Village chooses developer

4-6-95  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

*Courtesy*  
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The developer has told the village it will soon participate in a national convention to discover which retailers are looking to locate to the Chicago area, she said.

"They are convinced that is a viable commercial corner, which was our original hope," Schultz said. "We're looking forward to seeing what they bring to us."

Though the village hopes the corner will be commercially developed, trustees told Hiffman-Shaffer they are open to discussion, Schultz said.

"They are looking at everything and we have told them we are open to whatever they bring," she said.

This 120-day period before a plan is presented to the village is a time for the developer to "pin down" retailers and ask for commitments, Schultz noted.

"This is a good company. We have confidence in them and they have confidence in the village," Schultz said.

Development on the corner is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation's plan to widen Milwaukee Avenue from Lake Cook Road to Palatine Road.

"That project is at least a (Continued on page 16)

### Carried wrong focus

The Daily Herald recently featured an article regarding the outcome of a case of alleged gambling at the Wheeling AmVets Post. I find it unfortunate that the primary purpose of that article was to focus on assessment of blame, rather than to provide the general public with the facts of the case and the reasons it was pursued. Among its omissions, the article failed to note that at approximately the same time that the AmVets Post was being checked for possible vice activities, so were several other establishments in the village. Such checks of establishments holding liquor licenses are not unusual in our community and quite likely are the reason violations have been rare.

Instead of providing its readership with a complete review of the AmVets case, the Daily Herald chose to sensationalize a difference of opinion between two agencies that work together on a regular basis. That such a situation might arise on occasion does not seem particularly newsworthy and most certainly not deserving of the attention given it by the Daily Herald. The office of the State's Attorney of Cook County and the Wheeling Police Department have had and, I expect, will continue to have a good, professional working relationship.

It is truly disappointing that the Daily Herald decided to write and publish an article that really was of no benefit to anyone.

Craig G. Anderson  
Village Manager  
Village of Wheeling

Herald  
4-08-95



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

### Casting a vote

Election Judge Stan Stanton places a ballot into the box at Wheeling Village Hall, one of several polling places throughout town. Wheeling voters cast ballots for trustee and park races.

Deadlines prevented coverage of returns in this week's edition. Next week's Countryside will include a full analysis of the results.

# Crime stats up 8 percent

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling's centennial year brought with it an overall 8.4 percent rise in reported crime, but a Police Department official says that shows a more aggressive department.

The increase is due to a 12.3 percent rise in crimes against people and a 7.5 percent increase in less serious crimes, according to the department's 1994 annual report.

Major crimes include murder, sexual assault, robbery, battery, assault, burglary, theft and arson. Minor crimes include vandalism, other theft, simple assault and battery, trespass, sex offenses, liquor and drug violations, motor vehicle offenses and offenses involving children.

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes credits his young officers with the increased reporting of the minor, less serious crimes.

"Those are the kind of calls that an aggressive new officer would look for," Hermes said. "Those are the types of things the officer finds as opposed to

most of the other (serious crime) calls called in by the public."

Though serious crimes rose to 900 in 1994 from 808 in 1993, they were lower than 1,055 in 1991 and 939 in 1992.

Increase in that category was largely due to rise in burglary and auto burglary.

"Mainly what the Police Department does is get the tact unit in the area where that particular crime is occurring," Hermes said, adding that residents should always remember to lock their car doors.

In 1994, Wheeling police responded to 2,216 accidents, 14 percent more than 1993. Accidents that involved injuries were reduced from 290 to 230, a 20 percent reduction, which follows a 30 percent reduction from 1992 to 1993.

Traffic enforcement by the officers is selective, Hermes said.

"We pick an area and determine in that area what major violation is causing the accidents," he said. "Though accidents are up, the severity is down."

One goal for the Wheeling Police Department this year is to recruit additional neighborhoods into the village's

Neighborhood Watch program.

Hermes said the program has been "extremely successful" in Wheeling.

"Neighborhood Watch has proved itself over the years to be a very effective deterrent of crime," he said.

Another plan for 1995 is the department's first citizens police academy.

Hermes said the idea for the citizens academy grew out of the Neighborhood Watch program, as residents expressed interest in police officers' training.

The course, which will be offered to residents for free this fall, will be taught by officers, Hermes said. He expects the class to meet once a week for 10 weeks, but that could be expanded depending on community interest.

"They'll be seeing and observing some of the basics a police officer learns," Hermes said. "This allows citizens to attend these courses and see first hand what the police are doing. In some instances, they'll be taught the identical curriculum the police are taught in the academy, see what they're expected to know."

(Continued on page 16)

## Wheeling busy with plans for 3 Picnics In The Park

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The centennial year may have passed in Wheeling, but it doesn't mean that village-wide celebrations won't continue this summer.

The Wheeling Park District is offering three free Picnic In The Park events on the front lawn of Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee. The picnics will be on June 25, July 23 and Aug. 13.

The events, co-sponsored by the village and the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, will feature music along with food from area restaurants.

"Right now, our entertainment is booked. We're trying to get five to eight (food) vendors. Now, three are secure," said park district spokeswoman Trudy Wakeman.

The free entertainment includes the bands Brass Bul- let on June 25, Public Eye on July 23 and J.P. & The Cats on Aug. 13.

The June 25 event will coincide with Founder's Day in the village celebrating the 101st year of Wheeling's incorpora-

tion. As a part of that day Wheeling officials could dedicate the centennial commemorative fountain located at the front of village hall.

The 50-foot by 50-foot fountain designed by the Northbrook-based Sente & Rubel Ltd. architecture firm will feature a brick walk, lighting and park benches.

The \$135,000 fountain is now under construction. The Picnic In The Park events replace the summer concerts the park district hosted last summer at the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center that's adjacent to village hall at 327 W. Dundee Road, Wakeman said.

All the summer events at village hall will run from 4 to 7 p.m.

For further information on the Picnic In The Park celebrations those interested can call the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center at 465-3333.

The Recreation Center is at 333 W. Dundee Road. Wakeman said the park district is still seeking restaurants for the event.

During 1994, patrol officers handled 27,293 calls. Of those, officers answered 22,671 service-related calls for incidents such as traffic accidents, residents' complaints and public service.

Overall, Hermes said, the department is pleased with the annual report.

"The one problem we're having, that's not only annoying but time-consuming, are hang-up 911 calls," Hermes said. "It would be a great help if someone dials 911 by mistake, they stay on the line and let the dispatcher know."

When the department receives a hang-up emergency call, an officer is sent to respond to the address where the call originated, which unnecessarily takes up an officer's time if there is no emergency, Hermes said.

# Wheeling fire chief pushes for sprinklers in all buildings

4-11-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are considering a "radical" change in the village's fire code that would require sprinklers in almost every building outside of single-family houses. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac Monday proposed a change in the village fire code that would require fire sprinklers in new industrial and commercial

buildings, as well as hotels, motels, apartments, town houses and other attached multifamily structures in town.

Existing buildings in those categories would have to have sprinklers installed within a decade, under the proposal.

"If you build a six-flat in the village of Wheeling right now you wouldn't have to sprinkle it," MacIsaac said in arguing for the proposal.

Under Wheeling's current fire code, buildings exempt from having sprinklers include multifamily dwellings with more than 8,000 square feet of ground area or multifamily structures three stories tall with more than 5,000 square feet of ground area.

Attached single-family town houses and single-family houses also are not required to have sprinklers in Wheeling.

MacIsaac said benefits of the proposal include lowered insurance costs, increased fire loss and fatality protection and reduced fire protection costs.

MacIsaac called the proposal "radical" because of the extent to which sprinklers are being required.

He said other nearby towns don't have such sweeping measures on their books, although Long Grove requires sprinklers in single-family homes.

Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said that the proposed code change wouldn't deter businesses from building in Wheeling.

"That can be made as an asset if it's presented in the right way," she said.

MacIsaac said about 80 percent of the buildings in town currently have sprinklers. Trustee Robert G. Todd asked for more information on the costs for adding sprinklers to existing buildings.

# Village tables transfer tax, may re-explore issue later

4-13-95  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Establishing a real-estate transfer tax would generate an estimated \$200,000 of revenue annually for the village of Wheeling.

Trustees last week, however, removed the \$200,000 line item from the proposed 1995-96 village budget, saying they weren't convinced a transfer tax would be the best way to generate additional revenue.

Although the revenue was deleted from the budget, trustees may review the issue and establish the transfer tax at any time, Village President Sheila H. Schultz noted. "This does not preclude revisiting it," she added.

"The primary purpose of looking at (a transfer tax) is as an alternate source of revenue," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

## Bill payment

In addition to raising more money for the village, requiring a village transfer stamp would ensure that any outstanding bills, such as water, were paid before the property title could be

transferred to the new owner, Anderson said.

"We do have occasion to cut weeds and put a lien on a property. Ultimately, that has to be paid, but the property could be in someone's hands for years and years," Anderson said.

Village staff estimated there is a 5 percent turnover of property ownership in Wheeling each year.

Under Wheeling's proposal, the transfer tax would be paid by the seller, at a cost of \$3 per \$1,000 of the sale price, the same amount Buffalo Grove charges property sellers.

## State's charge

Even without a local Wheeling transfer tax, the state charges a tax of \$1 per \$1,000 sale price, and Cook County charges 50 cents per \$1,000, said Village Attorney James Rhodes.

"With a transfer tax we would never have a case of final bills not being paid," Rhodes said. Another benefit of establishing the tax is that the village would have up-to-date information on each property owner, he added.

Currently, the village has

to pay for a title search to determine the owner of a property before a notice, for violations such as appearance codes, can be issued, he said.

"With the transfer tax we would have a data bank on who owns the property and have that information at our fingertips. That, to me, is a pretty big benefit," Rhodes said.

"The primary purpose of a transfer tax is to collect revenue. I don't want to overemphasize the side benefits," Anderson said.

Trustees Judy Abruscato, Lois Gaffke and Wayne Wisinski said they would not be comfortable establishing the transfer tax at this time.

Wisinski proposed raising the village's home rule sales tax another quarter of 1 percent, to half of 1 percent. Trustees eliminated the vehicle tax for residents when they approved a village sales tax.

Abruscato asked for more detailed information regarding how much money the village loses from outstanding bills before she makes a decision on whether to approve a transfer tax.

# Retail issues divide candidates in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove races

By MICHELLE MAI  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Village trustee races in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling will take the local spotlight in today's elections.

Both are hotly contested races, marked by an influx of political newcomers.

In Buffalo Grove, three incumbents and four challengers are running for three, 4-year seats. The candidates have clashed over how the village handled the refinancing of the Buffalo Grove Town Center, which was completed in a 4-3 vote last month.

That means the village will forfeit most tax revenue from the center until 2005 and Simon Property Group, which owns the center, will get up to \$1.85 million to

redevelop portions of it.

Incumbent candidates Brian Rubin and Gerard Moons, who was appointed in January by Village President Sidney H. Mathias, both voted for the refinancing.

Incumbent candidate John Marienthal did not.

Newcomers DeAnn Glover, Louis Windecker, Lou Eisenberg and Philip Horn split on the issue. Windecker supported the refinancing. Glover said she wanted to see tougher penalties in the agreement if Simon did not hold up its end of the bargain and Windecker and Horn opposed it.

An even more crowded field in Wheeling has nine candidates pursuing three, 4-year trustee seats. Incumbents are Anthony Altieri, Lois Gaffke and Judy Abruscato. Altieri, Gaffke and Village Clerk

Jeanne D. Selander are running as a slate loyal to Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who is not up for election this year.

Abruscato, who ran unsuccessfully against Schultz for village president in 1993, was joined on the ballot by five other independents.

Those candidates include Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher, Stuart Shapiro, William C. Spangenberg and Steven Yelow.

The race has centered on issues having to do with business in the village and retail store vacancies.

Some newcomers and Abruscato charged the village did not do enough to prevent stores such as Dominick's Finer Foods from closing. Dominick's did not renew

## RACES: Wheeling park contest low-key

Continued from Page 1

Avenue and Dundee Road.

Recently, the village board has named developers for two different projects in the area, including one for the Crossroads project.

That could be developed as a retail shopping center.

Incumbents said the new developments and the Melra train station opening on the Wisconsin Central Railroad line next April could signal a new era of prosperity for Wheeling.

The challengers, however, pointed to shuttered stores and other businesses, saying a change in government was needed.

Despite the criticism the newcomers and Abruscato leveled at the incumbents, most said the race had been conducted cleanly.

The race for the Wheeling Park District board is also low-key. Three incumbents are seeking re-election to their four-year

commissioner seats. They are being challenged by two political newcomers.

The incumbents say they have accomplished much, citing the opening of the \$5.2 million Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center last summer and the development of the \$5 million Aquatic Center, which opened in 1993, as reasons for their retention.

The challengers said the district needs to create new open parks and redevelop some of its ball fields.

The candidates unanimously agreed that a decision on the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse should be made only after all the information has been heard.

The park district will either rebuild the clubhouse or raze it and build a new one. Both courses of action are estimated to cost about \$3 million.

Daily Herald Staff Writer  
Dwayne T. Wong contributed to this report.

## Democracy '95

### It's Election Day

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
To ask about your polling place or report possible voting irregularities, call:

- In suburban Cook County: (312) 443-5150 (for polling places) (312) 443-4748 (for irregularities) (312) 629-8767 (for all Spanish-language inquiries)
- In DuPage County: (708) 682-7440
- In Lake County: (708) 360-6628



To find out the latest, call the Daily Herald election hotline at (708) 870-2697 after 9 p.m.

the lease it held for 22 years at the Lynn Plaza shopping center. The other incumbents noted the village is active in redeveloping the 125-acre tax increment finance district at Milwaukee

See RACES on Page 4

# Independents look ahead

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents who were ready for a change headed to the polls last week and elected two political newcomers to the Village Board.

Independent candidates Patrick Horcher and Robert Heer were elected, along with independent Trustee Judy Abruscato who successfully won her third term.

Abruscato led the totals with 1,115, according to the Wheeling Village Clerk's office.

"I'm overwhelmed by how much I won," said Abruscato, the only incumbent who ran as an independent. Trustees Lois Gaffke and Anthony Altieri teamed up with Village Clerk Jeanne Selander and ran unsuccessfully as the Wheeling United Party loyal

to Village President Sheila Schultz.

"I've never gotten this type of vote before," Abruscato said. "It's the confidence people have in you and that makes you feel good. I'm overwhelmed."

Other vote totals were Patrick Horcher with 912; Heer, 868; Gaffke, 684; Altieri, 626; William Spangenberg, 660; Stuart Shapiro, 516; Selander, 457; and Steve Telow, 225.

Abruscato did campaign to retain her trustee seat, saying she distributed about 12,000 pieces of literature and made many phone calls asking for residents' support.

"I guess the residents are saying they want a change and this is what we want," Abruscato said of all the independent candidates. "They have spoken."

Of Horcher and Heer, Abruscato said, "I think

they'll do an excellent job, they both have in mind the village and the people. I think any of the independents would have done an excellent job."

Two important issues that face the newly elected board are the completion of the Wisconsin Central commuter train station by next spring and progress on the TIF district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, Abruscato said.

The new board members may be able to move both projects along sooner, she said. "I think we can expedite a little faster," she said, adding that all three want to see the village's appearance improve and may be able to see that local appearance ordinances are more strictly enforced.

Horcher said his main goals will be "solving problems and keeping things moving. I think I have a

new perspective and a lot to offer the village.

"I'm going to go in with the philosophy that as long as what's happening is best for the community, I'll support it. It doesn't matter where the idea comes from," Horcher said.

Ousting incumbents in the April 4 election seemed to be standard practice for most suburbs, Horcher noted. He's not convinced, however, the vote says Wheeling residents are upset with village government.

"I think the village wanted a change. I know the incumbents did what they thought was best in their hearts," he said. "I'm very excited to have gotten this position, but now it's work. It's a commitment and a serious obligation."

Horcher does think he'll bring more discussion to  
(Continued on page 12)

## Wheeling holds open house

Wheeling residents are invited to an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 22 at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Numerous booths and demonstrations from the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works are planned.

"It's a nice day to come see all the village equipment, who does what and to get information on all our services and activities," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

the board. "I'm looking forward to it," he added.

Heer said residents' support of independent candidates show a change was wanted.

"I think it's time to make a progressive change in the village and working together, I think this can be

accomplished," Heer said. "I want to thank the voters for their confidence."

Heer hopes to "pull the new board together."

"Our common goal is to improve the community," he said. "I'm in awe that the public responded so well to a newcomer in the race."

## Tip leads to suspect's arrest

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling police investigators last week arrested a 36-year-old man who was charged with felony child abduction in November 1994.

Lazaro Guerrero of Wheeling was charged in the November incident after police said a man tried to lure girls into his car near Holmes Junior High School, 221 S. Wolf Road. Guerrero

was forcibly detained by Holmes teacher Greg Klactek until police arrived at the school and made the arrest.

On March 7, police said, Guerrero failed for a second time to appear in Cook County court, Rolling Meadows. Guerrero's original \$20,000 bond was forfeited and an arrest warrant was issued.

Wheeling investigators determined that Guerrero

had fled the country. Last week, police received a tip that Guerrero was back in the country, living in Waukegan and working in Lake Bluff as a housekeeper. Wheeling investigators arrested Guerrero at a Lake Bluff health care facility April 6.

Guerrero is being held in Cook County Jail on a \$75,000 bond and is to appear April 17 in Rolling Meadows court.

## Wheeling hosts open house

The Village of Wheeling will host the fourth Annual Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22. Village residents are invited to come in and take a close-up look at their fire and police departments and meet the village employees from these departments. Special displays will be provided by the Wisconsin Central Railroad and METRA; and the the Public Works Department.

The Wheeling Board of Health will sponsor their annual health fair the same day in the Council Chambers of the municipal building. A variety of screening services will be provided including tetanus immunizations, vision testing, back screening, and blood pressure checks. The Park District is planning a mini version of Safety Town for the younger citizens. Willie the Whale is expected to drop by for a visit.

## Special week, day to honor police officers

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed May 14-20 as Police Week and May 4 as Police Officers Memorial Day in the village.

Both proclamations were made to recognize the essential roles police play in society.

### Trustees give charity approval for tag day

Wheeling trustees agreed to allow the City of Hope charity to conduct a tag day fund-raiser in the village Aug. 4 and Aug. 5. The Des Plaines-based organization has previously

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

held such fund-raisers in the village without incident.

### Village to apply for county block grants

Wheeling trustees also approved a measure allowing the village to apply to Cook County officials for \$200,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds.

The funds will be used to upgrade single-family housing owned by low-income residents in the village

so it meets Wheeling's codes.

### Tahoe Village subdivision to get several stop signs

The Wheeling village board approved several stop sign locations in the Tahoe Village subdivision at Lakeview Drive and Buffalo Grove Road.

Stop signs will be placed at West Lodge Trail and Tahoe Circle Drive, Hopi Trail and West Lodge Trail, Tahoe Circle Drive and

Chippewa Trail.

### Village hires firm to audit TCI of Illinois

Wheeling trustees agreed to retain the Crowe Chizek auditing firm for \$1,675 to audit TCI of Illinois to ensure the correct franchise fees have been paid to several communities.

Village officials said communities participating in the audit include Arlington Heights, Glenview, Northbrook, Mount Prospect, Schaumburg, Skokie and Streamwood.

### The proposed 1995-1996 budget at a glance

The village of Wheeling's \$31.8 million spending plan represents a 10.3 percent increase from what the village spent this year

#### Where the money goes

Expenses	1995-1996 budget	1994-1995 estimate	Percent change
Administration	\$1,355,626	\$1,323,657	+2.42
Public safety	\$9,191,497	\$8,704,898	+5.5
IMRF/FICA/Medicare	\$690,000	\$697,000	-1.0
Water and sewer	\$6,355,458	\$5,784,793	+2.0
Capital projects	\$910,439	\$3,440,000	+117
Capital equipment	\$519,902	\$281,000	+85.02
TIF District	\$1,334,668	\$1,339,828	-0.38
Community Dev.	\$1,099,209	\$991,972	+10.81
Road & Bridge	\$1,485,625	\$1,203,648	+23.43
MFT Work	\$720,140	\$674,460	+6.77
Solid Waste System	\$474,000	\$386,000	+22.8
G.O. Bonds	\$2,437,846	\$2,585,734	-5.72
Other	\$247,442	\$381,046	-35.0
Commuter Station	\$4,200,000	\$300,000	+1,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,863,602</b>	<b>\$28,880,698</b>	<b>+10.33</b>

#### Where the money comes from

Revenues	1995-1996 budget	1994-1995 estimate	Percent change
Property tax	\$2,626,500	\$2,777,724	-5.76
Income tax	\$1,625,000	\$1,409,000	+15.33
License fees	\$117,000	\$116,000	+8.62
Fines	\$178,000	\$215,000	-17.2
Sales tax	\$3,600,000	\$3,450,000	+4.35
State use tax	\$230,300	\$173,000	+33.12
Fire Prot. Dist.	\$490,000	\$530,000	-7.55
Pers. Prop. Repl. tax	\$47,000	\$48,000	-2.08
From Fund Bal.	\$6,719,543	\$987,017	+580.79
Other	\$1,743,300	\$1,630,166	+6.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,144,059</b>	<b>\$27,893,681</b>	<b>-9.86</b>

### Wheeling commuter rail cost totals \$4.2 million next year

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even though the new commuter rail line hasn't come through Wheeling yet, rumbles from it can be felt in the village's budget.

The proposed 1995-96 village budget includes \$4.2 million for the acquisition of several acres just west of village hall on West Dundee Road and development expenses for the Wisconsin Central Ry. commuter station.

The allocation is a part of the village's proposed \$31.8 million budget that's 10.3 percent higher than this year's \$28.8 million spending plan.

The commuter train is set to begin operating next April.

Other than the commuter station expenses, Wheeling's budget chugs along routinely.

The new budget includes two additional police officers and no new taxes are being proposed.

Spending in many categories, such as those for the village's tax increment finance district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, is decreasing.

On the revenue side, Wheeling is generating \$25.1 million from property taxes, license fees and the village's home-rule retail sales tax.

To keep the proposed budget from having a shortfall, the village is taking advantage of fund balances it has carried over from last year, Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said.

Trustees are expected to vote on final approval of the budget at 8 p.m. Monday.

### Wheeling trustees OK 11.3 percent increase in budget for '95-'96

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved a \$32.08 million 1995-96 spending plan that is 11.3 percent higher than last year's \$28.8 million budget.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved the new budget that included some last minute adjustments. The adjusted budget is slightly higher than the \$31.8 million spending plan the trustees tentatively approved earlier this month.

The new budget includes \$162,000 so Wheeling's emergency medical service calls and fire department calls can be shifted over to the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center in Glenview to ease pressure on the village's emergency radio operators.

"I think it's in the best interest of the village to move to the RED Center," said Trustee Robert G. Todd.

Currently, the village's emergency operators handle police, fire and emergency medical services calls.

The new budget also calls for hiring of two new police officers. It also allocates \$109,075 for sev-

eral social services agencies serving Wheeling.

To make up for the extra spending in the budget and to keep the spending plan from having a shortfall, Wheeling officials agreed to tap fund balances it has carried over from last year.

The new spending plan includes \$4.2 million for acquisition of several acres and development of the Wisconsin Central commuter rail station that is set to open next April at a site just west of Wheeling village hall on W. Dundee Road.

Spending in other village categories, such as those for its tax increment finance district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, is decreasing.

Under the new budget the village expects to receive \$25.1 million from property taxes, license fees and the village's 0.25 percent home rule sales tax.

Wheeling trustees recently rejected a village real estate property transfer tax that officials projected would generate \$200,000 in its first year.

Wheeling officials also dipped into the carried over fund balance money to make up for the loss of the proposed tax.

### Palwaukee project to get under way despite fund delay

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials said federal funding delays would probably not threaten work on two major construction projects that are part of the facility's renovation plan.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. Wednesday told the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission a holdup in airport funding probably won't delay the start of a \$5-million project to relocate a drainage ditch and build a bridge over a portion of Milwaukee Avenue where the ditch would be diverted.

"We're really not that far behind yet on the relocation of the drainage ditch," Stewart said.

Stewart said those projects are a top priority for federal funds to be allocated in the new fiscal year that starts Oct. 31.

He also said that funds for those projects are tied into money earmarked for road improvements on Milwaukee Avenue.

The airport is currently in the middle of an \$83.5-million project to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

Airport officials, however, have expressed concerns over a delay by Congress to allocate funds for completion of some of the work at Palwaukee.

Airport officials recently acquired the neighboring Twin Drive-In property from M&R Theater and Management Inc. for \$2.26 million.

However, Palwaukee officials and M&R continue to haggle in Cook County Circuit Court over a final price for the Twin. As a result of those proceedings, the airport may have to pay more or could receive money back from its purchase.

The airport plans to use 23 acres of the 31-acre parcel for relocation of the drainage ditch.

Airport officials have said the ditch had to be relocated to eliminate a safety hazard at Palwaukee, to alleviate flooding and create more land to be developed at the facility.

Some commissioners have said the airport needs more land for hangars to be built for aircraft storage.

Additionally, Stewart said the airport has already received federal funding this year for wetland mitigation work.

## Wheeling, pub owner work to stave off bar's last call

4-22-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials will work with a local pub owner to see if they can put off an April 30 last call for the business due to its parking problems.

Wheeling officials agreed to see if they can find a way to keep Hein's Pub, known now as Hatfield's, at 141 S. Milwaukee Ave. open past the April 30 deadline originally set in a village agreement with the building's owner to close the business.

Wheeling officials said the pub, owned by Joseph Adornetto, had to close at that time because shopping center owner Howard Kagay hadn't found additional parking for the strip shopping center at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Avenue.

"If the parking issues can be worked out, there could be an amendment to the agreement," Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said as a way that the pub could stay open past the deadline.

Wheeling officials said under the village's code the pub needs 50 more parking spaces than the 33 it now has. They also said

owners of the property were granted extensions to the deadline in 1987, 1990 and 1992 to alleviate the parking problems.

"It was a dream of mine to buy that bar from the people I bought it from and I realized that dream. And now I walk away, I walk away with nothing," said Adornetto who added it would cost him \$250,000 to relocate his business.

Adornetto agreed to change the pub's hours and reduce its seating to keep the business open.

Adornetto presented the Wheeling liquor control commission with a petition with more than 500 signatures seeking to keep the 21-year old pub open.

Wheeling officials said when the shopping center was first built it did not have enough parking. Rhodes added that the shopping center wasn't grandfathered because officials discovered a part of a nearby property used for its parking was sold to the center which is illegal under the village's code.

Rhodes added that the village previously has approved special exceptions to the zoning codes for the shopping center.

## Funding squeeze puts airport plans on hold

4-20-95  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
COUNTYSIDE  
STATE WRITER

Plans to relocate the drainage ditch away from runways at Palwaukee Airport property are currently on hold.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics recently was notified that it would receive only about \$6 million of federal funds to make safety, security and improvements at local, reliever airports.

The state had planned \$28.3 million of improvements at the state's reliever airports, said Paul Kramer, program engineer for the Division of Aeronautics.

"We got what I'd like to think of as the first phase of our state block grant that we use for funding all airports except the primary airports" at Illinois major cities, Kramer said.

In fiscal year 1994, the state planned \$38 million of improvements under the block grant program, but received only \$17 million of federal funds, he said.

Those projects have carried over into 1995 "compounding the problem," Kramer said.

"There was a shortfall in 1994 that had to be brought into 1995," Kramer said. "We had hoped to at least get similar (amounts) to what we got in 1994."

Kramer explained that a 10 percent tax on passenger airline tickets largely fund an aviation trust fund which provides money

for the federal block grants.

"Roughly 70 percent of the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) is funded by money that goes into that trust fund," he said. Some of the trust fund has been taken from the FAA, invested into treasury notes, then used to balance the federal budget, he added.

Another reason for the funding cut, Kramer said, may be due to a "misunderstanding" of which airports are collecting the passenger tax and using it for improvements.

"The smaller airports don't have an opportunity to charge passengers. They're dependent on the state and federal governments to help fund" their improvement projects, he said.

For now, the Division of Aeronautics needs to determine how the \$6 million will be divided among Illinois' secondary airports.

"We have some real problems facing us as to what can and can't be done with funding," Kramer said. "We have to look at what we may be able to do and prioritize."

"We're not hoping to see the same situation next year," he added.

At Palwaukee, relocating the drainage ditch is "a prelude to doing anything major to the airport, getting that ditch out of the service area," Kramer said.

Plans to improve aprons and taxiways are on hold, as are plans to eventually add

(Continued on page 14)

## Wheeling opens public doors for health fair, displays, tours

4-21-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is inviting residents to its annual open house Saturday.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Wheeling village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road will host the annual event, which includes displays from village departments and a health fair in council chambers of the municipal building.

"There will be various demonstrations inside and outside of the Police Department throughout the day," Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said.

The police demonstrations will include visits from Canine Officer Nitro, Crime Dog McGruff, PC the roving crime computer and the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Bear.

There also will be a special display from Metra, the suburban rail agency, and the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

A special raffle from the two transportation organizations will be held in conjunction with their display.

The village's fire department

and public works department also will have displays on hand to explain their roles in the community.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials also plan to display some of the equipment used to maintain the facility.

And employees from each of the village departments will be available to answer questions from the public.

The Wheeling Park District will have its minibicycle "Safety Town" for children to visit. Park officials also are sending Willie The Whale to the open house.

Willie The Whale resembles a water spray toy at the neighboring Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center at 327 W. Dundee Road.

On a more serious note, the health fair will include screening services such as tetanus immunization, vision testing, hearing screening, back screening and blood pressure checks.

Health information also will be available at the fair.

Visitors can tour the entire municipal building complex, which includes the police and fire departments along with the operations and maintenance areas.

more T-hangars for small come in later this year or planes.

However, plans to build a new control tower should proceed this summer as scheduled, Kramer said, noting that money for the tower will come from the FAA's Facilities and Equipment Fund. "It's an entirely different area of funding," he added.

Kramer said he remains hopeful that the federal government will increase its funding of block grants and notify the Division of Aeronautics this summer.

Michael Zonsius, assistant manager of finance and administration at Palwaukee, said there was a "general disappointment among the staff" when the airport learned of the funding cuts.

"For the drainage ditch, we anticipate funding to

"We got what I'd like to think of as the first phase of our state block grant that we use for funding all airports except the primary airports."

next year," Zonsius said. "All projects will be delayed for a year."

Whether the federal government will eventually announce an increase in the grant amounts, Zonsius said, "It could happen but I'm not hopeful."

## Palwaukee opens hangar during Schaumburg work

4-24-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials are making temporary space available where pilots from Schaumburg Regional Airport can park planes while construction occurs at their facility.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said Palwaukee is making 15 spaces available at the southeast section of the Wheeling airport where pilots from Schaumburg Regional Airport can tie down their airplanes.

"We did this for the Schaumburg people," he said. So far, officials said, Palwaukee has several airplanes from the Schaumburg airport temporarily housed there.

A \$4.3 million construction project is under way at Schaumburg Regional Airport to lengthen its runway to 3,800 feet and build new taxiways. Schaumburg officials closed the village-owned airport on Irving Park Road April 17 forcing pilots who flew the 140 planes based there to find new

quarters for their mostly piston-engine aircraft until it reopens.

Schaumburg airport officials said that about 75 percent of pilots based there made arrangements to store their planes at the DuPage Airport in West Chicago. Schaumburg officials said the airport could reopen at the latest by Nov. 6. They added that the facility could open sooner depending on the weather and when some phases of the work are completed.

Long-term plans call for a new terminal building, additional tie-down space and new hangars at the Schaumburg airport.

Palwaukee, an O'Hare International Airport air traffic reliever facility, includes piston-engine and jet air traffic.

Operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement, the airport is in the middle of an \$83.5 million renovation project.

The Crawford, Murphy & Tilly Inc. engineering firm is overseeing the work at both airports.

# Village reviews cable

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees have agreed to join with seven other communities to ensure that the village has received its fair share from the cable TV franchise fee.

For the exclusive right to offer cable television programming to Wheeling households, the local cable company, TCI, returns a percentage of revenue to the village each year.

Under the franchise agreement with TCI cable, Village Manager Craig Anderson said, the village receives 5 percent of the revenue generated annually.

This audit will review TCI's accounting and disbursements to communities for 1994.

Village trustees last week approved spending \$1,675 for the audit to determine whether Wheeling has

**“We had a similar audit two or three years ago.”**

received the correct amount for the franchise fee.

TCI has been the village's cable carrier since the early 1980s, he said.

“We had a similar audit two or three years ago,” Anderson said.

“I believe at that time it was found we were due some money back which I think covered our cost of the audit,” he added.

Anderson said auditing the cable company is done on a regular basis to determine the accuracy of the franchise fee paid to the village.

The total cost of the audit, \$13,400, is being shared among Wheeling and the villages of Glenview, Northbrook, Mount Prospect, Skokie, Streamwood, Arlington Heights and Schaumburg.

The firm of Crowe Chizek of Oak Brook has been hired to audit TCI which Anderson said should be completed soon.

# Tavern faces parking woes

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Hein's Pub & Restaurant is scheduled to close this weekend, unless the tavern owner and Wheeling village officials can agree on a parking solution.

Owner Joseph Adornetto attended last week's Liquor Control Commission meeting seeking an extension to a previous agreement between the village and Progress Investments of Arlington Heights, which owns the mall where Hatfield's/Hein's Pub, 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., is located.

When it was discovered in the mid-1980s that the mall lacks adequate parking as required by village code, trustees agreed to allow the business to continue operating. That agreement expires Sunday.

“Unfortunately, they haven't been able to come up with parking to meet village standards,” Village Manager Craig Anderson said, adding that the mall has never had adequate parking.

Village trustees, who also serve as liquor control commissioners, directed staff to meet with Adornetto to determine if some solution can be found to allow the pub to continue its business.

Anderson had a Monday morning meeting scheduled with Adornetto, but options are still being explored, he said. “Nothing's definite,” he said. Ideally, more land is needed to allow for adequate parking, Anderson added.

“Maybe there's some way to reduce their hours, providing him adequate parking without coming up with additional parking,” Anderson said.

Reducing the number of seats in the pub/restaurant so less parking would be required is another possibility, he said.

With the restaurant and both stores in the strip mall occupied, a minimum of 80 parking spaces should be required by the village, Anderson previously said. Currently, the site has 33 spaces.

Adornetto gave trustees a presentation at last week's meeting, signed by over 700 residents and bar patrons, who want Hein's Pub to remain open.

The bar opened in 1974 and Adornetto became the owner in March 1988.

“I don't understand when parking became such an issue,” Adornetto said. “Even on Friday nights when we have karaoke and the place is filled, we don't have a parking problem.”

Not only has the pub never had a parking problem, he said, his business has never been contacted by the police.

“I have never had a violation of any kind. We've never had a problem with fights, we've never had a problem with serving minors,” Adornetto said.

If Adornetto can get the village to extend the agreement, he said, the landlord has agreed to renew his lease. If no agreement is reached, Hein's Pub will close Sunday.

“It seems when a village has a good business in town that's bringing in revenue, they'd want to keep them rather than argue over a small issue such as parking, which has never been a problem here,” he said.

Adornetto says he can't relocate because he won't be able to sell the

current business, and he would need to replace old restaurant equipment to be in compliance with health codes. The equipment is acceptable under the grandfather clause, he added.

“To construct (a new business) under today's codes would cost me a fortune. If I don't have to change the equipment, why do I have to change the parking?” Adornetto asked. “The parking issue should fall under the grandfather clause too.”

He said he would understand the village's concern if parking posed a hazard to traffic on Milwaukee Avenue, but it hasn't.

“Within reason, I'd work out any agreement to keep my business open,” Adornetto added. “I don't want to leave.”

“I'm a small businessman who just operates my business. I'm not a problem, why give me a problem?” he asked. “We have new trustees who are about to take office who want to keep business in town and aggressively bring business into town.”

If Hein's Pub closes, it becomes yet another vacant building along the Milwaukee corridor, something the newly elected trustees campaigned against, he said.

Village President Sheila Schultz said she would like to see the business continue to operate, if not at its current location, then elsewhere in Wheeling.

“It was our hope that if it's not worked out, he could stay in the village,” Schultz said. Adornetto has told

(Continued on page 14)

# New trustees 'still amazed'

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

It was an evening of hugs, hearty handshakes and congratulatory remarks as the newly sworn Wheeling trustees mingled in the council room during Monday's celebration.

Village Clerk Jeanne DiVall Selander gave the oath of office first to Trustee Judy Abruscato, who was elected to her third term in April, and then to political newcomers Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher.

Village President Sheila Schultz officially congratulated the trustees and welcomed them to the board.

To celebrate, coffee and cake were served during a short recess at Monday's meeting, which also provided time for residents to greet the new trustees and for proud family members to snap photographs.

“It's still an amazement,” said Trustee Heer. “I'm very

proud to have the citizens of Wheeling elect me to this position and I hope their confidence stays with me for the duration of this term.”

Abruscato, the only incumbent who ran as an independent candidate in the April election, thanked residents for their confidence, their help and their votes.

Prior to administering the oaths of office, the Village Board approved proclamations for Lois Gaffke and Anthony Altieri Jr., the two incumbent trustees who were defeated by the newcomers.

Schultz declared Tuesday as Anthony Altieri Jr. Appreciation Day in the village, noting his 12 years as a trustee and his service to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission.

Saturday will be Lois Gaffke Appreciation Day in the village. Gaffke was elected trustee in 1991 and previously had served as village clerk and on the Plan Commission.

trustees that is not an option for him, she said.

“It's not a question of whether there's any problem with Mr. Adornetto or his establishment. It's an agreement that has been extended several times with the owner of the property,” Schultz said.

The first agreement to allow the pub to operate despite a parking shortage was in 1987, she said. Trustees renewed that agreement in 1990 and 1992.

Now, the landlord has asked for yet another extension although it was written into the 1990 agreement that no additional renewals would

be requested.

“It's not a bureaucratic issue. It's an issue of safety and equity,” Schultz said, adding that trustees have been consistent with parking issues along Milwaukee Avenue. “And it's unfortunate when that's perceived otherwise.”

The village already has expended a lot of energy on past agreements with the landowner, she added.

“I do hope something can be worked out. It's a difficult situation,” Schultz said. “We would certainly look at everything to keep him (there) within reason.”

# State report finds increase in jobs in Wheeling in '94

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

According to state statistics, the number of jobs in Wheeling grew slightly last year.

According to the recently released “Where Workers Work” report compiled by the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the number of jobs in Wheeling grew 3.3 percent from 19,412 in 1993 to 20,057 in 1994.

“I'm not surprised. We've had steady growth in our industrial area. We've had good steady progress. Contrary to what people think, our retail and commercial has held steady,” said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

The state report does not provide details on where Wheeling sustained its employment increases.

Job increases in Northwest suburban communities ranged from 4.2 to 7.2 percent.

However, in Cook County's North suburbs, which the state report defined as towns east of Milwaukee Avenue, the outlook wasn't as bright.

In Des Plaines, the number of jobs dipped 0.7 percent to

47,782 and Mundelein sustained the area's largest job decrease of 10.2 percent.

Mundelein's employment drop was attributed to the loss of major retail outlets.

In the recent Wheeling village trustee board race, some candidates said the number of vacant stores in town indicated an erosion of its business base.

The election saw two of three incumbent trustees ousted. The winners attributed their victories, in part, to votes from residents concerned about business development in Wheeling.

While the state report does not describe the industries that caused Wheeling's job growth it backs up other village statistics.

Officials have said that the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station slated to open in Wheeling next April will be the busiest on the 53-mile line, averaging 750 riders a day.

Officials have said many of those riders would use the station on West Dundee Road to reach jobs in the village's industrial areas.

# ★ — Great NORTHWEST Suburbs — ★

## WHEELING

Journal & Legals - 1995

Population: 30,134  
Incorporated: 1894  
President, Board of Trustees: Sheila Schultz  
Form of Government: Village president and six trustees elected at large. Appointed manager.  
Village Manager: Craig G. Anderson  
Budget: \$28 million  
Sales Tax Receipts: \$3.4 million  
Employees: Police, 40; Fire, 33; Public Works, 36  
Water Supply: Lake Michigan Water  
Parks: Wheeling Park District  
Median Family Income: \$39,848

Schools: Elementary children attend Prospect Heights Dist. 23 and Wheeling Township Dist. 21; high school students attend Dist. 214. Village is served by Harper Community College.

Geographics: 8.12 square miles. Milwaukee Avenue, Dundee Road, Elmhurst Road and Lake Cook Road are the major thoroughfares.

Outstanding Features: Many fine restaurants; Palwaukee Airport serves Wheeling.

State Representatives: Carolyn Krause (56), Margaret Parcells (57), Lauren Beth Gash (60).  
State Senators: Marty Butler (28), Grace Mary Stern (29), David N. Barkhausen (30).  
U.S. Congressman: John Porter (10)

Zip Code: 60090

Telephone Numbers:  
Village Hall: 459-2600  
Police Dept.: emergency, 911; non-emergency, 459-2632.

Wheeling Park District: 537-2930  
Senior Citizens Center: 459-2670  
Chamber of Commerce: 541-0170

Basic Service Rates:  
Water: \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons  
Sewer: \$.43 per 1,000 gallons  
Garbage: Contract with Waste Management.  
\$10.56 a month for refuse; \$2.45 a month for recycling; \$11.50 per bag of yard waste.

Pet Licenses: \$5 per animal annually



SHEILA SCHULTZ

## Wheeling welcomes 3 trustees to board, bids farewell to 2

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials Monday welcomed three recently elected trustees to the village board and said goodbye to two departing ones.

Newly elected trustees Robert J. Heer, Pat Horcher and re-elected veteran officeholder Judy Abruscato were sworn in to their four-year terms on the Wheeling Village Board before a packed council room at the village Administration Building.

"It's great. It's a wonderful end to a long campaign. I look forward to serving the community," Horcher said.

Just before the swearing in ceremonies, two proclamations from Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz were read into the village record honoring outgoing trustees Anthony Altieri and Lois J. Gaffke.

Altieri had served on the board since 1983. He will continue to serve the village as a member of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission.

Gaffke had been on the board since 1991.

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ignated May 2 as Anthony Altieri Day in Wheeling with Gaffke receiving similar recognition in the village on May 6.

Schultz said that residents would notice the work the two did on behalf of the village in the future.

Neither Gaffke or Altieri attended the ceremony.

"The proclamations touched on the highlights of the two trustees," Schultz said.

For the three new trustees, their election to the board was especially satisfying because they survived a nine-person race to claim those seats.

With the election, the board is now composed of three trustees who ran with Schultz when she last won election in 1993 and the three who consider themselves to be independents.

In the first evening on the board, the three asked questions on different agenda items the board considered but made no radically different suggestions to the panel.

Abruscato, who was the leading vote-getter in the race with 1,115 votes, said she hoped that in four years the residents wouldn't be "disappointed" in her.

## County, Wheeling question legality of weekend flea market

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Officials from Cook County and Wheeling are seeking to close the flea market at the Twin Drive-In, which they say now operates because of a legal loophole.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Steven Blumberg said his office is trying to close the weekend flea market operated by the M&R Theater and Management Inc. Company at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave. in unincorporated Cook County near Wheeling.

A circuit court judge recently dismissed an injunction barring the market because it named its former operators and not M&R.

"Basically, we're back to square one starting our case over again," said Blumberg.

M&R officials could not be reached for comment on Monday.

Wheeling officials have said the market is a yearly nuisance because it causes traffic, parking, littering and unregulated sales problems.

The state's attorney's office,

enforcing county zoning ordinances, has been trying to close the flea market since 1993.

County officials have said the flea market cannot operate on land with the Twin's zoning and its operators have never had a county license.

Donald Wlodarski, county building commissioner, said M&R could face fines of up to \$450 a day for such violations.

The Twin was recently acquired by officials of neighboring Palwaukee Municipal Airport to be used for airport renovations.

Until the airport uses the land, officials gave M&R permission to operate the businesses that existed there.

However, Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said permission applies to "legal businesses" such as the now shuttered drive-in and not the market.

"If it wasn't allowed in the county, you can't do it," he said.

Officials now are reviewing the language of that agreement.

The airport is operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Blumberg said his office may seek legal action to close the market.

# Wheeling trustees show support for rights ordinance

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday night indicated they support a proposed human rights ordinance that calls for a mediation panel to resolve disputes.

The Wheeling village board did not raise any strong objections to a proposed human rights ordinance designed to mediate disputes residents may have over housing, credit transaction, real estate transactions, contracts, public accommodations or employment issues.

"We thought there was a need for a bit of legislation to be on the books and brought into scope a bit," said Wheeling Village Manger Craig G. Anderson.

The new ordinance is largely advisory and does not specify penalties for violations. The proposed measure calls for a five-person panel appointed by the village president to hear disputes.

If those disputes are not resolved within 120 days, the ordinance says the complainants should be referred to state or Cook County officials.

While the ordinance is similar to one now in place in Cook County, Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said it was needed to address local concerns before they become state or county problems.

Trustee Robert J. Heer said he liked the proposal but objected to some of its exclusions, such as Wheeling village government.

"The concept of this is very good. I like it. I have problem dealing with the exceptions," Heer said.

Rhodes noted Wheeling village government is still covered by state and county law.

The proposed measure includes items suggested by an ad hoc committee which has been reviewing the ordinance since 1993.

The village has had ordinances on its books addressing human rights violations but previously did not have legislation tying those laws together, officials have said.

Wheeling trustees will vote on a final draft of the human rights ordinance at an unspecified future board meeting.

# Wheeling trustees mull human rights ordinance

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees today will review a proposed human rights ordinance designed to address complaints about discrimination.

The village board will review the proposed ordinance that includes a the formation of a five-person human rights commission panel to review residents' complaints about discrimination in housing, employment and other areas.

"The purpose of the ordinance is to mediate disputes of discrimination," said Village Attorney James A. Rhodes.

Rhodes said if the proposal becomes law it will establish a panel officials hope would be the body residents use to start pursuing their discrimination complaints before they seek help from the Cook County or Illinois Human Rights Commission.

The ordinance specifies what actions constitute discrimination in areas such as public accommodations, credit transactions and contracts.

However, it does not detail specific penalties and is mostly advisory.

The ordinance states the commission will try to help opposing parties to reach an agreement in their disputes and voluntarily comply with the measure.

Falling short of that goal, the ordinance states those with complaints will be provided information on contacting state, county or federal agencies to settle their complaints.

The ordinance also states those serving on the ad-hoc council, that can only be appointed by the village president, would have one- or two-year terms.

The proposed village ordinance is based on similar ordinance now in place in Cook County.

Wheeling officials have said the proposed ordinance only covers limited areas because there are some activities such as lending other government agencies regulate more effectively.

Officials first started work on the ordinance in 1993.

A village board appointed advisory committee made recommendations for what the proposed ordinance should include.

# Wheeling welcomes 3 trustees to board, bids farewell to 2

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# Village's surplus items go on auction block Saturday

WHEELING BOARD NOTES

The Wheeling village board approved the sale of items collected by the village at its annual police and surplus auction Saturday at 10 a.m.

The auction will be held at the rear of the police station at 255 W. Dundee Road.

It will include bikes, watches, computer equipment and other items the village no longer needs.

Firm hired to prepare annual financial report

Wheeling trustees also agreed to hire the Crowe Chizek firm to prepare the village's annual financial report for \$18,900.

The Oak Brook-based company is charging \$18,900 for its services, which is a 5.3 percent increase over the \$17,950 it charged last year.

This is the last year of the village's four-year cycle for auditors. Officials said the village will seek proposals for new auditors next year.

Trustees approve south reservoir

Wheeling trustees approved

construction of a third point of delivery for the village to receive Lake Michigan water.

Because the village is constructing its South Receiving Reservoir it needed to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Northwest Water Commission.

V-Tech Industries gets zoning variance

Wheeling trustees approved zoning variations for the V-Tech Industries building at 101 E. Palatine Road that allows it to have less parking.

Under the variations the company will only have to have 104 parking spaces and can reserve land for the remaining 96 that would have been required.

Company officials said the additional spaces will not be needed for the proposed building that includes 100,300 square feet of warehouse space and 25,000 square feet of office space.

# Hein's given new parking extension

the Aug. 1 deadline may be sufficient. Other suggestions made by Village Manager Craig Anderson were to maintain the pub as the sole use of the mall; have Adornetto purchase the building and tear down unused spaces to create more parking; or work out an agreement with future users in the mall to share spaces by limiting business hours.

Adornetto said the option to buy the building is "virtually non-existent" and to ask the mall owner, Howard Kagay of Progress Investments in Arlington Heights, to keep the other stores vacant is "a little too much for me to ask of my landlord."

Trustee Judy Abruscato chastised Kagay for not working with Adornetto to solve the parking problem and make the mall viable.

"I really don't want to see anyone go out of business," Abruscato said.

Village officials don't believe the Dessert Gourmet will have much impact on parking as there are only seven employees at a time, and the business is strictly for carry-out.

"I don't anticipate a very high traffic level," Fieberg said.

business," Abruscato said. "I think the shopping center owner needs to help the tenant."

Kagay said he has tried fruitlessly to acquire more tenants, but village restrictions and the lack of parking has made that difficult.

Whether additional property would solve the mall's parking problem, however, remains to be seen. The amount of parking needed depends on what other uses are found for the remaining retail spaces.

Dessert Gourmet  
After trustees granted the extension for Adornetto, they approved a proposal for the Dessert Gourmet to move into the shopping center at 149 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Owner Cathryn Fieberg plans to sale pastries, cakes, ice cream and candy at the new location.

Because of the limited parking at the site, Fieberg is not considering putting a cafe at the location.

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## Hein's given new parking extension

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Once again, the Wheeling Village Board has granted Hein's Pub & Restaurant an extension in which to solve its parking shortage.

Pub owner Joseph Adornetto told trustees Monday he is working with a nearby property owner in efforts to land that would offer the business roughly 34 additional parking spaces.

When the village discovered a parking shortage at the mall where Hein's is located, 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., village officials told the mall owner to find adequate parking or the mall would close.

Trustees signed the first agreement in 1987, then renewed it in 1990 and again in 1992. The latest agreement gives Adornetto three months, with an Aug. 1 deadline, to save his business. Trustees also granted Adornetto a three-month liquor license.

"The only feasible thing I can see is to work out some area for parking," Adornetto said, telling trustees the property is 215 feet from his business' front door. "Either way we work it out, if we can work it out, it's not something that could happen in the next couple of months."

Trustees verbally agreed that a "good faith" effort toward establishing additional parking by

the Aug. 1 deadline may be sufficient.

Other suggestions made by Village Manager Craig Anderson were to maintain the pub as the sole use of the mall; have Adornetto purchase the building and tear down unused spaces to create more parking; or work out an agreement with future users in the mall to share spaces by limiting business hours.

Adornetto said the option to buy the building is "virtually non-existent" and to ask the mall

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Kagay said he has tried fruitlessly to acquire more tenants, but village restrictions and lack of parking has made that difficult.

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Village officials don't believe the Dessert Gourmet will have much impact on parking as there are only seven employees at a time, and business is strictly for carry-out.

"I don't anticipate a very high traffic level," Fieberg said.

5-4-95  
5-8-95  
5-2-95

# Three-month sting ends in drug arrest

## Police recover guns, money in Wheeling

By Christy Gutowski  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 32-year-old unemployed Wheeling man was arrested late Wednesday on suspicion he was selling large amounts of drugs out of his home in the Cedar Run subdivision, police said.



Michael R. Gershon

Michael R. Gershon, 1298 Fore Court, is facing felony drug charges after Wheeling police said they confiscated 4.5 pounds of marijuana, hallucinogens, drug paraphernalia and \$2,138 believed to be linked to the sale of drugs during a three-hour search Wednesday night of his home.

In addition to an estimated \$7,000 worth of cannabis, police confiscated seven handguns, four rifles, five shotguns, three knives, three machetes and thousands of rounds of ammunition, said Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes.

Authorities said they began surveillance outside of Gershon's home about three months ago after receiving anonymous information that large amounts of marijuana was being sold at the residence.

Undercover officers also pur-



Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes sorts evidence seized in a Wednesday night raid that netted cash, firearms, other weapons and 4.5 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$7,000.

Daily Herald Photo/ Joe Lewnard

chased one-quarter of a pound of marijuana from Gershon during their investigation, Hermes said.

"He was strictly operating out of his residence," he said. "Different people were always coming and going and not spending much time there."

Police said Gershon told them he used the rifles and shotguns for hunting and kept the knives and handguns for his personal safety.

Appropriate weapons charges will be brought against Gershon if any of the weapons prove to be stolen, linked to other criminal investigations or if Gershon does not have a firearm owner's identification card, Hermes said.

Village officials painted Cedar Run subdivision as a normal residential area of town filled with families.

"It's a good area," said Village

President Sheila Schultz. "Unfortunately, I think these type of things are likely to occur anywhere these days."

Gershon was charged with possession of cannabis and possession of cannabis with the intent to deliver, police said.

He was released Thursday morning on a \$40,000 personal recognizance bond pending a May 11 court date in Rolling Meadows.



**SUPER SENIOR** 5-11-95  
COUNTRYSIDE  
1995 Super Senior Ray Lipovitch shows off the engraved clock he received as part of being tapped for the annual honor at the Wheeling Senior Center. For another look at the ceremonies, see **PAGE 5**

# Police make drug bust, find weapons

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

5-11-95  
Countryside  
After a three-month surveillance of a home in the Cedar Run subdivision, Wheeling police have charged a 32-year-old man with possession of marijuana and possession with intent to deliver.

Michael R. Gershon, 1298 Fore Court, was arrested on the drug charges May 3 when Wheeling police investigators and tactical officers executed a search warrant of the home.

During the search, police seized 4.5 pounds of marijuana, believed to be in various stages of preparation for sale. The marijuana had a \$7,000 street value, police said. Another suspected, but not confirmed, drug also was seized and is being tested.

Also seized were numerous types of drug paraphernalia, \$2,138 cash, three machetes, three knives, five shotguns, four rifles, seven handguns (two of which were loaded and found between furniture cushions) and a large quantity of ammunition, police said.

"Anytime you find that many weapons, it's a surprise," said Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes. In regards to amount of drugs uncovered,

**Anytime you find that many weapons, it's a surprise.**

**Michael Hermes  
Deputy Chief**

Hermes said, this is one of larger drug busts the department has undertaken in the last few months.

## Traffic watched

Since the surveillance began Feb. 6, undercover investigators documented traffic around the resi-

dence and determined that numerous weapons were inside.

Officers also were able to purchase a quarter pound of marijuana during the investigation, police said. Based on this information, police obtained the search warrant which was executed May 3.

## Released on bond

Gershon was released from Cook County Jail May 4 on a \$40,000 signature bond, following a bond hearing in Rolling Meadows court. Gershon is expected to appear in court at 1:30 p.m. today.

Hermes noted that the surveillance was started based on an anonymous tip to the Police Department.

"The biggest sign is different cars and different people coming and going and not staying very long, usually in the early to mid-evening hours," he said. "In some instances, they go up to the door and don't even go in."



Danelle Fron/Pioneer Press

## Passing the crown

Senior Coordinator Nancy Janssen adjusts the cape of newly named 1995 Super Senior Ray Lipovitch as he receives his crown from Don Hammer, the 1994 Super

Senior. The ceremonies took place during a luncheon last week at the Wheeling Senior Center. Seniors from the center are each given the opportunity to vote.

# Village land buy part of 'clean up'

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Looks may not be everything, but they can't hurt, especially in a village hoping to improve its image among residents and outsiders.

Wheeling's appearance — notably that of its abandoned buildings and vacant retail spaces — was the issue most often bantered around by trustee candidates in the recent village election.

Since the April 4 balloting, one of those abandoned buildings has already disappeared from the landscape.

A few weeks ago, the abandoned Brown's Chicken restaurant at 825 W. Dundee Road was demolished, and now residents can look forward to long-awaited improvements on the northeast corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, part of the village's tax increment financing (TIF) district.

TIF allows developers to improve targeted areas while property values are frozen for tax purposes.

The village, in cooperation with Cole Taylor Bank at 350 E. Dundee Road, has pur-

chased about an acre of land on that corner for \$375,000, said Village Manager Craig Anderson. The bank contributed \$275,000 toward the purchase.

The bank's property wraps around the corner site, where an abandoned gas station has stood for at least five years, Anderson said.

"We wanted it (the gas station) down and Cole Taylor wanted that corner opened up," he said.

Part of the purchase agreement was that the property would be turned over to the village, Anderson said, adding that a plaque will be posted noting Cole Taylor's contribution toward acquiring the site.

"We're taking bids on demolishing the building and hope to have that down in the next month and a half," he said.

By June, Anderson hopes to have the site leveled and grass planted.

"We're not too anxious to do any heavy-duty landscaping until Milwaukee is widened," he said. The site will be maintained as an open area, he said.

# Wheeling likes town house proposal

5-12-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A developer unveiled preliminary plans to build a town house development near Milwaukee Avenue in the village's redevelopment district.

Officials from Wheeling-based Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. recently unveiled plans to Wheeling trustees for a 44-unit town house development on a 7.8-acre parcel at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave., where the Billy & Co. Restaurant once operated just south of the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection.

On their initial review the trustees overall liked the project, the first one they backed for the village's tax increment finance district.

Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski called for the development to have "a more decorative entrance" off Milwaukee Avenue, while others hoped other traffic restrictions could be placed there.

The development includes a curved road with a cul-de-sac near Walt Whitman School. The developer is proposing the road so there is not a straight-line road that traffic would use to cut through the devel-

opment.

Trustee Robert J. Heer said he preferred small retail businesses along Milwaukee Avenue and asked Ira Frank, vice president of the development company, whether the development could have larger units that use less land.

"I favor development, but I don't like the hodge-podge affect in Wheeling," Heer said.

Frank said his company planned the development to be strictly residential and that its study of the area showed retail businesses would be inappropriate for the parcel.

The developer is proposing two-

story town houses in two- and four-unit buildings. Each unit would include masonry construction with sizes ranging from 1,700 square feet to 2,053 square feet.

The development would be screened from Milwaukee Avenue by a 2-foot-tall berm and a wrought iron fence, Frank said.

Frank said the developer is considering pricing the units from \$170,000 to \$190,000.

Wheeling officials noted that the developer still had to submit the plans for review by village advisory panels before it returns to the trustees.

# Agreement relieves police dispatchers of fire, medical calls

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a move aimed at reducing emergency response times, Wheeling trustees on Monday agreed to have the village join an emergency dispatch service.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Robert G. Todd absent, the Wheeling Village Board agreed to have its fire and medical emergency calls handled by the Glenview-based Regional Emergency Dispatch Center. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac told village officials that shifting those calls from the village's police emergency radio operators, who currently handle them, to the RED center, could improve response times "by fractions of seconds."

Also, he said the operators could focus on police calls. Last year, the village received 3,300 fire and medical emergency calls in addition to its police emergency calls. Wheeling's current budget earmarks \$162,000 for participation in the RED center, which serves a number of other area communities. MacIsaac said the service

could be in place and handling Wheeling's calls by July 15. Wheeling's phone equipment now is being modified to route calls to the new dispatch center, he said.

MacIsaac said Wheeling would have several phone lines to reach dispatchers at the RED center. He also said that if the system were to malfunction, the village's radio operators would provide emergency backup.

"If we ever have to, we can cut-off and go to our own process," MacIsaac said.

Trustees also named Wayne Wisniski as the village's representative on the RED center board.

The final cost to Wheeling for using the dispatch service will be determined by a formula based on the number of emergency calls in the town during a set period.

Under the agreement, the dispatch center functions as a division of the fire department of the host community.

But the center's financial affairs are kept separate from the village's general funds, officials said.

# Wheeling taps police veteran to fill deputy chief position

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have named Evanston police Cmdr. John Popadowski the village's new deputy police chief.



Popadowski, 48, a 26-year member of the Evanston Police Department, has served as the department's commander of patrol operations.

He will be sworn in during Monday's village board meeting, officials said.

"To bring him into Wheeling is going to be a real positive for us," Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

Popadowski started in 1968 as a patrol officer in Evanston and worked his way up through the ranks.

His experience includes heading the department's organized crime bureau and serving as a detective and as an undercover officer with the Metropolitan Enforcement Group working on narcotics investigations. Popadowski will fill the position vacated six months ago by Gary D. O'Rourke.

O'Rourke left Wheeling to become chief of the Streamwood Police Department. Popadowski's responsibilities in Evanston included supervising 80 police officers and three shifts of police officers on foot patrols.

Popadowski said he is looking forward to joining the Wheeling Police Department, which he said emphasizes solving problems in the community.

In Wheeling, Popadowski will supervise 46 officers assigned to patrol, investigations, traffic and youth services. "I wanted a more diverse area of responsibility," Popadowski said, explaining why he accepted a position at a smaller department.

Popadowski was chosen from a field of 120 candidates during a nationwide search, Haeger said.

Two companies that have clashed over Palwaukee Municipal Airport could soon find themselves operating side-by-side. In recent years, Priester Aviation and Service Aviation, the first and second fixed based fueling operators at Palwaukee, have disagreed over hangar space, business and even the right to exist together at the Wheeling facility. But that could change if the airport commission approves plans from both companies to build

hangars to lease to corporations on the east side of Palwaukee near Sumac Road and Milwaukee Avenue to store their jets. "I anticipate they'll give permission for both of them to develop," said Airport Manager Fred Stew-Dennis Jans, general manager of Service Aviation, which has been at Palwaukee since 1993. Also seeks the corporate business saying he wants to build a \$4 million structure that would be developed by investors. "We already have some investors and we are looking at several different options to finance it," he said.

But airport officials previously were critical of Service Aviation for being late on some payments to the airport, which is operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling. Stewart said he'll recommend the commission consider financing as a part of its review of the plans submitted by both companies. Airport officials have said that they wanted more hangars constructed at Palwaukee to generate more revenue from the facility. Officials will discuss the proposed hangars Wednesday.

# Competing companies want hangars

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

# Firefighters plunge into training

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Area fire department emergency divers will see how deep they can get into their diving Saturday with training exercises at Lake Potawatomi.

Starting at 9 a.m. Division 1 of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, a group of 12 area fire departments, will hold diving training exercises at the lake located in the Cook County Forest Preserve just north of Dundee Road and east of Milwaukee Avenue.

Joe Deppong, divemaster for the

Wheeling Fire Department, said emergency divers for the area fire departments must undergo an annual recertification to continue diving and the Saturday exercises are a part of that program.

"This is going to be what we do on a normal search (for a missing person or evidence)," he said.

Those exercises could include retrieving an inflatable dummy from the lake's bottom.

In some parts, Deppong said, the lake has a depth of 30-feet or 40-feet.

Fire departments involved in the Saturday training exercises

include ones from Arlington Heights, Bensenville, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Itasca, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Rosemont, Roselle and Wheeling.

Deppong said firefighters prefer to use the lake, which is about 20 acres, for training because it is clear.

Deppong said the exercise is also a part of the group's monthly training routine.

Some of its regular training includes classroom sessions or dives at an indoor pool.

The divers' annual appearances at area lakes usually bring out a

crowd of onlookers, Deppong said, to witness the divers practice their emergency techniques.

The fire departments annually trade off hosting the diving exercises at their local lakes.

Wheeling police will have community service officers on hand Saturday to ensure no one from the crowd accidentally falls in and becomes an unintentional part of the exercises, Deppong said.

Divers practice their rescue procedures throughout the year. That practice includes making dives in the winter under cold weather conditions.

# Bank gives Wheeling \$275,000 to build park

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An abandoned gas station some in Wheeling have termed an eyesore will make way for a park site thanks to a donation the village received Wednesday.

Wheeling officials got a \$275,000 donation from the Cole Taylor Financial Group to acquire the just under 1-acre parcel at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The money will also be used to level the former Mobil gas station there and develop a park. The site is in the heart of the village's redevelopment district and near the company's corporate headquarters at 350 E. Dundee Road.

"We just think it's a highly visible piece of property in Wheeling and certainly has been an eyesore in the community," said Mike Wien, a group senior vice president for the company.

"And we're real pleased to participate with the community to make it more visually appealing." Wheeling Village Attorney

James A. Rhodes said the gas station has been there for at least 40 years. It has been vacant for the last five years, Rhodes said.

"The idea is to make the area more attractive and open the view to Cole Taylor's building," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The village has actively sought to clean up the 125-acre redevelopment district by leveling abandoned buildings and urging building owners to take better care of their properties.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village and Cole Taylor officials spent months discussing the parcel.

"It's a way to get things done with the cooperation of the public and private sectors that's to everyone's benefit," she said.

Developers designated by Wheeling officials are now working on plans for a retail center and townhouse development for the area.

Wheeling officials targeted the area for redevelopment as a way to stimulate the local economy.

# Wheeling rejects fire code changes

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees shot down two proposed ordinance changes that would have changed the fire sprinkler requirements for buildings in the village.

Trustees approved a measure that would have required sprinklers on commercial, industrial and multi-family housing buildings in the village along with those extensively damaged by fire or where the use had been changed.

However, because it was approved on a 3-2 vote, with

Trustee Robert G. Todd absent, the measure failed because it did not have the required four votes an ordinance needs to pass, Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said.

A second measure backed by Village Manager Craig G. Anderson and Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac that would have also required buildings in those categories to be retrofitted with fire sprinklers within a decade was defeated in a 2-3 vote.

"Retrofitting would apply to business, industrial, commercial, hotel and motel (buildings)," MacIsaac said before the votes.

MacIsaac said that 80 percent of the buildings in Wheeling already had fire sprinklers. He had called for the changes to the ordinance because if buildings in some categories in the village burned down they could be rebuilt without sprinklers.

Under Wheeling's current fire code, buildings exempt from having sprinklers include multifamily dwellings with more than 8,000 square feet of ground area or multifamily structures three stories tall with more than 5,000 square feet of ground area.

MacIsaac also said the new

requirements would lower insurance costs for building owners in the village.

However, some trustees questioned whether businesses could afford the costs of installing sprinklers. They were also concerned that such a restriction would make businesses reconsider decisions to move to Wheeling.

MacIsaac argued that other communities such as Vernon Hills had similar requirements and it has not hurt the town's business development.

The Wheeling village board will again review the measures June 5.

## Townhomes get first showing

By CHERI BENTROP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees last week reviewed initial plans for a 44-unit townhome development to be built on the former Billy & Co./Union Hotel site and two smaller lots at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The development, presented by Joseph Freed & Associates, includes 10 four-unit buildings and two two-unit buildings on the 7.8-acre triangular site.

The former Billy & Co. restaurant is expected to be demolished this summer. This property is part of the village's tax increment financing (TIF) district targeted for downtown redevelopment.

"The site is kind of an unusual shape," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "It seems to work well with a residential development" because there is not much frontage to Milwaukee to entice a business to locate there, he said.

Trustees are predicting residents, however, may

favor the site because it is close to retail stores, restaurants, schools and major thoroughfares.

Though plans are not yet finalized, Anderson said, entrances are designated from Milwaukee Avenue and Highland Avenue.

There is a possibility, he said, that an entrance could be made from Center Avenue, thereby eliminating the entrance from Milwaukee.

Currently along Milwaukee, plans show the entrance, a berm and a wrought iron and masonry fence, he said.

"I think they'll (Freed & Associates) go back and flush out a few more details on the land and elevation (brick facades)," Anderson said.

Anderson said Freed & Associates may make another appearance before the Village Board for trustees' approval before proceeding to the Plan Commission.

"This is a unique situation, where the village is like the petitioner," Anderson said, noting that the vil-

lage has agreed to purchase the property and is soliciting the development.

"We have to decide what we like and what will sell," he added.

Prices for the two- and three-bedroom townhomes are expected to range from \$170,000 to \$195,000, he said.

One perk the developer plans to include on the site is extra landscaping, Anderson said.

Rather than the usual \$1,500 per unit Freed & Associates earmarks for landscaping purchases, the developer plans to spend \$4,000 per unit on this project, Anderson said.

This will allow for the purchase of additional landscaping materials and more mature trees.

"That should make it look really nice," he added.

Village President Sheila Schultz said she was impressed with Freed & Associate's townhome plans.

"I'm anxious to see them move through the commissions," Schultz said. "I think the appearance from Milwaukee will be attractive."

Schultz noted that she was pleased the density of the development is low.

Also regarding development of the TIF district, Anderson said, he recently met with representatives of Hiffman-Shaffer Associates Inc. of Chicago which has been selected by trustees to develop a 13-acre site on the northwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee Road.

Hiffman-Shaffer representatives attended a retailers' convention last weekend in Las Vegas where they were to have discussed with interested retailers the possibility of locating in Wheeling's TIF district.

Anderson said the pre-convention meeting was planned to help the developers "represent us as best they can" to those retailers.

Another meeting will be scheduled after the convention to inform village officials about which retailers are interested in opening stores in Wheeling's TIF district, he said.

## Society celebrates 25th year

By CHERI BENTROP  
STAFF WRITER

Probably best known as providing Santa Claus' local home at Lollipop Lane each Christmas season, the Wheeling Historical Society is celebrating 25 years of preserving the village's history.

For years, the Historical Society has planned and sponsored Santa's annual visit to Wheeling's Chamber Park, but its members also work throughout the year to maintain displays at the Wheeling Historical Museum.

The 65 members of the Historical Society and their friends will celebrate 25 years of accomplishments and kick off the next 25, with a dinner Wednesday at Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Society President Frank Schnaitmann, who has been a member for 17 years, said the Historical Society was founded to preserve and maintain the history of Wheeling. The Historical Museum, located in Chamber Park at 251 N. Wolf Road, is open from 2-4 p.m. Sundays and by appointment.

"There are a lot of people who aren't familiar with Wheeling and this gives them a chance to see the artifacts and how people lived," Schnaitmann said.

Schnaitmann credited Sue Knippen, museum curator, with the ever-changing displays at the museum. Knippen, he said, tries to change the displays every two months and coincide with seasons and holidays.

"We try on Valentine's Day to have a display of old-time valentines," he said. "We have old toys that children played with years ago. We've had a Fire Department display with the various uniforms they've worn."

Other displays have featured women's vintage clothing and dolls. The museum had a special centennial display as Wheeling celebrated the village's centennial in 1994, he said.

## Butera wants financial lures to open store

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Butera Finer Foods is seeking financial incentives from Wheeling in return for opening a store in the village.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the Elgin-based grocery chain wants financial assistance to cover its start-up costs for a new store and its operating expenses for a decade until the store makes a profit.

"They're asking for a dollar amount to make up the shortfall they'll have between the time they open the store and the next 10 years," said Anderson who wouldn't disclose the amount Butera is seeking or what form the incentive could take.

Joseph Butera, vice president of

operations for the chain, declined to comment.

If Wheeling officials grant the incentive it would be the first they've made to entice a business to the village.

Officials have said the company is considering space at the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center at 550 W. Dundee Road, formerly occupied by a Dominick's Finer Foods store that closed in February after 22 years.

Lynn Plaza is across the street from the Wisconsin Central Ry. commuter station which officials predict will attract the greatest number of riders on the 53-mile line when it opens next April.

Trustee Robert J. Heer is taking a wait-and-see approach about the incentive.

"You have to look at everything.

You can't give away the store to get a store," he said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who called for a replacement for Dominick's during her recent reelection bid, said an incentive is worthwhile only if Wheeling receives its share of tax revenues from the store.

"Yes, it's a first time. But we've never had a traumatic loss of a grocery store," she said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said officials spent months trying to find a new grocery store.

"A store like Butera would do well at that site and be a nice addition to the village and we'd be willing to sit down and talk to them," Schultz said.

Anderson said no schedule has been set for completion of a deal.

# Officials want OK to build hangars

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials are considering finding a private developer to build additional hangars for aircraft storage at the airport.

Airport officials said Monday that they will ask Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials for permission to seek a developer to build 20 to 30 hangars on a more than 2-acre parcel at the southwest corner of the facility.

The hangars would accommodate mostly piston-engined air-

craft.

"All we know is there is quite a heavy demand for T-hangars," said airport Commissioner Nicholas Helmer, noting preliminary results of an airport survey officials commissioned.

Some officials from Prospect Heights previously had pressed the airport commission to develop additional hangars for aircraft storage at Palwaukee to generate more revenue at the facility.

The airport is operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental

agreement.

On June 5, officials from the two towns will vote on whether to give airport officials permission to seek a developer for the parcel.

Airport officials have considered other sections of Palwaukee for new hangars, but because those areas are a part of the facility's \$33.5 million renovation plan, the land wouldn't be available for years.

Airport manager Fred Stewart said officials could start searching for a developer for the southwest corner site by the fall if the con-

cept is approved.

The commissioners have said there is a list of at least 50 people waiting for T-shaped hangar space at Palwaukee.

The airport commission also will seek approval from both towns for Priester Aviation and Service Aviation to build new hangars to be leased to users of larger, corporate jets at Palwaukee on sites near Sumac Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

The companies are the first and second fixed-based fueling operators at the airport, respectively.

# Wheeling depot plans progressing

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are nearing a deal to buy the land needed for the village's commuter station on the Wisconsin Central Railroad line.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said officials have made an offer to Meyer Material Co. for an eight-acre parcel just south of West Dundee Road and west of Northgate Parkway.

"We would hope to finalize arrangements for an agreement

by next week," said Anderson, who declined to disclose the offer.

The village hopes to build a station with 626 parking spaces for commuters as well as a turn-around area and kiss-and-ride temporary parking area for dropping off riders.

When it is completed, officials have projected that the station would be the busiest on the 53-mile line, with an average of 750 commuters a day using the line to reach jobs in Wheeling's industrial park.

Anderson said overall expenses

to build the station could be more than \$4 million.

In January, Wheeling trustees approved building the train station and authority to borrow up to \$4.5 million for its construction.

Much of that money, Anderson said, could be reimbursed through federal or state grants.

Wheeling trustees recently accepted a \$73,900 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation for construction of the kiss-and-ride area at the station.

Officials have said they hope to

open Wheeling's commuter station by April 1996 when the 12-stop line is expected to start operations.

Anderson said steady progress is being made toward meeting the building deadline and that Wheeling is just behind Buffalo Grove on its timetable.

Buffalo Grove officials are close to awarding a contract for construction of their station.

When it is completed, the 53-mile line will span from the Wisconsin border to O'Hare International Airport.

# Village to join RED center

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling police dispatchers will no longer handle calls for fire or ambulance service once the village goes on-line with the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center this summer.

"The number of police, EMS (emergency medical service) and fire service calls has continued to grow and grow," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We have found it is getting harder for our dispatchers to handle all of those calls."

The Police Department has two dispatchers per shift to answer incoming calls, Anderson said.

## Dispatch

Village trustees last week

voted to join RED Center, a regional dispatch service based in Glenview, which will allow Wheeling dispatchers to hit a single button and automatically switch over all fire and ambulance calls.

"This is unique because RED Center is solely devoted to fire and EMS. We think it's the best way to handle it," Anderson said.

Because several communities use RED Center, emergency calls that require assistance from nearby departments should be handled more efficiently as well, he said.

## Coordination

"One of the nice things about RED Center is that

there's real coordination of response. They provide fire, ambulance and paramedics for five or six communities and they're all basically next to each other," he added.

Start-up costs and the first year's membership in RED Center will cost Wheeling about \$160,000, Anderson said.

Subsequent annual fees should decrease and will be determined by how many calls originate in Wheeling, he said.

"Basically, the more calls made, the more you pay," Anderson said. "It's a good thing. I think they'll do an excellent job for us."

## Priority

Wheeling Police Deputy

Chief Michael Hermes said the connection with RED Center will allow his dispatchers more time to concentrate on police calls.

"Right now you're dealing with over 30,000 police calls a year compared to about 3,000 fire calls so the priority seems to go with the police," Hermes said. "This will turn them strictly into police dispatchers."

Hermes said other departments who use RED Center for dispatching seem pleased with the arrangement.

"From what I've heard about RED Center everyone who's there likes it," Hermes added.

# Wheeling beefing up patrols at two spots

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

motorists frequently speed through the area in the morning.

At the high school, Haeger said police not only will watch for traffic violators, but they'll be on the lookout for high school students who jaywalk or step out in front of traffic.

"They've been warned," Haeger said.

Haeger said a "dangerous situation" has developed near the high school with students running out in front of traffic.

The decision to increase police scrutiny of the two areas was based on a departmental decision and complaints from residents, Haeger said.

Police also based their decision to increase enforcement in those areas on the history of accidents at the two locations.

As a part of their new safety program, police will make safety literature and special presentations available through the department's traffic and crime-prevention units.

Haeger said the stepped up enforcement was not related to a recent state grant the department received to increase the department's monitoring of some parts of the village.

Wheeling police have increased patrols in two sections of the village to crack down on traffic violations and to protect pedestrians.

Police this week started monitoring more closely the 700 block of Wheeling Road near Packaging Corporation of America and the 900 block of South Elmhurst Road at Wheeling High School, officials said.

"There's going to be increased enforcement with citations issued," Wheeling police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

The increased monitoring is part of the department's traffic enforcement program, police said.

Haeger said Packaging Corporation of America is paying some of the costs to have a police car near the company because motorists frequently speed through the 30 mph area.

The area near the company includes a company crossing guard, a painted crosswalk and a caution light.

Haeger said that in the past, pedestrians have been struck by vehicles near the company and

# Fire service needs overhaul in Prospect Hts., study says

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A consultant's report released Friday calls for officials to consider building a new fire station in Prospect Heights or establishing the city's own fire department.

A two-month, \$12,000 study of service provided to the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District by consultant Richard H. Solomon concludes a fire station should be placed on the district's east side, near Prospect Heights, to better serve that area.

Currently, Prospect Heights is served by the Wheeling Fire Department, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District, the Mount Prospect Fire Department and Glenbrook firefighters.

The township district contracts with the Wheeling Fire Department

to protect an area that includes most of Prospect Heights and nearby unincorporated areas.

The 37-page document also calls for officials to consider consolidating fire protection of the city or giving Prospect Heights its own fire department.

"It sounds reasonable if an expert takes that attitude," said fire board Trustee Joseph Wolfe.

Township fire board President Anthony Carlin has been critical of the district's court-mandated contract with Wheeling firefighters, saying they don't respond fast enough to emergencies on the east side of the district.

Critics have alleged that Carlin, who was endorsed for his appointment to the panel by Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford, is using the study as a way to break the contract.

"My fundamental reaction is we have a system that works. Nowhere in that report does it say that inadequate service is being given to the residents," said fire board Trustee Peter Urban. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Urban was endorsed for appointment by Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Wolfe was also endorsed for appointment by Rotchford.

Urban said if the fire district tried to break its contract with the Wheeling Fire Department it would cause a costly legal battle.

Wheeling Fire Department Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said he is still reviewing the report and will make copies available to Wheeling trustees. Solobmon declined comment about the document.

See FIRE on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

MacIsaac had previously disputed criticism about his department noting that the good fire insurance ratings in the area don't support Carlin's arguments.

Wheeling officials have said if the district attempted to break the contract they would probably file a lawsuit.

However, even if the fire district won the right to break the contract it is unlikely officials could immediately fund construction of a Prospect Heights station.

The fire board amended its property tax levy this past December raising it 49.5 percent from \$582,826 to \$871,676.

Yet the Cook County property tax cap, which limits levy hikes to 5

percent of the prior year's measure or the consumer price index, limited the increase to 2.7 percent.

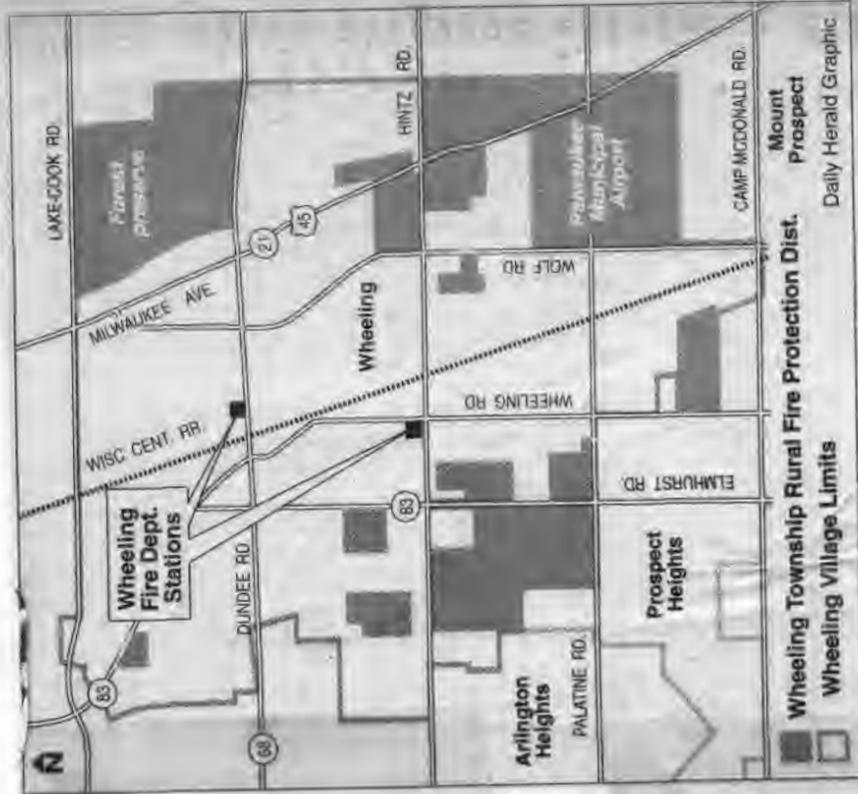
As a result, district officials said they lost \$273,000 and can't pay for a new station.

Last year, the district paid \$541,679 for protection from Wheeling firefighters.

The report was the first of two being done for the fire board. Wolfe said fire officials are uncertain when another \$12,000 report from consultant Roger W. Bassett will be completed.

Wolfe said the board wanted two opinions on the district before making any decisions about its fire coverage.

The board will discuss the report Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.



## Wheeling woos Butera store

Talks are actively ongoing for a Butera grocery store to move into the former Dominick's Finer Foods space at Lynn Plaza, 550 W. Dundee Road. Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said Butera is looking at the village for financial incentives, which could extend for a 10-year period.

"Butera has expressed strong interest in that site

and I think it would fit very well in there," Anderson said. Possible start-up costs and necessary renovations have prompted Butera to request a financial incentive, he said.

"Discussions are continuing, but we're looking elsewhere too," Anderson said.

## Cole Taylor gives village check

Cole Taylor Financial Group last week presented the village of Wheeling a \$275,000 check toward the purchase of the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. The village will use the funds to raze an abandoned service station on the property and create a parklike area in its place.

The land is adjacent to Cole Taylor's Wheeling branch and corporate headquarters.

## Senior Pavilion host fun faire

The Wheeling Senior Pavilion, 199 N. First St., will host the annual Family Fun Faire from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. This is the major fund-raiser of the Pavilion which provides services to area senior citizens.

Activities planned include a silent auction from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and a live auction from noon-1 p.m. A raffle and art fair also are planned. Food will be available and clowns will entertain children.

For information, phone the Senior Pavilion at 459-2670.

## Police pick spots for traffic checks

The Wheeling Police Department has selected two village trouble-spots — Wheeling Road just north of Hintz Road and Elmhurst Road (Route 83) just north of Hintz — on which to begin its selective traffic enforcement plan in an effort toward improving safety.

These two areas were targeted based on accident history and citizens' complaints, according to Deputy Chief Michael Hermes.

# Trustees: survey no surprise

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

For the most part, Wheeling village officials said the results of the recent Palwaukee Airport confirmed their thoughts about operations at the airport.

Trustees, Village Manager Craig Anderson and Airport Commissioner Tony Altieri Jr. attended a May 22 joint meeting with Prospect Heights officials to hear the final survey results and to be updated on improvements under way at the airport.

"Basically, it reaffirmed what we thought we knew about Palwaukee, but weren't 100 percent sure," Anderson said. The survey found that T-hangars are of major importance to users at Palwaukee, but Anderson said, that was hardly a revelation.

"We knew there is a shortage of T-hangars," he said. "Overall, things are running pretty well."

Another response that concerned officials was the number of users who said they are contemplating a move to another airport.

"The location of Palwaukee is just so good," Anderson said. "I understand people saying they're looking to move, but I'm not sure if they're not always looking to move. I think Palwaukee is working to keep them."

"The airport is in the black and that's a good sign. They must be doing something right," Anderson said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she's not too concerned about users who indicated they may leave Palwaukee, at least not until she has more information.

"First we'd have to find

out why they're leaving. Have they closed a business or moved a business?" she asked. "I don't think that's a concern right now."

Once area transportation improves with the Lake Cook overpass completed at Milwaukee Avenue and the commuter train operating, Abruscato expects more people will use the airport.

"I think all of that will be an added convenience," she said.

In October, Abruscato said, she attended an airport-related convention in New Orleans at which she spoke with many people who have used Palwaukee.

"Everyone was saying how good it is, how much they enjoy using it. People know about our airport," she said. "I didn't hear anyone say anything bad about Palwaukee."

## Fire sprinkler ordinance omits business retrofits

**Wheeling:** The Village Board has approved an ordinance requiring that fire sprinkler systems be installed in all newly constructed, multi-family townhomes and six-flat apartment buildings.

At a board meeting this week, however, the trustees narrowly rejected more stringent language requiring all existing commercial, industrial, business and hotel/motel properties to retrofit sprinkler systems within 10 years. Village President Sheila Schultz was called upon to cast the deciding vote.

Such language in a sprinkler ordinance apparently would have been unique for a Midwest municipality, but is commonplace on the East and West Coasts, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said.

Updating the 11-year-old ordinance was important for the future cost structure of the Fire Department, MacIsaac noted. He said if commercial buildings were required to retrofit sprinkler systems, then equipment and staffing needs would be reduced and the department would save hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long term.

"As costs increase, we have provided the board with options to basically minimize the size of the fire emergency we would possibly face and shift from a fire-centered department to a more emergency medical department," MacIsaac said.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE Patrick O'Toole 6-7-95

# Survey shows pilots consider airport switch

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Pilot mobility and building more T-hangars seem to be the top issues facing officials at Palwaukee Airport.

In a joint meeting with village and city officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the recent user survey indicated that additional T-hangars were a notable concern from most respondents.

But perhaps the most disturbing result of the recent survey was the number of users who plan to leave Palwaukee within the year. Thirty-two percent of users based at Palwaukee said they are considering moving to another facility.

Airport Commissioner Nick Helmer, who headed the ad-hoc survey committee, said the survey provided valuable information to the commission.

"A couple of things did jump out. Some weren't exactly new to us," he said, noting that users have been requesting additional T-hangars for years.

"Our T-hangars are at full occupancy," Stewart said. The airport recently purchased the Twin Drive-in theater property on which it plans to relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch away from runways and build T-hangars.

Helmer said 12 hangars are planned for the drive-in property once the ditch relocation is completed.

"Whether those are 10- or eight-unit (hangars) has yet to be decided," Helmer said. The Airport Commission is working on building 20 to 30 T-hangars on the airport's southwest side now.

"All we know is there is a demand for T-hangars," Helmer said. "If the monthly rent is too high, that's another hill to climb."

Airport commissioners

have determined the hangars will rent for 44 cents a square foot, but that's just for land space, he said.

Other factors such as whether sprinklers will be required, what building materials will be used and whether the hangars will be heated will increase the rent, he added.

Building T-hangars is just one of many projects under way at Palwaukee.

Stewart noted that the relocation of Hintz Road is "virtually complete." Shifting Hintz Road to provide more airplane clearance is part of a 12-year plan by the Federal Aviation Administration to improve safety at Palwaukee. The airport is in its fifth year of the plan.

"Hintz Road could be completely finished by July 1 if all goes well," Stewart said. However, Hintz will remain open to only two lanes of traffic until improvements on Wolf Road are completed, a project delayed by the wet spring.

Federal funding needed for the relocation of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch has been delayed, Stewart told village officials. "We're in perhaps serious jeopardy on that," he said.

However, he said, the ditch relocation is a top priority of the Illinois Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

Construction to widen Milwaukee Avenue is scheduled to begin in May 1996, with a targeted completion date of November 1996.

New taxiways and aprons are scheduled to be built soon, and the FAA is building a new control tower this summer.

"Now that we know something, the question is what to do," Helmer said.

Overall, Stewart said, "It's been a good year for us. We earned more and spent less than you all indicated we could."



# Wheeling parade to kick off at 10 a.m. Monday

refreshments for visitors and an informational table for the Prisoner of War/Missing In Action soldiers from the Vietnam War.

At 6 a.m., representatives from the post will visit the war dead at the Wheeling Township, Northbrook and Memory Gardens cemeteries.

For further information, contact the post at 537-0440.

llege President Sheila H. Schultz, Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes and Fire Department Chief Keith S. MacIsaac are expected to attend the event as well.

Also, speakers that will include Mel Baity from Morton Grove American Legion Post 134 will address the crowd.

Afterwards, there will be an open house at the post with

from the Veterans Hospital in North Chicago along with local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

At the end of the parade, there will be a ceremony marking the day at the post.

That event will include a three-gun salute for the war dead by the post's color guard and music from the high school band and Wheeling Pavilionaires.

Wheeling officials including Vil-

Elmhurst Road to McHenry Road to end at the post at 700 McHenry Road.

"We feel it's going to be bigger and have more people than last year," said Don Berkhoff, public relations officer for the post.

This year's parade will include such participants as the Wheeling High School Marching Band, the Dearborn Highlanders, a float

## June 11 named Race Unity Day

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed June 11 Race Unity Day in the village.

Schultz made the proclamation to recognize efforts by the North Shore Race Unity Task Force to celebrate the unity and diversity of the area with a Race Unity walk.

The walk starts at 1 p.m. at Ladd Arboretum in Evanston and ends in Wilmette. There will also be a celebration and picnic recognizing the event.

## Bank donation slated for creation of new park

Schultz also made a proclamation of appreciation of Cole Taylor Bank for donating \$275,000 for creation of a park in Wheeling's redevelopment district.

The village plans to make an open space park at a parcel at the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection formerly occu-

piated by a Mobil gas station.

The site is also across the street from Cole Taylor's corporate headquarters.

## Board agrees to endorse increased tax exemption

The Wheeling village board agreed to endorse an exemption to increased Cook County property taxes for the Handi Foil Corp. and HFA Inc.

The company said it needed the exemption granted by the Cook County to finance a \$3 million expansion of its plant at 135 E. Hintz Road.

Since 1986 the village has endorsed county property tax exemptions that helped more than \$49 million worth of plant expansions get built in the village which also increased the number of jobs in town.

Wheeling officials back the property tax reductions as a way to keep businesses from moving to nearby Lake County and other areas where lower property taxes exist.

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hoping they'll draw more people than ever before, the Wheeling AMVETS Post 66 is holding the town's annual Memorial Day parade.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. Monday in the parking lot of the K-Mart store at 780 W. Dundee Road. It will then travel north on



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Lt. Dick Wydra (above) is the top man on a V-pattern search, in which one man swims along the top of the water and holds the middle of a rope as two divers swim below him at an angle holding the ends of the rope, forming and inverted V.



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

Lt. Wydra gets outfitted for a dive.

# River runs through it

*Countyside*

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

6-1-95

It's a life or death situation in which every minute counts when the Wheeling Fire Department is summoned to a retention basin for an emergency.

Lt. Dick Wydra, who has been diving with the department for 16 years, said Wheeling has bodies of water ranging from 3-foot detention basins to the DesPlaines River, which is why a specialized diving team is essential. Divers recently practiced their life-saving skills at Potawatomi Lake in the Cook County Forest Preserve on Dundee Road.

"The faster you get into the water, the faster you get them out," said Wydra, the department's former divemaster. "You want to make it a rescue instead of a recovery.

"All the towns around here have some bodies of water. Retention basins are the most common and they seem to be a magnet for



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

Water squirts out of Lt. Wydra's boots after a dive.

kids," Wydra said, noting that children usually can be rescued if they are pulled from the water within an hour.

The DesPlaines River presents a unique challenge for Wheeling firefighters as they have to learn how to perform a rescue in the current.

"We handle the DesPlaines as it runs through Wheeling," Wydra said. "That's fast water — a completely different type of work, much more dangerous."

## Wheeling Twp. fire district strikes coverage deal

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Most Prospect Heights residents could see a different fire department responding to their calls along with higher taxes for that service.

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District Tuesday tentatively agreed to contract with the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District to cover three areas of the Wheeling Township district in Prospect Heights starting Aug. 1.

In order to do that, the township district will break a contract it has with the Wheeling Fire Department to cover those areas.

The move was made to provide improved response time to calls from the east side of the district, said Wheeling Township fire district officials.

At the same time, district residents could be paying almost double in taxes to build up tapped-out reserve funds.

The Wheeling Township district wants to put a referendum on the November ballot to raise its property tax from 40 to 75 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

"What this boils down to is we're going to have to bite the bullet (and raise taxes)," Wheeling Township fire board President Anthony Carlin said Tuesday.

Wheeling Township fire officials said that prior fire boards kept the district's property taxes artificially low for several years by using reserves for expenses.

With the proposed tax increase, the owner of a \$150,000 house in the district would see its yearly fire bill rise from \$187 to \$351.

The tax hike proposal came short-

ly after the Wheeling township fire board agreed on the change in the coverage areas.

The Prospect Heights fire district would respond to the area from Hintz Road south to the city's limits.

The area would include the Lake Claire and The Shires subdivisions. Also, the Prospect Heights fire district would cover an area on the east side of the city bounded by Wolf, Palatine and River roads.

The deal will be formally signed by the fire boards June 20.

"I've got my boys in the starting blocks ready to fire," said Prospect Heights Rural Fire District Chief Donald R. Gould Jr.

The Prospect Heights rural fire district is independent from the city.

Under the service change, the Wheeling Township district will pay \$353,000 to the Prospect Heights rural district to protect those areas

for nine months, the remainder of the fiscal year.

Wheeling officials have said they'll sue if their court-mandated contract to provide fire service to the Wheeling Township district is broken.

"They should think first about the quality of fire service to the people and then about the cost to the people," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

With the proposed change the Wheeling Fire Department could lose out on \$243,000 they expected to earn under the contract.

Wheeling officials this year estimated the department would have received \$530,000 from the Wheeling Township district.

"People will be getting less service than they're used to at a higher cost," Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said.

## Village president responds to letter

*Countyside* 6-8-95  
 Wheeling/In a recent letter to the editor, Marvin Horcher called for a return to a representative government in Wheeling that is open to meaningful citizen input. He then referred to incidents from the distant past, suggesting, without any substantiation, that present village officials had acted improperly in those cases.

I am responding to Mr. Horcher's spiteful comments somewhat reluctantly, as I take no pleasure in recalling some of the events of Wheeling's past, and would never open old wounds needlessly. However, I can't let his negative and damaging rhetoric go unanswered.

Surely Mr. Horcher cannot have forgotten the Wheeling of the sixties and seventies? After all, he served in the village administration in various capacities during the time when its officials were investigated, indicted, and convicted. Perhaps he remembers, as I do, the citizen who tried to address the board at an open meeting, and was told, "We don't care about the first amendment here." Is this the kind of open government he hopes to reestablish?

Wheeling today may not be perfect, but any honest comparison with the past will find it vastly improved. Many of us have worked long and hard to bring about positive change. We don't want to dwell on the

## LETTERS

past, but we must learn from it. Citizens who really care for their community devote their time and energy building it up, instead of tearing it down.

As Mr. Horcher well knows, board members accept, consider, and respond to resident input every Monday night at Village Hall. If he really wants a thorough and public review of past incidents, I invite him to attend and do his fault finding face to face. Painful as that might be, such an exchange would refresh the memories of long standing residents, and be enlightening to the newer ones.

Sheila H. Schultz  
 Village President

## Wrong founders subject of parade

Wheeling/Again this year Wheeling will not have a parade on July 4. Instead, there will be a Founders Day parade on June 25. The "founders" Wheeling is honoring are not those "founders" who signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Wheeling is celebrating the work of some persons who prepared papers to incorporate the Village in 1894.

The incorporation of the Village is an event worth commemorating. However, its significance is dwarfed by the work of those other "founders" who faced punishment for treason against the British Crown

and eight years of war against well trained, redcoated soldiers.

Wheeling citizens who want the Fourth of July

By Cheri Benrup  
 Staff Writer

through e

# Fire district deal hits hard in Wheeling's pocketbook

6/02/95

By Dwayne T. Wong  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

In many areas of Prospect Heights, which side of the block you live on determines which fire department you dial in an emergency. The small Northwest suburb of 15,000 people is served by no less than four small fire departments.

But getting that number whittled down won't be cheap, particularly for Wheeling. The village of Wheeling, which holds the contract for fire protection for most of Prospect Heights, stands to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars each year if Prospect Heights decides to stand on its own.

On Thursday, the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection Board — the largest of the four fire districts serving Prospect Heights — fired the shot that Wheeling has been expecting. The board offered more than half its district to the neighboring Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District. The

"I don't feel our fire department handles anything inadequately."

— Wheeling Trustee  
 Judy Abruscato

land in question has about 8,000 residents.

The offer, which the Prospect Heights Fire District apparently will accept, would help the city of Prospect Heights begin to consolidate its fire coverage. Wheeling Township has the biggest piece of Prospect Heights, while the Prospect Heights rural district, the Mount Prospect Fire Department and the Glenbrook Fire Protection District each cover smaller pieces.

On Tuesday, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District board will review the proposal.

Continued from Page 1

Township fire board member Joseph Wolfe on Thursday.

But the village of Wheeling, which would lose roughly 16 percent of its \$3.5 million in operating expenses if the contract is voided, says it can't afford to be so charitable. Wheeling officials say they'll sue to stop the Wheeling Township fire district from breaking the pact.

"There is a court-ordered agreement, and my understanding is that it can be changed only if Prospect Heights forms its own fire department," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "I expect them to honor that."

The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District is not a municipal department but a free-standing

fire district. Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. said that it has long been a goal for the city to be covered by only one fire department.

"One thing that has always been a confusing issue to me is, a small community like Prospect Heights is covered by four different departments," Gould said. "People are taxed at four different (property tax) rates. There are only 15,000 people."

The offer also furthers the aim of the Wheeling Township fire board to go out of business. The fire district exists only on paper — it has no firefighters, no equipment — and taxes residents for the sole purpose of contracting with the village of Wheeling for fire protection at more than \$500,000 a year. Board members say they see no reason for the fire district to continue when most of its territory is within Prospect Heights.

"The end (goal) of this board is to dissolve," confirmed Wheeling

See FIRE on Page 4

fire district.

Wheeling Township fire board attorney Karl R. Ottosen said he believes the contract with Wheeling can be broken.

"This district at any time can contract with whomever it wants," Ottosen said.

Wheeling Township fire district trustees and Prospect Heights officials, including Mayor Edward P. Rotchford, have called for the change. They said the Wheeling Fire Department doesn't reach emergencies on the east side of the district in Prospect Heights fast enough.

That raises the ire of long time Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato.

"I don't feel our fire department handles anything inadequately," she said Thursday. "It constantly



disturbs me to hear our fire department handles things inadequately."

With the additional areas, the current population of 8,500 in the Prospect Heights Rural district would nearly double.

"Everybody is in favor of it. We have to work the details out. We have to figure the dollars and cents to put it together," said Wheeling Township fire board President Anthony Carlin, noting financial details of the change haven't been set yet.

Wheeling Township fire district residents now pay a tax rate of 40 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation for fire protection, while homeowners in the Prospect Heights rural district pay 91 cents.

Gould, meanwhile, said that with

the additional residents the Prospect Heights Rural Fire District would build a second fire station, across the street from the city's public works building at 401 E. Piper Lane.

He said construction of the new station would be funded by diverting more than half of the money formerly paid to the Wheeling Township fire district, officials said.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said his department receives 23 percent of its emergency calls from the Wheeling Township fire district.

"They have yet to make a formal proposal to the village of Wheeling," said MacIsaac, who added that it's too early to know the full impact of the change on his department.

Daily Herald Graphic



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

**Pot luck** *Countryside 6-8-95*  
 Wheeling Historical Society member Grace Kostrzewski and her 11-year-old grandson Todd Kostrzewski collect money for the "pot o' gold" raffle at the 25th anniversary party of the society May 24 at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

# Fifth-graders share ideas on redevelopment district

6-5-95

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

As a concerned Wheeling resident, Holly Stangland would like to see an entertainment complex built in the heart of the town's redevelopment district.

The venue she hopes to see there would cater to families and include a variety of attractions along with a safety fence in front to keep inquisitive children from wandering onto busy Milwaukee Avenue.

"It's going to have an ice rink, a bowling alley, a movie theater and an arcade," Stangland said.

"They don't really have anything there now," she said, complaining about the area's lack of amenities.

And while her suggestion to Wheeling officials is similar to one made by village trustee candidates recently, there is a difference between the people offering the idea. The candidates are adults with homes, jobs and political experience, while Holly Stangland is 11

years old.

And the suggestion she offered to Wheeling officials is a part of a special project the fifth-grade students at Tarkington School in Wheeling are working on.

With access to reports, maps and advice from Wheeling officials, the fifth-grade students are working on developing ideas from the village's 125-acre redevelopment district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Long an area of concern for the village, the students are working on a real-world problem teachers hope will require them to ask questions of politicians, business people and municipal officials to get ideas on what developments are viable for stimulating that area's economy and local interest.

"I think it's kind of neat they're doing this problem-based learning. I think it's great they're working on this problem and that they've had the involvement of the village staff," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"I have no idea what they'll come up with. And I'm looking forward to it. They have talked with the village staff and village president on several occasions," he said.

The idea developed by teachers Carol Pincombe, Lisa Warner, Caryn Milstone and Helene May required students to break into committees for village land use, needs assessment, data collection and architecture to research the area.

"It's a problem without a solution. It's a problem where they're not trying to solve it with an answer that exists," said Warner. "It's an answer they create."

Additionally, the students called officials and business people in other communities to find how they revitalized their towns. The project also requires the students to use math, English and communication skills to develop solutions.

The four got the idea for the project from a Cooper Junior High School project last year that sought design ideas from students for London Middle School. Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 officials are reopening the school this fall as a way to ease overcrowding in the burgeoning school system.

"It's a good chance for the kids not



Tom Fennell, Wheeling's director of building and zoning, fields questions from Tarkington School fifth-grade students as a part of their project to find ideas on how to arrange the village's redevelopment area.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

only to solve problems, but it shows them what you learn in school can be used in the real world," Pincombe said.

In a short time they became as well acquainted with the basics of planning as well as any of the village's homeowners.

When Megan Wrice, 11, for instance, proposed riverboat gambling for the Des Plaines River near the area, another student reminded her she would need a state permit for a floating casino.

"It makes a lot of money and it would help the community. It's fun and it would help attract people to Wheeling," she said about the idea that also was suggested recently by a Wheeling trustee candidate.

Some of the ideas they offered featured "adding an Enchanted Castle," a children's amusement center, to the intersection.

Other ideas they had include having a botanical garden there, repainting roads, improving sidewalks, adding a bus station, adding a pedestrian bridge over the intersection, razing abandoned buildings, placing landscaping in the district and even building a 1950s theme restaurant.

"We just got off this 1950s unit," said 10-year old Cary Wolovick. "It



Lisa Zaborko is one of the Tarkington School students in committees that studied Wheeling's redevelopment area.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin



Tarkington fifth-graders are briefed by Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson about redevelopment issues. The project required students to seek advice from a variety of sources.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

would be exciting to have something by that (vacant) Mobil gas station," at the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection.

Two teams making up a total of 15 students will present their ideas to

Wheeling officials at tonight's village board meeting.

"We want to make models of what fits in that area so we know what looks good and what would be best," said 11-year-old Nancy Sonneschein.

# Village opts for June 25 parade date

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

6-8-95

COUNTRYSIDE

Marching bands and floats will not grace Wheeling's streets this Fourth of July, which has some residents wondering why.

If you're hoping to see a local parade this summer, you'll want to line the streets at 2 p.m. June 25, the day the village has chosen for its Founders Day parade to celebrate the incorporation of Wheeling.

The village had its first Founders Day parade in 1994 to commemorate Wheeling's centennial. Earlier this year, the Village Board again decided to forgo the Fourth of July parade for a Founders Day parade.

"The people who worked on the parade last year said a parade on a day other than the Fourth was beneficial," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

For one, the new parade date coincides with the Wheeling Park District's Picnic in the Park event and leads into St. Joseph's Familyfest which runs June 30-July 4. The timing creates a community event that is "more than a parade," she said.

"A lot of people have too many activities on the Fourth," Schultz said. "Most important is the availability of groups for the parade. Demand is high on the Fourth of July. We're kind of spread-

ing it around."

Despite having a Founders Day parade instead of a Fourth of July parade, Schultz said, Wheeling will still have its fireworks display July 4 at Heritage Park.

Schultz's concern now is informing residents that the parade will be on June 25 rather than the Fourth.

"It probably won't be as spectacular as the centennial parade. There will be more people involved from groups in town, more of a community parade is what we'd like to do," she said.

Schultz said after people ask, they generally agree that the founder's day parade date makes sense.

But one resident, William Spangenberg, disagrees. Spangenberg, who ran unsuccessfully for village trustee in April, said he'll run again in 1997 with hopes of reinstating the village's Fourth of July parade.

"I don't think the Fourth of July should be tampered with," Spangenberg said. "Keeping the Fourth of July as the Fourth of July is something that could lead to more awareness among children and adults of what people had to go through to found this country."

Those who signed the Declaration of Independence made a much more significant gesture than those who signed the incorporation papers for Wheeling, he said.

"Back in those days a king was a king. If you read the Declaration of Independence, it's hot stuff. Anyone who put his name on that was looking at a noose for treason," Spangenberg said.

"Compare all of that to the incorporation of a village in Illinois in the United States in 1894 — it's not like the founding of the country," he said.

Spangenberg said he understands canceling the Fourth of July parade in 1994, opting instead to celebrate the centennial with a parade.

"For that particular year I can understand. Why have two parades in eight days? But to make Founders Day a permanent substitute for the Fourth of July does not sit well with me," he said.

The Founders Day parade "will lose its significance as time goes on," he added.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who worked on the village's Fourth of July committee for years, said she would like to hear which parade residents prefer and which date is better for bands and organizations who want to be involved.

"The Founders Day parade was last year and the special events committee thought it would be good going forward with it to get more units into the village parade and to dedicate the fountain," Abruscato said.

The village plans to dedicate its centennial fountain in front of Village Hall on parade day.

# Pub calls it quits after parking debate

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

6-8-95

COUNTRYSIDE

Despite a three-month parking extension granted by the village, Hein's Pub & Restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue closed rather than continue its fight against the village's parking requirements.

Howard Kagay, of Progress Investments in Arlington Heights which owns the property at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., said pub owner Joseph Adornetto never re-opened his business after his liquor license expired April 30.

Adornetto presented trustees with a petition signed by more than 500 residents, patrons and fellow business owners asking that a parking variance be granted to allow Hein's Pub to remain in business.

Though the pub opened in June 1974, parking was not an issue until the late '80s, Adornetto said. On

May 1, trustees gave Adornetto and Kagay three more months to come up with adequate parking for the pub. Since 1987, trustees have granted four extensions in which to resolve the parking situation.

"That didn't matter," Kagay said of the village's extension. "That wasn't enough time. And you'd still have to have the required parking at the end of that time. It doesn't make sense to leave someone hanging."

Both Kagay and Adornetto told trustees there was no problem with parking at the strip mall, despite how many parking spaces the village required.

"The village was unreasonable, I thought, because we didn't have parking problems. They just wanted us out of there," Kagay said. "It was unreasonable for the village to close it up, and the cost to fight it was too expensive."

Adornetto said he

decided to close the bar rather than give Kagay rent money for the next three months. Trustee Judy Abruscato at the May 1 meeting chastised Kagay for his apparent unwillingness to cooperate with Adornetto to find additional parking.

"First of all, I was not getting any support from my landlord and I was getting no guarantee at the end of the three months from the village," Adornetto said.

"Financially, it just wasn't feasible. Had they given me a year instead of 90 days I probably would have kept the doors open," he said.

Timing also swayed Adornetto's decision toward closing because so many people vacation in the summer and others prefer outdoor activities to being inside a tavern.

Adornetto said he believes some conflicts still exist between Kagay and the village, and that Kagay (Continued on page 16)

# Wheeling, firefighters set 1-year contract

6-10-95

**"We certainly are happy, and the firefighters are happy, too."**

—Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson

Wheeling firefighters agreed to a new one-year labor contract with the village that gives them a 3 percent pay raise.

Wheeling trustees and the firefighters union this week agreed to the new one-year contract that is retroactive to May 1.

"We certainly are happy, and the firefighters are happy, too," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The new agreement follows the two-year pact the firefighters had with the village. That contract expired April 30.

With the new contract that gives them an across-the-board pay raise, firefighters at the bottom of the pay scale will see starting salaries increase from \$30,400 to

firefighters and lieutenants.

Wheeling again maintained its position that it wanted to be in the middle range of what area towns pay firefighters, officials said.

There were no changes in benefits, including health insurance. The village will continue to pay for full coverage of the firefighters and their dependents.

Leipzig said the union did not agree to another two-year pact because village officials were seeking to have firefighters pay for some parts of their health insurance in the second year.

While fire talks are finished, village negotiations with police and police support personnel are still under way.

The patrol officers contract with the village also expired April 30.

That four-year agreement covered about 50 sworn officers.

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-14-95

# Moderate fire code proposal OK'd

Wheeling trustees revised the village fire code but did not impose requirements calling for fire sprinklers in almost all buildings except single-family houses.

Wheeling trustees recently voted 4-3, with Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz casting the tie-breaking vote, for updating the fire code to require fire sprinklers in new buildings, those mostly destroyed by fire or those that are enlarged.

The Wheeling village board did

not choose the more stringent proposal that would have required fire sprinklers to be retrofitted in most commercial, industrial and multifamily residential buildings within a decade.

"I think the more stringent of these options will be perceived as something the village is doing to business instead of for business," Trustee Patrick Horcher said prior to casting his no vote.

Officials opposed to the 10-year retrofitting requirement argued that the costs of installing those sprinklers would be too expensive

for small business owners.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac, who, with Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson, pushed for the more restrictive measure, said it would lower insurance rates.

MacIsaac also said that it would keep businesses in Wheeling.

"Most businesses that have a fire don't come back," he said.

Lou Kolssak, owner of the Kolssak Funeral Home in Wheeling, said the more stringent fire sprinkler requirement could keep businesses from moving to the town.

"I really feel it's important to keep a good climate and keep people coming back here," he said. "It's tough selling Wheeling being next to Northbrook."

MacIsaac said about 80 percent of the buildings in town have sprinklers. He said the ones lacking sprinklers are mostly more than 40 years old and made of more flammable materials.

He reiterated his argument for the more restrictive measure noting Vernon Hills has a similar ordinance and it hasn't hurt business development in that community.

# Wheeling rural fire district eyes land swap

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

The village of Wheeling stands to lose about \$500,000 a year if the Wheeling Rural Fire District goes through with plans to transfer land served by Wheeling firefighters to the Prospect Heights Fire Department.

Although Wheeling has a contract with the Rural Fire District for fire protection and emergency medical services, Wheeling village officials have not yet been notified of any changes under consideration by the Rural Fire District.

The Rural Fire District expects to formalize a plan next week that will place 65 percent of the district under the protection of the Prospect Heights Rural Fire District, said Peter Urban, a trustee on the Wheeling Rural Fire Board.

## Tax increase

The Fire District also plans to ask voters for a 35 cents increase in its tax rate, raising taxes from 40 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation to 75 cents. He is not sure when the district will put the issue up for referendum.

"It is a no-frills budget. We are running a pretty efficient operation here," Urban said. "Our tax rate is exceedingly low because it has been the policy of the board to return excess to taxpayers."

The increase is necessary to maintain the level of service provided in the Rural Fire District.

Residents who have complaints or remarks about the new jurisdiction areas may attend the Fire Board's 7:30 p.m. meeting July 11 at the Palwaukee Airport Administration Building, 1020 Industrial Drive.

## Logic

District residents who are served by Wheeling and Buffalo Grove fire departments could be served by Prospect Heights as early as Aug. 1, Urban said.

"It's a question of looking at a map and logic," Urban said, noting that experts studied the district and came up with the recommendations. "It's a logical distribution of the area," he added.

The Fire Board's 7:30 p.m. meeting July 11 is at the Palwaukee Airport Administration Building, 1020 Industrial Drive.

At one location being transferred to Prospect Heights' jurisdiction, Urban said, there is no hydrant nearby so, although a Wheeling fire station was physically closer to the site, Prospect Heights has a 3,000-gallon tanker it would bring to fight the blaze.

"It adds another level of safety," he said.

Although this decision will eventually change the Rural Fire District's contract with the village of Wheeling, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village hasn't yet received any formal notice of what the Rural Fire District has proposed.

## Contract

"If they're trying to change anything, I think they need to let us know in some formal manner," Anderson said. "They haven't presented us with a proposal yet. We only know what we've read."

Since the early '80s, the Rural Fire District has contracted fire protection service from Wheeling, averaging about \$500,000 a year, Anderson said.

"They have a contract with us and I assume they'll honor the contract," he said. "They have not consulted with us at all. When they do, we'll go from there."

Anderson said the Wheeling Fire Department has an average response time of five minutes to any call it receives from anywhere in its coverage area.

Firefighters and paramedics do not use sirens and emergency lights for non-emergency calls which, if they did, would make the average response time even less, he said.

"We rarely get a complaint about response time," he added.

During the discussion with Chief MacIsaac, trustees questioned sprinklers' accuracy, but MacIsaac said, sprinklers have been around for over 100 years. Chances are slim that a sprinkler system would go off accidentally and ruin property where no fire exists, he said.

"Sprinklers are very accurate," MacIsaac said, noting that they are controlled by temperature. Contrary to how sprinklers are portrayed on television, he said, sprinklers go off individually, only in areas where the temperature is high enough to trigger them.

Earlier this year, sprinklers saved the Knight Printing building at 593 N. Wolf Road from extensive fire damage, he said.

# Wheeling board members approve peer jury program for troubled youths

By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board has given the nod to a peer jury program hoping to reach youths before they end up going through the court system.

The jury would consist of local youths who would mete out a community service project for a peer who has been arrested for a minor crime.

The program would be run by the Wheeling Police Department and is modeled after one now in use in Hoffman Estates.

Wheeling police Sgt. Tony Cinquegrani said the police department's role in the process would be to recommend to parents of kids

who confess to a crime their options. Depending on the offense, the police would send the matter could go to the courts or to the peer jury.

Chief Michael Haeger said the program is a way to keep some youths out of the court system.

Haeger said the department now has a system called station adjusted in which police decide not to send some youths through the court system.

Myrna Goldsmith, who administers the Hoffman Estates program, said the system is based on youths in trouble being held accountable for their actions by their peers.

The peer jury disciplines youths through community service work. The work could include having youths

arrested for starting fires working with fire victims, for example.

Goldsmith said the juries hand out the disciplines based on talking with the youths.

"The jury asks them questions about themselves," Goldsmith said. "The purpose is not to demean them."

Goldsmith said the Hoffman Estates program has a 90 to 95 percent rate of non-repeat offenders over a period of two to three years. The program handles 60 to 65 youths a year and they serve about 3,000 hours of community service.

Once the youth is brought before the peer jury, the police give a brief summary of what happened and leave the rest to the jury, Cinquegrani said.

# Sprinklers get yes vote

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

All new construction in Wheeling, with the exception of single-family homes, is now required to be equipped with a sprinkler system.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac told trustees the village needed a new sprinkler ordinance because the village's previous ordinance had outlived its usefulness, mainly because it did not include townhome construction.

Language concerning retrofitting, which would bring current buildings up to code by adding a sprinkler system, was the deciding factor in which of the two proposed ordinances trustees would approve.

MacIsaac said 80 percent of the businesses in Wheeling already have sprinklers, so they would not be affected by any retrofitting requirement.

"Businesses can recoup some of the expense by saving on their (fire) insurance premiums," MacIsaac said. "Sprinklers are life safety and property

protection."

## No retrofit

Trustees passed the ordinance that requires sprinklers for all new construction, including townhomes but excluding single-family homes, and retrofitting when a fire hazard is increased, when the occupancy is increased or when the building area is increased, also excluding residential properties.

Village President Sheila Schultz cast the deciding vote to adopt the ordinance by siding with Trustees Pat Horcher, Robert Todd and Judy Abruscato.

Trustees did not consider the second version which would have required retrofitting for all businesses within 10 years, an ordinance Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said she would have supported because of increased safety and potential savings to business owners.

"I think the extra precautions would save lives," Hartman said. "The cost of the new sprinkler system would be paid off in about seven years" through de-

ductions on insurance premiums, she said.

Trustee Wayne Wisinski agreed, saying he would prefer that all businesses have sprinklers.

Trustee Bob Heer, however, said he voted no because he feels the village already has an adequate sprinkler ordinance.

"Eighty percent of the village is already fitted with sprinklers and it seems to be working," Heer said. "Why put an undue hardship on those businesses? At this point we are trying to entice business to town, not chase them away."

Heer said the approved ordinance will benefit the village, but he would prefer that some language be better defined. For example, he questioned whether businesses with a residence upstairs would be classified as a business or residential use under the ordinance.

Lou Kolssak, owner of Kolssak Funeral Home at 189 S. Milwaukee Ave., argued against retrofitting, telling trustees that it would eventually hurt the village.

(Continued on page 17)

"It's hard enough to attract people into Wheeling. It's hard enough to sell Wheeling," Kolssak said. Retrofitting would put a financial hardship on small business owners and would interrupt their business during installation.

# New food store preparing to check in

6-13-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It looks as if a new food store will open soon in the Wheeling Shopping Center space formerly held by Franklin's Finer Foods.

Fresh Farms, a store featuring fresh produce and imported foods, could open as early as Thursday if it passes the village's final health inspections, said owner Dean Svigos.

Svigos said about 60 percent of sales at the 13,000 square-foot store will come from produce.

"Everything in the store is basically fresh unless it's imported," he said.

Earlier this year, a store called The Water Market was slated to open at the space in the shopping center, but Svigos bought out the partnership and changed the store's name.

He owns four other similar food stores in Chicago, Skokie and Waukegan.

Wheeling officials are happy that a new grocery store is occupying the space formerly held by Franklin's Finer Foods for five

years before fire destroyed the building.

"I am very anxious for you to open," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz told Svigos recently.

The store will include meats, fish and other specialties including ethnic foods such as the Greek delicacy baklava, a 36-foot long deli counter and everyday items such as trash bags.

The store is located at the well-traveled Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection in the heart of Wheeling's redevelopment district.

During the last election the need for grocery stores in Wheeling became a campaign issue.

Some trustee candidates pointed to the closing of the Dominick's Finer Foods store at the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center and the then empty-Franklin's Finer Foods space as an indication of the village's poor support of local businesses.

Currently, the village is considering a request from the Elgin-based Butera Finer Foods chain for financial incentives in return for moving into the space formerly held by Dominick's.



Wheeling Police Cpl. John Teevans talks to Kilmer school students about bicycle safety while District 21 board members wait to ride to the next school on the tour.

## Signs hold up grocer's opening

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

For months, residents have driven past 291 E. Dundee wondering when the "Opening soon" signs at the former Franklin Foods would be changed to "Grand opening."

Residents have been without a local grocery since Franklin Foods was destroyed by fire in December 1993.

Much to the surprise of village officials, owner Dean Svigos announced at last week's Village Board meeting that his grocery store, Fresh Farms, is ready to open at the site, and has been for a while.

However, Svigos said he didn't want to open the grocery store until the signs were approved by the village and in place.

"This does not preclude you from opening," Village President Sheila Schultz said about the review process.

"There's no reason to open

## Signs

Continued from page 5

sign along Dundee Road that identifies the Wheeling Shopping Center.

The village's sign ordinance does not allow individual store signs on the pylon signs.

An exception was made for Riverside Plaza at the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, and trustees were expected to discuss changes to the sign ordinance at a workshop meeting Monday.

"Defering it may help to create greater consistency," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Svigos also wants a 14-foot tall freestanding Fresh Farms sign along Milwaukee Avenue to attract customers.

Trustees seemed puzzled as to why Svigos delayed his grand opening simply because his signs were not yet approved.

"Everyone in this village is waiting for you to open," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "This sign is not going to make your business."

Grand-opening banners, which are allowed in Wheeling, could be used to draw more attention to the store than any identification sign, said Villager Community Development Director Michael Klitzke.

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"Grand-opening banners would draw some attention, people know you're there."

## Firefighters agree to contract

year, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Rather than have Anderson serve as the village's chief negotiator, Joni Beaudry, assistant village manager, (Continued on page 15)

ager, headed the village's negotiating team this year.

"It worked well this year," Anderson said. Beaudry is currently negotiating the police officers' contract that also expired April 30, and already has been named as the village's negotiator for the next firefighters' contract.

In the new contract, fire personnel received an across-the-board 3 percent salary increase.

A beginning firefighter now earns \$30,889. Firefighters at the top of the pay scale, after six merit/seniority steps, are paid \$43,643.

Firefighter/paramedic salary ranges from \$32,898 to \$46,987.

A lieutenant's salary ranges from \$38,738 to \$54,822, but lieutenants who maintain their paramedic status receive an additional \$2,000 per year.

Thirty-nine firefighters and lieutenants are covered by the new contract.

bargaining table in a little over six months.

The contract, effective May 1, expires April 30, 1996. Negotiations for the firefighters' next contract probably will begin shortly after the new

Wheeling firefighters and the village recently agreed to a one-year labor contract, but both sides could be at the

Though trustees selected the smaller signs, they include a different type style and color than what is allowed in the Wheeling Shopping Center, and both included a store logo, which also is not allowed. The sign does comply with the village's size limitations.

In addition to signs on the store's facades, Svigos has asked that a Fresh Farms sign be added to the pylon (Continued on page 17)



Wheeling officer John Teevans talks to Kilmer School students about bike safety while District 21 board members Cari Beecher, Arlen Gould and Phil Pritzker stand by. The school was one of several the board members visited on their safety tour.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

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Brian O'Mahony/Pioneer Press

Countrywide 6-15-95

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By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

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However, Svigos said he didn't want to open the grocery store until the signs were approved by the village and in place.

"This does not preclude you from opening," Village President Sheila Schultz said about the review process.

"There's no reason to open without a sign," Svigos said. "A store without a sign has no identity."

Of two sizes Svigos asked trustees to consider, they unanimously chose the smaller size to be placed on the store's east and north facades.

"The problem with a smaller sign is (that) people are driving by at 40 miles an hour on Dundee," Svigos said. "Signs are very important."

Though trustees selected the smaller signs, they include a different type style and color than what is allowed in the Wheeling Shopping Center, and both included a store logo, which also is not allowed. The sign does comply with the village's size limitations.

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"There are provisions for temporary signs, but probably not on the pylon sign," Klitzke said. "Grand-opening banners would draw some attention, let people know you're there."

**Founder Day Parade kicks off June 25**  
The Special Events Committee of the Village of Wheeling is sponsoring a Founder's Day Parade to be held Sunday, June 25. The all-town parade will kick off from K-Mart at 2 p.m. and go down Dundee Road to Wolf and end at Holmes Junior High School. Following the parade, the Village fountain will be dedicated in front of the Village Hall. The Wheeling Park District will continue the town activities with their Picnic in the Park at the east side of the Community Recreation Center beginning at 4 p.m. Activities include food vendors and music. For more information on the Founders Day Parade, call the Village at 459-2600.

Countrywide 6-23-95

## Firefighters agree to contract

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling firefighters and the village recently agreed to a one-year labor contract, but both sides could be at the bargaining table in a little over six months.

The contract, effective May 1, expires April 30, 1996. Negotiations for the firefighters' next contract probably will begin shortly after the new



Wheeling officer John Teevans talks to Kilmer School students about bike safety while District 21 board members Cari Beecher, Arlen Gould and Phil Pritzker stand by. The school was one of several the board members visited on their safety tour.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

choice, Parkway

Countrywide 6-23-95

# House panel holds ticket to rail project



By MICHELLE MARTIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The last round of federal funding for the Wisconsin Central Railroad moved forward this week when it was approved by a key congressional subcommittee.

Metra officials and representatives of U.S. Rep. John Porter say they're optimistic that the full Appropriations Committee will give the bill approval when it comes up in the next few weeks.

"It's extremely rare for the full committee to go against the subcommittee," said Metra spokesman Tom Miller.

The commuter rail agency already has received more than \$35 million from the federal government for the project. The final \$14.4 million will be used to make track and signal improvements.

Communities that will have sta-

tions along the 53-mile rail line will put up \$20 million for stations and parking lots.

Metra, which expects to have seven trains a day running on the line by the spring of 1996, will pay the rest of the \$96 million price tag.

The line will run from Antioch to Franklin Park, where riders will be able to change lines to go into Chicago.

Porter, a Wilmette Republican, has tracked the funding for the project closely, said press secretary David Kohn.

"He had to be on top of it all the way along," Kohn said. "Especially in this era of budget-cutting, you can't assume that any project will be OK."

Because of that, Porter accompanied Metra officials when they went to subcommittee hearings on

the project and kept in touch with subcommittee members, Kohn said.

Porter is on the Appropriations Committee, which will consider the bill soon, he said.

But Kohn said the bipartisan efforts of the Illinois congressional delegation also deserve praise.

Rep. Richard Durbin, a Springfield Democrat, is on the transportation subcommittee.

The Wisconsin Central project has generally won wide support on the transportation subcommittee because of the amount of local funding involved and the size of the federal contributions, Kohn said.

## Pace, Metra to team up on Wisconsin Central line

By C. L. WALLER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Commuter rail lines often rely on support from public buses. And so will Metra's new Wisconsin Central line, which starts next spring.

Representatives of Metra and Pace on Thursday updated about 35 members of the Transportation Management Association of Lake County about plans for the commuter line and how companies can tie into bus routes or shuttle systems to train depots.

Once the commuter line is running, Pace will use a federal grant to operate a bus route from station to station for the first two years of operation, said Pace spokesman Richard L. Brazda.

He said he expects heavy bus use, based on experience with other rail lines, which see 1,200 to 1,900 rides per day.

Pace also is planning a new bus route from Gurnee to job centers around Lake-Cook Road, Brazda said.

Pace marketing and development spokesman Anthony X. Aburaad III said employers also can sign up for the Pace van shuttle program. More than 180 vans are in the pool.

The Pace shuttle costs employers \$720 per month, in contrast to a company operating its own van for \$1,000 per month over and above the cost of the vehicle itself, Aburaad said. The fare for each rider is \$75 per month.

Now operating solely as a freight line, Wisconsin Central is expected to begin sharing its single track with Metra commuter rail cars next spring. Passengers, boarding at stations being built by communities along the line, will be able

**"The freight traffic has picked up considerably since we began talking with the Wisconsin Central."**

— Betty Gloyd,  
Metra spokeswoman

to use the line to hook into the Northwest and Milwaukee-north commuter lines as well as travel to O'Hare International Airport.

At the start, however, the railway will have only three trains to Chicago between 7 and 8 a.m. and three trains returning between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. One midday train will make a round trip.

Bill Dineen of Motorola Inc. in Libertyville said most companies are looking for the reverse commute on the commuter line.

To have a "serious reverse commute" there needs to be another track built, Metra spokeswoman Betty Gloyd said.

She said the Wisconsin Central aggressively markets its freight system, which will continue to run on the same track as the commuter cars. "The freight traffic has picked up considerably since we began talking with the Wisconsin Central," Gloyd said.

She is confident that once the Wisconsin Central is running, more federal money will be available to add a track.

The association is trying to provide options to residents commuting through Lake County.

### Grass roots

Though trustees were pleased the restaurant finally was removed, Village President Sheila Schultz questioned why the property was never seeded with grass.

Terzakis said he was unaware the vil-

If Checkers officials still hope to build a drive-through restaurant at the corner of Dundee and Wheeling roads, they'll have to ask the village of Wheeling to re-issue its special use permit.

Trustees last week unanimously revoked the permit they granted in June 1993, when the restaurant was proposed.

In the last two years, no progress on the site was evident until just a couple of months ago when Checkers razed the abandoned Brown's Chicken restaurant there.

"There are things that happened beyond our control," said John Terzakis, a representative of Checkers. "We did show good faith and took down the eyesore."

### Long lease

Terzakis noted that Checkers has a 20-year lease for the property. Because no construction was started on the corner, Terzakis told trustees he has been approached by other businesses wanting to purchase the property.

"It's a good corner," he said. "Under

While debating whether the special use permit should be revoked, Trustee Judy Abruscato said, "Residents are out there questioning us — 'We thought we'd have a building up there.' We are here to see our community progress and we're not progressing."

Rather than have the village take away the special use, Terzakis volunteered to have it revoked, but told trustees he intends to re-apply once Checkers has secured financing.

"I would like to come before this board again," he said. "We're just delayed. This is a multi-million dollar expansion project that has been delayed. It's not just this one location, it's not just Wheeling."

### Paperwork

"I would hate to go through this whole process again for the same project," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

"We do want business in town and we do want Checkers in town," Trustee Bob Heer said.

Terzakis can re-apply at any time, Rhodes said, noting that completed paperwork would already be on file with the village would not have to be repeated.

"The process is not the same as some new business coming in," Rhodes said.

no circumstances will our company keep that property vacant for 20 years."

Village Attorney James Rhodes said revoking the special use permit prevents a business other than Checkers from building on that corner.

"If any use came in, it already has a special use granted for a drive-through," Rhodes said. "It does not have to go through a public hearing."

Trustees were concerned that revoking the permit would delay the construction of Checkers' once financing is arranged, but Rhodes said the process could be accelerated.

# Time runs out on Checker permit

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

lodge wanted the lot seeded, and indicated that would be done within the week.

no circumstances will our company keep that property vacant for 20 years."

## Neighbors object to town-house plan

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some neighbors of a proposed town-house development in Wheeling are objecting to the plan saying it will hurt their neighborhood and the village.

The residents recently raised objections to a plan by developers Joseph Freed & Associates to build a 44-unit town house development on the site of the former Billy & Co. restaurant at 124 S. Milwaukee Avenue.

The residents said the development would infringe on property

used by nearby Walt Whitman School as a play area for its students.

The neighbors also said that the development would reduce area land values.

Wheeling trustees voted 4-2 to have officials negotiate with the owners of the 7.8 acre parcel to purchase the land.

The development is in the village's redevelopment area that they are using tax incremental funds to refurbish.

"I feel every step forward in the process (to acquire the land) is a dangerous step," said neighbor

Elaine Gibson.

Trustee Robert J. Heer said his daughter attended Whitman School and he shares the neighbors' concerns about the plan.

"I'm not in favor of town homes on that property," Heer said.

Wheeling officials said that before anything is built on the land the developer would have to have the project reviewed by the village first.

"There is discussion about the land based on all of its uses," Wheeling village Attorney James A. Rhodes said to assure residents that officials wouldn't ignore their

concerns.

Heer said that residents would prefer commercial development along Milwaukee Avenue instead of a mix of residential and commercial properties.

In the T1F district, the assessments of properties are frozen for a period. Later, public improvements in the district are funded by revenue received from those sites by increased sales and property taxes.

Wheeling targeted a 125-acre area at the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection as a way to stimulate growth of the local economy.

# New fire contract may hit home to Wheeling

6-22-95  
 "Obviously, it would create a big hole in the budget, not insurmountable," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Schultz said that in the short term, cash reserves could make up the shortfall. She also said the department probably won't have to lay off any employees to compensate for the loss, but admits the vil-

age budget would be affected. Wheeling has provided fire protection to the fire district since 1982. Last year, Wheeling firefighters responded to nearly 800 fire and medical calls from the district. MacIsaac said about 500 of those were from Prospect Heights, 300 from the unincorporated area.

Still in question are the unincorporated areas that were not included in the new contract for coverage with the Prospect Heights Rural Fire District.

Wheeling officials said Tuesday they will continue to cover those areas until a separate arrangement is made.

Fire board President Anthony Carlin said he hopes to negoti-

Equipment purchases, capital projects, outside training might have to be delayed, deferred or cut," said Wheeling Fire Department Chief Keith S. MacIsaac.

"Long-term, money that's lost would have to be made up somehow," he said, noting village officials could consider a tax increase or a new ambulance fee to make up the lost revenue.

This week, the Wheeling Rural

Fire Protection District Board voted to alter the town's share of its contract with the village of Wheeling. The fire district, responsible for providing fire protection for large tracts of Prospect Heights and unincorporated Wheeling Township, on Tuesday signed a new contract with the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District to cover the Prospect Heights areas of the district. The change goes into effect Aug. 1.

The contract is worth \$374,000 for the remaining nine months of the fiscal year, and about \$530,000 for the entire year.

Although the figure changes slightly each year, Wheeling generally gets more than \$500,000 annually from the fire district. That money accounts for about 16 percent of the Wheeling Fire Department's \$3.5 million budget.

Wheeling residents still can go to sleep at night knowing they are protected by a full-time fire department.

However, the impact of a potential \$374,000 loss — Wheeling has lost the contract to give fire protection to most of the city of Prospect Heights — may be costly.

## FIRE: Wheeling department to lose \$500,000 annual deal

See FIRE, on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

ate another agreement with the Wheeling Fire Department to cover the unincorporated areas.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said she would consider such an agreement. She would also question how the change affects the residents.

"You have to remember, people are involved here. Not land," she said.

Meanwhile, Wheeling officials said Wednesday they have not determined if they'll take any legal action over the Wheeling Township fire board's contract change.

Wheeling Township fire officials have said that the change in fire protection was needed to improve response times to emergencies on the district's east side.

## Wheeling board OKs new panel to referee human rights disputes

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday night adopted a new human rights ordinance that calls for the formation of a commission to mediate such disputes in the village.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved the new ordinance, even though the village largely has no disciplinary powers in such matters.

The ordinance is designed to mediate disputes residents may have over housing, credit transactions, real estate transactions, public accommodations, contracts or employment issues.

The new ordinance, which takes effect immediately, calls for the formation of a five-member ad hoc panel to mediate disputes. Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz did not say when she would be making appointments.

If people involved in a human rights complaint are not satisfied with the decision of the panel, the ordinance specifies that they be given information on how to take the matter to

county, state or federal agencies for review.

Schultz raised a concern that the village might not give complainants adequate information to take disputes to other panels.

"My concern is a person that needs to go on further will get that help here," she said.

Wheeling village attorney James A. Rhodes said that he had revised the wording of the ordinance to include language requiring that such information be provided.

If disputes are not resolved within 120 days, the complainants would be referred to other agencies.

A Wheeling advisory panel first started working on the ordinance in 1993. The ordinance is similar to a Cook County human rights ordinance.

Wheeling officials have said that ordinance excludes such areas as banking because other government agencies regulate those areas more effectively than the village could.

Wheeling officials have said the ordinance was needed to put all the different measures covering rights in one section in its village code.

## Some unincorporated areas worried about fire protection

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

While most residents of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District are secure that their fire and paramedic protection will continue uninterrupted, a few of their neighbors are concerned.

Most of the fire district will be covered by the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District after Aug. 1. But there are some unincorporated areas that weren't included in the deal.

And while the Wheeling Fire Department has pledged to continue fire protection to those areas, some residents are concerned.

Tina Dean, who lives in an unincorporated area near Wheeling, said that when the Wheeling Township fire board abandoned

most of its contract for coverage with the Wheeling Fire Department, that gave Wheeling the right to abandon the contract altogether. And that's got her worried that she and her home will be left uncovered by everybody.

"The neighbors I talk to about this say, 'Where can you go? What can you do?'" she said. "Who do you sue — the village or the district — for not providing fire protection?"

Meanwhile, Wheeling fire officials acknowledge that the contract breakoff gives Wheeling the right to walk away from giving fire protection to these unincorporated areas. But Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said they won't.

"The residents in one form or another will have fire service," MacIsaac said Wednesday.



Taking a dip

Samantha Rompala, 10, of Grayslake, christened Wheeling's centennial commemorative fountain Sunday at a ceremony at village hall as part of a Founders Day celebration. Looking on is Samantha's sister Melissa, 7.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Wilsh

## Alzheimer's home opens new unit

By CHERI BENTRUP  
 STAFF WRITER

Area residents are invited today to tour the New Perspective Alzheimer Home, a long-term care facility specially designed for Alzheimer/dementia patients.

The facility, at 780 McHenry Road, is open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. today as it celebrates the opening of its third home on the 5-acre property. "A Visit from Abigail," a performance of those affected by Alzheimer's, will be given at 5 p.m. today.

"It looks just like a house, very residential," said Gina O'Connor, director of marketing for New Perspective, of the Wheeling homes. "We have easy chairs, sofas, carpeting, lots of windows. It looks like a regular house but meets their special needs."

The home specializes in care of residents with all types of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.

"Dementia is a progressive, degenerative impairment of cognitive functioning," O'Connor explained, which can include the inability to think logically, to remember and generally accompanies memory loss.

### Social group

The New Perspective home, the only one of its type in the state, is built as a social, group home, O'Connor said. Twelve residents now live in each of the facility's three homes, but have the ability to house 16 each, she said.

Specifically designed for dementia patients, the 5-acre tract is enclosed with a 6-foot high fence, features plenty of outdoor areas and has an indoor walking track, O'Connor said.

"Part of the behavior of Alzheimer's/dementia is to wander," O'Connor said, noting that New Perspectives gives its residents the ability to wander in a safe environment.

(Continued on page 15)

Socialization is also part of the New Perspectives program.

"They do activities that would be normal in any household — setting a table, they have a baking club, they go to area restaurants, stores, jazz concerts," O'Connor said.



## \$135,000 fountain dedicated at anniversary

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sunday will be a big day in Wheeling, just as it was 101 years ago.

To mark Founders Day, the more than century old anniversary of Wheeling's incorporation, village and park officials are planning several festivities.

The fun starts at 2 p.m. with a parade starting at Kmart, 780 McHenry Road, and traveling east on West Dundee Road and then south on Wolf Road. It ends at Holmes Junior High School, 221 S. Wolf Road.

"This will be the place to be this weekend. Stay in town this weekend, activities are going to happen," said Trudy Wakeman, Wheeling Park District promotions director.

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— Trudy Wakeman,  
Wheeling Park District  
promotions director.

The parade will include the Wheeling AMVETS Post 66 Color Guard, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and Wheeling High School Alumni Band.

The parade will be led by grand marshal Jan D'argo.

D'argo headed the village's centennial committee that planned events during the village's 100th anniversary celebration last year.

At 3:30 p.m. there will a dedication of the fountain in front of village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road to commemorate the village's founding.

The 50-foot by 50-foot, \$135,000 fountain designed by Northbrook-based Sente & Rubel Ltd. features a brick walkway, lighting and park benches.

Residents helped to raise funds for the fountain.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that during the dedication ceremony officials will fill a time capsule.

The dedication and parade were organized by the village's special event committee made up of residents.

At 4 p.m., there will be a free Picnic in the Park event at the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center at 333 W. Dundee Road.

The picnic will include food provided by Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza, Baskin-Robbins and the Wheeling Jaycees.

Music will be provided by the Brass Bullet band. Other bands will be featured at the Aquatic Center in July and August.

# Former Wheeling board member appointed to village's plan panel

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
DAILY HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling village board this week appointed former village Trustee Lois J. Gaffke to the plan commission, over objections from three trustees.

Following the first skirmish between trustees loyal to Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz and three who opposed a slate she backed in the spring election, Gaffke received a three-year appointment to the village board advisory panel.



Lois Gaffke

Gaffke, who failed in her bid last April for a second term, was appointed on a 4-3 vote with Schultz breaking the tie.

Gaffke ran on a slate supported by Schultz.

Trustees Robert J. Heer, Patrick Horcher and Judy Abruscato opposed Gaffke's appointment.

Heer said a minority candidate or Stuart Shapiro, another trustee hopeful who lost in the last election, would be a more appropriate choice.

"The people of Wheeling want change, new blood and new opportunity," Heer said.

Schultz said that appointments were made based on the candidates' applications and experi-

ence and not political affiliations.

"I look for people who know the community," Schultz explained.

Trustee Patrick Horcher, who also ran against the Schultz-backed slate last April, called for a review of those being reappointed to their commission posts.

"So many people in the community are looking for a change. That's why Bob and I are here," Horcher said.

Gaffke said her village-service resume includes plan commission experience.

"Having served on the commission from 1986 to 1989, I have the experience," she said.

"It's my first love. It keeps you involved in the community."



### Burying time

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson and Village President Sheila Schultz prepare to bury a time capsule in front of village hall near Wheeling's new commemorative fountain. The fountain was unveiled during Sunday's Founders Day ceremony, celebrating the 101st anniversary of Wheeling's incorporation.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

### Wheeling reschedules meeting

The Wheeling Village Board also canceled its July 3 regular meeting for the Fourth of July holiday and will meet at 8 p.m. July 10 at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

### Homes sought for Paint-A-Thon

The July 15 deadline is approaching for homeowners to apply for their houses to be painted in the 8th Annual Community Paint-A-Thon.

The program's organizers had hoped to top the number of homes painted last year — 21 — but the response hasn't been overwhelming so far, said Nancy Judd of the Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council.

During the Paint-A-Thon on Sept. 9, volunteers paint homes owned and occupied by people with limited financial resources who are over 60 years old or have a permanent disability. The townships participating in the project are Wheeling, Barrington, Hanover Park, Palatine, Schaumburg, Elk Grove, Maines and Niles. To apply to have your home painted, call Catholic Charities at 708-253-5500.



# Residents want to preserve play area

7-6-95  
By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Courtesy*  
Wheeling trustees are moving ahead with plans for the TIF district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, but residents who want some of the land to remain undeveloped are hoping to slow them down.

Trustees last week authorized Village Manager Craig Anderson to acquire the four parcels of property, including the Billy & Co. restaurant site, needed for the proposed development of 44 townhomes along Milwaukee Avenue.

"This is authorization to proceed with acquisition of the parcels," Anderson said. "You're not approving a final purchase amount or the (townhome) proposal. This allows negotiations to proceed."

Earlier this year, trustees named Joseph Freed & Co. the developer of record, allowing the firm to come forward with a proposal for the TIF property. In May, trustees reviewed Freed's preliminary plans that showed 44 townhomes on the 7.8-acre

site.

Trustees Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher voted against granting the authorization after hearing from residents that students at Walt Whitman School, 133 Wille Ave., use some of the targeted property for a play area at recess.

Resident Elaine Gibson told trustees she would prefer to see the land developed commercially, with some reserved for the school.

"There are enough multifamily homes available in the village of Wheeling," Gibson said. "Walt Whitman School has used this land forever without owning it as a playground for the 650 students that attend Walt Whitman School."

Gibson said students came home two days before school was dismissed for the summer with a special homework assignment — each was asked to write a letter to village trustees asking that their play area be saved from development.

"I'd like to know if each one of you have gone to the edge of the blacktop at Walt Whitman Elementary School and turned around and looked at the

amount of property that is left for 650 little children to have recess on after the Billy & Co. property is gone."

A petition from nearby residents opposing the townhome development is forthcoming, Gibson said. "I feel every step forward is a dangerous step," she added.

Whitman student Cindy Hittleman, who enters third grade this fall, told trustees the playground will be too crowded once townhomes are built and "too noisy for the people who live there."

The smaller play area will lead to more injuries and take away space used during the school's fire drills, she said.

"It is not a good place to build townhomes," Hittleman said. "Please don't build townhomes."

Village Attorney James Rhodes said he believes part of the pavement at Whitman is on the targeted property, clarifying that the village is not encroaching on school property.

"Once we acquire this land is it possible to donate some of it to the School District or the Park (Continued on page 21)

District?" Heer asked.

"Is Walt Whitman's lack of play area being taken into consideration?" Horcher said.

Though Gibson said District 21 had hoped to purchase some of the property, the village has not discussed the issue with school officials.

"We have not been contacted by the School District. We're not opposed to talking," Anderson said. The Park District, however, has reminded the village of its comprehensive plan which calls for a park on part of that property, he added.

"I do feel we have some sort of responsibility to notify them of this situation," Horcher said. "They are currently maintaining this property — someone is cutting the grass."

Once the village acquires the property, Horcher said, it should work to find a way to develop the land, yet leave an ample amount for a park and playground.

"I believe the Village Board's responsibility is toward the improvement of the village," Horcher said. "I want to see it developed, but don't forget about the school, don't forget about the kids. Once it's ours, we have control over it."

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman asked whether the village could acquire the land, then sell some to either the School District or Park District. Attorney Rhodes said that would be possible once it is determined

how much of the property is needed for development.

Anderson said it may be possible to create a dry detention area where Whitman students could play.

Village President Sheila Schultz said residents' comments will be welcomed when the proposal is slated for a public hearing. Signs will be posted on the property notifying residents of the public hearing, she said.

"The purpose of TIF is to put pieces of land together to allow for better development," Schultz told the residents.

"There are discussions ongoing with these property owners for about a year now," Rhodes said. "This (action) is to show them the village is serious about acquiring the property."

Trustee Judy Abruscato suggested that trustees grant the authorization to acquire the land to prevent landowners from selling to other developers, leaving the village with no control over the property.

The Billy & Co. restaurant, now owned by the state, is slated for demolition in August, Rhodes added.

The village recently moved ahead with its plans for the northeast corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, also in the TIF district. The village, with financial help from Cole Taylor Bank, purchased the lot and plans to demolish the former service station next month.

# Villages pool money for fire training center

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

1-6-95

Training can be the difference between life and death for a firefighter battling an uncontrollable blaze.

To help prepare local firefighters for whatever they may encounter on the job, the Lake County Board on

**'It's important we can train in a fire situation. We don't want to wait and train on someone's home or business.'**

## Thomas Allenspach

Tuesday is expected to approve a lease for a 30-by-300-foot site along Deerfield Parkway to be used for a fire training facility.

The facility is being built as a cooperative effort between Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Long Grove.

It will be built mostly on property owned by Buffalo Grove, a site southwest of the intersection of Deerfield Parkway and Milwaukee Ave-

nue, near the county's sewage treatment plant. Some of the land will be reserved for a future Buffalo Grove fire station.

## Breaking ground

"Nothing has ever been done like this before," said County Board member David Stolman of Buffalo Grove. "This is the first one of its type in the area."

Stolman expects bids for the project will be requested soon.

"Obviously, the more the firefighters train on the negative in life, the more positive will come out if there is a tragedy," Stolman said. "Once this training facility is up and running I anticipate the county and other villages will use it too."

That's also the hope of three departments already committed to the project.

## Shared cost

As it stands now, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Long Grove are sharing the \$540,000 construction cost, said Buffalo Grove Fire Chief Thomas Allenspach. Those communities are in the second year of a four-year financing agreement, he added.

"That's probably not enough money to do what we want to do, but it will cover the basics," he said.

If more communities become partners in the future, Allenspach said, they will share additional costs of the facility.

Once completed, the facility will allow firefighters to train more often and under more controlled circumstances than currently available, he said.

"It's important we can train in a fire situation. We don't want to wait and train

on someone's home or business," Allenspach said.

## Parts

The facility will consist of a four-story tower and adjoining two-story building.

"The four-story tower will (Continued on page 21)

be used for ladder drills, rescue drills," Allenspach said. The tower's interior can be used for elevator-type rescues and confined-site rescues, he said.

The adjoining building will allow firefighters to train for fires that occur on second floors or even basements, he said. Each floor has an area that can be burned so firefighters actually will be extinguishing the flames.

The three villages recently approved the joint purchase of a Swede Flashover, a piece of equipment that simulates a flashover, Allenspach said. A flashover occurs when materials in a burning room are heated to their ignition point and ignite rapidly, he explained.

"It's hard to train firefighters how to know when a flashover is about to happen," Allenspach said. "This will train firefighters to know when this is beginning to

build."

Future plans for the site may include training drills with flammable liquid fires and railroad car fires, he said.

Currently, firefighters train whenever a house or business is made available to them, usually it's one that has been condemned or scheduled for demolition, Allenspach said.

Because of safety considerations, he said, a building takes three to four days to prepare for the burn.

"We want the training but we want to be safe," Allenspach added. "When we move to the drill facility, it'll be much easier to train."

Besides purchasing training equipment, upgrades to the site will include electricity, water service, drainage and pavement, he said. Initial plans called for construction to begin this fall, but Allenspach said construction beginning in the spring is more likely.

# Developer sets Target on Horcher farm site

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

7-6-95

Since announcing plans in January to build a shopping center on Horcher farm, Centrum Property Services of Chicago has confirmed that Target plans to move to Wheeling.

"Target already has expressed an interest," said John McLinden, executive vice president of Centrum. "They're prepared to go ahead."

In addition to Target, Centrum hopes to attract two additional businesses on the 18.5-acre site, McLinden said. He would not disclose which businesses are interested in occupying the 21,000-square-foot and 40,000-square-foot spaces, except to say they are nationally known.

"There's been a tremendous amount of interest in this site," he said.

Plans, which have been scaled down from 26 acres to 18.5 acres, were presented to trustees last week for the benefit of Trustees Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher who were elected in April.

## Part owner

A partial owner of the Horcher farm, Horcher said he is required to publicly state his interest in the property. Horcher can participate in village discussions concerning the proposed development, but will not be allowed to vote.

The presentation also was to bring trustees up to date on the latest plans, as a few changes have been made. A home-improvement store, included in initial plans, has been dropped, McLinden noted.

"We've refined our plan," he said. "We're prepared to proceed with the Plan Commission."

Target would be built south of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club, with its entrance on McHenry Road aligning with theirs.

The Target location, southeast of the T-intersection at McHenry and Weiland roads, was chosen with input from the Cook County Department of Transportation to allow for the possible, future extension of Weiland Road to the south, McLinden said.

## Two phases

Centrum proposes a two-phase development for the site. Initially, Target and the two other uses will be built. The second phase would add a series of out-lots for future businesses if, and when, Weiland Road is extended, McLinden said.

The center, with Target and two additional

"Target has a very strong following in Chicago and they're getting even stronger."

Village President Sheila Schultz questioned whether the village should allow the farm to be divided as proposed. Schultz said she is concerned about a hodge-podge effect on the property, should the Horchers stop farming and develop the remainder piece by piece.

The Horcher family, who has been farming the 50-acre site for nearly 150 years, plans to continue farming the remaining 31.5 acres, McLinden said.

"Their intention is to keep farming," McLinden said. "The fruit stand, the pumpkin sales and hayrides will go on uninterrupted. From the physical standpoint it will be enhanced."

Because several of the Horchers' sheds are on the proposed Target site, they will be demolished and the farm equipment will be housed in a new shed to be built on the remaining farm land, McLinden said.

## Grocer

Noting that the northwest side of Wheeling has no grocery store since Dominick's at Lynn Plaza closed earlier this year, Schultz asked whether any food stores were contacted about moving to this development.

"We talked to both Cub Food Store and Dominick's and discussed it with them," McLinden replied. "Their decision is not to move here at this time. I'm not sure I agree with them."

McLinden added that 80 percent of the sales generated by a grocery store are tax-exempt and therefore would funnel fewer dollars into the village's coffers than other retail businesses.

Trustees seemed pleased with the scaled-down proposal.

"I like this plan better than the other," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. Although the plan physically was more to Abruscato's liking, she questioned the proposed name for the development — Buffalo Creek Shopping Center.

"I have a slight problem with the name, Buffalo Creek, but it's in Wheeling? People don't know where that is," Abruscato said.

McLinden said the name could easily be changed.

"Quite frankly, it really doesn't matter to us. It was a strong physical characteristic on the site," he said, noting that the creek runs through the Horcher Farm.

Centrum officials expect it will be at least 30 days before they are prepared to go before the Plan Commission. The land is zoned for

# Airport seeks change in deal for fuel operator fee payments

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-28-95

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission wants changes to its financial agreement with an airport fueling operator to ensure prompt payments to airport officials.

The airport commission is recommending to Wheeling and Prospect Heights municipal officials that its agreement with Service Aviation be changed requiring the company to make payments to the facility with cashier's checks, bank drafts or cash so bills are paid on time.

The two towns operate the airport under an intergovernmental agreement.

The panel's recommendation follows reports that Service Aviation, the airport's second fixed-base fueling operator, made late payments for its June rent and May fuel fees to the airport.

Officials said Service Aviation has made late payments to the airport four other times this year. The company had been paying with business checks.

"We don't want to close up the second FBO; that's not our inten-

tion. I think a new agreement will have to be written," said Airport Commissioner Elizabeth L. Hartman, who also is a Wheeling Trustee.

Airport officials did not detail other terms a reworked agreement could contain.

Dennis P. Jans, Service Aviation general manager, said the late payments resulted from a bank mix-up.

"It was a minor thing," he said.

Jans said his company is financially stable and now ready, with help from investors, to build hangars to lease for corporate jet storage at Palwaukee.

Jans also said Service Aviation is one of three bidders seeking to build hangars for piston engine aircraft at Palwaukee.

Prospect Heights and Wheeling officials could review a new agreement for Service Aviation in July. They approved a second FBO for Palwaukee in 1993 to generate more revenue.

Municipal officials said having a second FBO at the airport would promote business competition there. Previously, only Priester Aviation had served Palwaukee for decades.

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## Two phases

Centrum proposes a two-phase development for the site. Initially, Target and the two other uses will be built. The second phase would add a series of out-lots for future businesses if, and when, Weiland Road is extended, McLinden said.

The center, with Target and two additional uses, could generate \$44 million a year in sales, McLinden told trustees. It also could generate \$900,000 a year in property taxes, he said.

"There's a potential for those numbers to go even greater than that," McLinden said.

# Feds OK Wisconsin Central funds

By **MICHAEL ULREICH**  
STAFF WRITER

A U.S. House subcommittee has approved the final federal funding needed to finish the Wisconsin Central commuter line to open next spring.

The Transportation subcommittee has voted to release \$14.4 million needed to upgrade tracks and install new gates for the new commuter line.

The line will run from Antioch southwest to Franklin

Park, passing through Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Prairie View, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights. After leaving Franklin Park, the line will head east to downtown Chicago.

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"Quite frankly, it really doesn't matter to us. It was a strong physical characteristic on the site," he said, noting that the creek runs through the Horcher Farm.

Centrum officials expect it will be at least 30 days before they are prepared to go before the Plan Commission. The land is zoned for residential use, and would need commercial zoning.

McLinden said construction could begin immediately, depending on weather, after the proposal receives approval from all of the village's commissions and the Village Board.

# Airport seeks change in deal for fuel operator fee payments

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Municipal officials said having a second FBO at the airport would promote business competition there. Previously, only Priester Aviation had served Palwaukee for decades.

The Chicago Police Department Bagpipe marching band performs during the Founder's Day Parade Sunday. The parade route followed Route 83.



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

## A good day for a parade

After a week of scorching temperatures, the mercury hovered in the 80s on Sunday, giving Wheeling residents a bit of relief as they watched the second annual Founders Day Parade.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the parade was very well attended, due in part to the pleasant, cooler weather.

Janet D'Argo, chairman of the village's centennial committee, served as grand marshal. Wheeling held its first

Founders Day Parade in 1994 to coincide with the village's centennial celebration.

After the hourlong parade filled with bands, floats and residents, the village dedicated the Centennial Fountain, located in front of Village Hall.

"It's looking good," Schultz said of the fountain. "We're happy to have it there and hope the residents use it."

— Cheri Bentrup



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Connie Hoos, Mrs. Illinois, decorates the car she will ride in the parade.

## President's appointments draw fire

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

*6-29-95*  
*Countyside*

Saying he would have liked to had served on a village commission before being elected trustee, Bob Heer recently questioned Village President Sheila Schultz's recommended appointment of former trustee Lois Gaffke to the Wheeling Plan Commission.

Approving a village president's commission appointments, which usually is done without much fanfare, grew into a lengthy discussion that ended with Schultz breaking a tie vote to make the appointments.

"I'm just wondering what happened to past and present applications received," Heer said at the June 19 Village Board meeting.

On the list of eight residents presented by Schultz, seven were being re-appointed, with Gaffke being the only new appointment.

### Overlooked

Gaffke and trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. were ousted in the April election by newcomers Heer and Patrick Horcher. During the campaign season, Heer said, he and Horcher were asked continually

why they were running for trustee instead of first seeking commission seats.

"I would have liked to have served, but I was never appointed," Heer said, adding that perhaps other residents who are interested in commission service also are being overlooked for appointment, Heer said.

"It's a bit misleading to sit here and say you weren't appointed when you never applied," Schultz said. "I have searched my files and the village's files and have not found an application" from Heer, she said.

Prior to the April election, Schultz said Heer asked to be considered for appointment to the village's Police and Fire Commission if he were not elected trustee.

"And I said, 'Absolutely no,'" Schultz said, explaining that Heer is a Buffalo Grove police officer and that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

### Liaisons

Professional experience is not required to serve on a village commission, she said.

"I look for people who know the community," Schultz said.

Commissioners work as liaisons between village staff and elected officials, she said. If commissioners need professional advice, Schultz said, the village has a staff of qualified professionals capable of assisting them.

"I think the work of the commissioners is very, very important. It is the norm that most (trustees) have commission experience" prior to being elected, but certainly not required, Schultz said.

Heer said he has no personal grudge against Gaffke, but suggested that appointments and re-appointments reflect the change demanded by residents in the April election.

"How can we progress without having new people, new blood?" Heer asked.

### Applications

Residents who want to serve on a village commission can pick up an application at Village Hall. All applications are kept on file, said Schultz, who personally reviews each one and appoints those she deems most qualified.

"Many of these people (recommended for appointment and re-appointment) I did not know until they walked in for their interview," she said.

*Was not printed* (Continued on page 20)

## Palwaukee to consider private hangars

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

*7-8-95*  
Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials soon will review proposals from private developers to build aircraft hangars at the facility.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said he has been contacted by at least four private concerns recently about building hangars on a 4.3 area parcel at the southwest corner of the airport.

"They were going to take a look at it and see if it's feasible," Stewart said about the developers.

An airport commission committee will review proposals from developers for the parcel Wednesday.

The developers' inquiries came as a result of a recent announcement from airport officials that they may consider private proposals to build T-shaped hangars for aircraft storage. Officials have said there is a waiting list of at least 50 people seeking T-hangar space.

According to a study by Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, the airport's engineering firm, the southwest corner parcel could contain enough hangar space to store up to 18 airplanes, Stewart said.

Airport officials have been seeking to have more hangars for aircraft storage developed at Palwaukee to generate more revenue.

However, it may be awhile before new hangars are built on the southwest corner site because there currently are some airplanes tied-down on a part of that land, Stewart said.

If the airport commission selects a developer for the site the choice would have to be approved by Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agreement between Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Airport officials have considered other sections of Palwaukee for new hangars, but much of its land is needed for the facility's \$83.5 million renovation project and won't be available for years.

Earlier this year, the commission approved proposals to build hangars for corporate jet storage on sites near Sumac Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

# Bid system angers tow owner

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside* 7-13-95

The low bidder for the village's police towing contract blasted the village this week for choosing another firm which was recommended by police officials over the low bid.

Trustees voted 5-1 to accept a bid from Gene's Towing, with Trustee Robert Heer dissenting. Gene's will be called anytime police need a car towed, whether that be after an accident, an abandoned vehicle or a vehicle creating a hazard on the road.

According to a summary

bid sheet provided by the village, Dave's Towing, 2430 E. Hintz Road, submitted lower bids for all services except two — daytime towing of a vehicle creating a hazard and daytime towing of an abandoned vehicle.

For those two services, Dave's Towing bid \$40, compared to \$30 from Gene's Village Towing, 1044 S. Milwaukee Ave. These fees would be paid by the vehicle owner, not the village.

## Low bid

In every other category listed, Dave's bids matched or came in lower than those

submitted by Gene's.

"Two years ago I put a bid in and was not considered," said company President David Becker. "We were not considered because our prices were too high."

For this recent bid, Becker lowered his prices, but still wasn't awarded the contract. "Now price is not a concern," he said.

"I agree your rates and Gene's rates are very close," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "It's my understanding when all is said and done, Gene's best meets specifications of a secure lot, not common to other businesses, readily accessible

without the owner."

Anderson said Gene's has held the village towing contract for at least seven years, but in some years, Village President Sheila Schultz noted that Gene's was the only company to submit a bid.

## Inspections

Police Chief Michael Haeger submitted a report to the Village Board, recommending that trustees give the contract to Gene's Village Towing. Each of the five bidders was inspected by police officers prior to that recommendation. (Continued on page 15)

# Wheeling residents reiterate objections to town-house plan

7-11-95

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday again heard concerns from neighbors of a proposed 48-unit town-house development who say the project would be obtrusive.

A roomful of residents who live near the targeted site at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave. turned out for a Wheeling village board meeting to complain about the proposal.

Residents said the 7.8 acres targeted for development would infringe on land used as a play area by children at nearby Walt Whitman School.

"We're taking property that has been used for years for the good of the children and we're wiping that away," said neighbor Mike Didier.

Ira Frank, a vice president for the Wheeling-based developer, said the project would not be a hazard to children.

"I think of anybody in this room I'm more responsible for kids than anyone," Frank said, noting he is a Boy Scout leader.

Frank said the development would use a dry detention basin for storm water that is flat and

would drain into the Des Plaines River.

Neighbors feared the detention basin would be akin to a standing pond, and thereby pose a risk to children at the school.

However, some residents still remained skeptical of the project, which, if approved by trustees, would be built in the heart of Wheeling's redevelopment district.

"I really think this is a bad idea," said 11-year old Adam Gibson who attends Whitman School.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz reiterated the development would be reviewed by panels such as the plan commission before it is approved.

Wheeling trustees recently agreed to acquire the parcel from its owners and sell it to the developer.

It is part of a 125-acre parcel at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, targeted for redevelopment by Wheeling as a way to stimulate the local economy.

Trustee Robert J. Heer has previously objected to the project, instead favoring commercial development for Milwaukee Avenue.

mentation being made, he said.

"The inspection was done by a police officer who spent two minutes there. There was really no inspection," said Mike Sickel, vice president of Dave's Towing. Sickel told trustees that Dave's has a fenced lot which is locked and more than enough adequate storage.

The police inspection, Becker said, consisted of "taking a few pictures then heading out. How thorough of a review is that? I question how a firm was inspected and how Gene's got the bid over us when we have the lower rates?"

"I don't think it was done fairly," Becker said.

Police Chief Haeger said, "Our recommendation is purely based on increased security at Gene's."

## Security

Becker said Dave's Towing is enclosed with a 6-foot high barbed wire fence. He also said he was willing to install a closed-circuit security camera if he were to receive the bid.

One problem village officials had with Dave's storage lot is that the landlord has access to the lot. Becker, however, said if he were awarded the village contract, a separate

storage area would be created.

"It seemed to me the report did stress security and sharing," Schultz said.

"All those items could have been put into the bid," said Village Attorney James Rhodes. If trustees would like to know what improvements each business would make if awarded the contract, Rhodes said, it would only be fair to ask each business to re-submit a bid, noting those proposed changes.

Becker said he did mention those "extras" in the bid he submitted two years ago. If Becker decides to submit a bid next time, he said, he'll include them again.

Trustee Bob Heer suggested the village be geographically divided, giving half to Gene's and half to Dave's.

"I think you have reputable businesses in town. It defeats the purpose of having a bid process if you give it continuously to Gene's Towing," Heer said.

Becker later said that would have been a suitable compromise.

"If the village is truly interested in providing service, I'm a heck of a lot closer to the west side of Wheeling than Gene's is," Becker said.

# Rains dampen festival

*Countryside*

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

7-13-95

Untimely rains on Independence Day put quite a damper on Wheeling as they forced St. Joseph's Familyfest to close a day early and postponed the annual fireworks display.

George Gaffke, a co-chairman of Familyfest, said a number of factors prompted church leaders to close the festival after morning rains fell a couple of hours prior to the scheduled opening at noon.

"We had minor damage to a few tents. We weren't sure if we'd get them repaired in time," Gaffke said. "There was standing water in the parking area we thought would damage cars."

The village's cancellation of the fireworks display also played a factor in the closure of Familyfest. The church didn't want residents to come to the festival, expecting fireworks at 9 p.m., he added.

And there was no guarantee the weather would cooperate throughout the afternoon and into the evening hours.

"The forecast at 10 a.m. was bleak," Gaffke said. "I'd hate to have people come out, vendors prepare food, and then send everyone home."

Despite the rainy morning, the horseshoe tournament sponsored by the church proceeded with the final round on Tuesday as planned, Gaffke said.

"Unfortunately, we really need five days of the festival to cover the overhead costs," Gaffke said. There are no plans to schedule similar fund-raisers to make up for lost revenue, he said.

Prior to the rains, Gaffke said, attendance at Familyfest was as expected. "The weather was nice and the crowds were good and friendly," he said.

The job now for Wheeling (Continued on page 15)

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Wildcat baseball team recognized by board

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz made a proclamation of recognition and appreciation for the Wheeling High School Wildcats varsity baseball team.

The team this year made it to the regional playoffs and won eight of their last nine games to finish with a 17-17 record.

### Tom Todd Chevrolet wins village contract

Wheeling trustees agreed to purchase six trucks from Tom Todd Chevrolet for \$135,563.94.

The trucks will be used by the sewer, street and water divisions of the village's operations and maintenance department. The Wheeling-based dealership won the village's

business over one other competitor.

### Village board approves 3 items for Palwaukee

Wheeling trustees approved three items related to Palwaukee Municipal Airport in accordance with the village's intergovernmental agreement for that facility.

The village board approved replenishing the airport's payroll account, a change in a hangar lease and the leasing of a small parcel of airport land for parking for the Palwaukee Motor Inn.

Under its intergovernmental agreement with Prospect Heights, Wheeling trustees consider items the airport commission endorses.

Both towns must approve airport items in order for them to be carried out by Palwaukee officials.

Both towns own and operate Palwaukee under that pact.

## ■ Festival Continues

village officials is to find a new date on which to present the fireworks display.

Village President Sheila Schultz confirmed that the fireworks display will be rescheduled, with Labor Day being one date officials will consider.

"In the past, we've rescheduled for Labor Day. That's not a positive date, but it's logical," Schultz said, adding that residents will be notified of the rescheduled date as soon as possible.

While rain dampened the display this year, Schultz said, she remembers one year when the fireworks were canceled because ground conditions were too dry.

"We seem to go from one extreme to another," she added.

Most of the rain moved out of the area by 9 p.m. when the fireworks were scheduled to begin, but during the afternoon crews weren't able to access the west end of Heritage Park where the fireworks were to be set up, Schultz said.

"It was so wet they couldn't get the truck in," she said. "It takes about six hours to set up."

When it was determined that morning that the fireworks weren't going to be able to set up and the display was going to be postponed,

Schultz said, a cancellation notice was posted on the pylon sign at Village Hall.

Unfortunately, some residents who weren't aware of the cancellation showed up that evening hoping to see the fireworks display.

"People were very disappointed. They didn't understand why we couldn't do it here," Schultz said, noting that a slight amount of rain did fall during the planned display time.

"The village was disappointed too, particularly for those who didn't know (about the cancellation) until they got here," she said.

Other area communities also were forced to cancel their Fourth of July activities because of the rains and heavy lightning.

"We certainly weren't alone," Schultz added.

Before rains canceled the village's July 4 activities, events at St. Joseph Familyfest were continuing as usual, with few problems that concerned local police.

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief John Popadowski said only three citations were issued for fighting during the festival's four-day run.

"We had no major problems," Popadowski said. "We had to escort some people out for various incidents, but it was relatively quiet."

# Wheeling officers face brutality suit

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are denying charges of brutality in a lawsuit against two police officers, one of whom has been the subject of two previous lawsuits.

The lawsuit names the two officers and the village as defendants, claiming the department allows a pattern of brutality to exist because officers are inadequately supervised.

Justo Prisciliano of Prospect Heights recently filed the federal lawsuit seeking \$200,000 from Wheeling police officers Terry Glynn and William Stutzman and the village.

According to the lawsuit, the officers, who allegedly did not identify themselves, approached Prisciliano on Feb. 4, 1994, after he left his job at Burger King on West Dundee Road to question him as part of a robbery investigation.

Michael T. Norris, Prisciliano's attorney, said the officers threw his client to the ground, breaking his collar bone, and punched him.

Prisciliano was never charged with a crime.

"I expect to prove everything I put in that complaint. There's no doubt in my mind," Norris said Friday.

Stutzman, who a jury in one previous case found guilty of using excessive force and who was named in a second brutality lawsuit the village settled out of court, declined to comment.

Glynn could not be reached for comment Friday.

Attorney Richard T. Ryan, who represents the Wheeling police and village in the current brutality suit, said the officers did not beat Prisciliano.

"It's really a question of who to believe. There is no evidence of anyone beating this young man up," Ryan said.

Ryan said the officers were called to the area to look for a person who was using a forged prescription to obtain drugs.

Seeing Prisciliano, who Ryan said was wearing clothing similar to the suspect's, the officers called to him to stop.

Ryan said Prisciliano, who speaks little English, did not stop and instead ran from the officers. The officers chased Prisciliano and tackled him, and he fell on his shoulder.

Norris was the attorney who filed the two previous brutality lawsuits against Stutzman and Wheeling police in 1985 and 1987.

Citing those cases, the latest lawsuit, filed in April, claims Wheeling police encourage the use of unnecessary force because the department inadequately trains, supervises or disciplines officers.

The 1985 lawsuit against Stutzman and two other officers, filed by Arlington Heights resident Gerald Plambeck, ended with the jury finding Stutzman guilty of using excessive force. Wheeling officials paid a \$52,500 settlement in that case before the jury awarded damages.

The other two officers were cleared of all charges.

The 1987 lawsuit against Stutzman, filed by Wheeling resident Jon Arbogast, was settled by the village out of court for an undisclosed amount.

# Wheeling trustee to gas station owner: Clean up your property or cover it up

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling trustee is calling for village officials to have an abandoned service station site cleaned up or shielded from public view.

Trustee Robert J. Heer is calling for village officials to have the owner of the former Martin Oil service station at the south east corner of Dundee and Wheeling roads at least cover the site from public view.

"I just want them to clean it up or make it not look so ugly against the village backdrop," Heer said.

The station was closed a couple of years ago. The less-than-acre property is now the site of a federally mandated cleanup of fuel-contaminated soil.

Heer said the lot now displays exposed pipes and the frame of its

former corner sign.

Heer also noted that the site is near the shuttered Brown's Chicken and Pasta restaurant at 625 W. Dundee Road that the Checkers restaurant chain hopes to develop as one of the company's drive-up eateries.

The two adjacent empty sites are an eyesore in the middle of Wheeling, Heer said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village contacted the Martin Oil Co. and the company said it no longer owned the property and wouldn't disclose who now does.

Anderson said that perhaps the village could do a title search to see if they could locate the current owner to see if something can be done to make it less unat-

tractive.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the village usually does title searches only to find out who owns properties where village codes are being violated.

The gas station site is currently not violating Wheeling ordinances and no one has applied to the village to build anything there, officials said.

Last month, Wheeling trustees rescinded the permission the Checkers chain had to build a restaurant at 625 W. Dundee Road, saying it has taken too long for the company to build there.

Checkers will present plans to the Wheeling plan commission July 27 for a restaurant to win back approval for the project.

# Court order forces Wheeling board to approve development

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Complying with a court-mandated consent decree, Wheeling trustees Monday approved a 19-unit town house development for the village.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski absent, the Wheeling village board approved the Equestrian Groves development for a 3-acre parcel at 433 N. Milwaukee Ave.

After the trustees rejected property owner Alfred D. Stavros' proposal to build a 22-unit town house development in 1993, he filed a lawsuit against the village in Cook County Circuit Court to overturn the village board's decision.

"Some of the people on the board got eliminated and some got educated," Stavros said, noting the change in trustees since 1993.

Stavros noted that the land was targeted for low intensity multi-family housing under Wheeling's comprehensive development plan.

Residents living near the town house site objected to the project, saying that it would change the semi-rural character of the

area near the Cook County Forest Preserve.

"I really think we have to look at these things and decide what we want," said neighbor Stephen M. Flanagan, who questioned the number of zoning variations the development was granted for such items as building setbacks and street width.

Stavros' lawsuit did not seek monetary damages.

The neighbors, who opposed Stavros' plans to have the site rezoned, wanted him to build single-family houses on the property as it was originally zoned for.

Stavros had said because of the rectangular shape of the property, he would have to develop luxury houses there with selling prices of \$300,000 to recoup his expenses.

The 19-unit project will be developed on the land by the Chicago based-Community Home Builders company, which plans to start construction in late August.

The company will build units that each have 1,975 square feet and include three bedrooms, three baths and two-car attached garages.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Summerfest fee waived for AMVETS Post 66

Wheeling trustees agreed to waive the village's \$1,000 surety requirement for the Philip Carpenter AMVETS Post 66 for the amusement licenses for its Summerfest event.

The village board waived the requirement so the post can hold its Summerfest Aug. 5 and Aug. 6.

The veterans organization has requested and received such a waiver from village officials in previous years.

### Cystic fibrosis to benefit from tag day fund-raiser

Wheeling trustees also approved a request from the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation to hold tag day fund-raising events in the village Aug. 11 and Aug. 12.

The village board granted the request noting the charity has held such fund-raising events in previous years in Wheeling without incident.

### Land for new municipal airport to be rezoned

Wheeling trustees approved the rezoning of 64.7 acres of land near Sumac and Plant roads in the village for Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Previously carrying a residential home designation, the land near the airport needed its zoning change so Palwaukee officials can use the parcels for the facility's purposes.

# Officer may be placed at two schools

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The long arm of the law could stretch into London and Holmes middle schools this fall with a Wheeling police officer being placed at both buildings.

The Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 board tonight is expected to review a proposal to place a full-time Wheeling police officer in both Wheeling middle schools this fall.

"We think it's a real positive move. It will expand the services they have in the high school in the

middle schools," District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said.

The sworn plainclothes officer, who will be armed, will serve as a liaison between the district and the police, he said.

The officer will spend time working at both schools during the school day, said Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

"If we can introduce them to police officers as someone who can help them with problems, perhaps they'll see police officers in a different light than they will in later years," Haeger said.

Haeger said the liaison program is an extension of the Drug Resistance Education, DARE, officer the police have in the schools.

The officer will also work at developing relationships with the students and being an example for them, Haeger said. He added the officer would serve as more than a security guard at the schools.

Haeger said the officer will serve at the schools as a part of his department's problem-based policing efforts where community cooperation is sought to prevent problems for police from occurring.

DesCarpentrie said the officer could be involved in instructional projects and have some supervisory responsibilities.

The village is receiving funding for the officer under a federal grant established to increase the nation's police ranks.

Under the grant program, the federal government would pay 75 percent of its expenses with the district and village splitting the local share of \$93,384 over the three years.

Wheeling police have had an officer at Wheeling High School for 19 years. District 21 currently does not have officers serving its schools.

# Image is everything for village in brochure

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

7-20-95  
*Countrywide*

self with an economic development folder, produced at least eight years ago, that is aimed at attracting businesses and industry to Wheeling, said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We've been using it to some extent up to now," Anderson said. The color folder contains black-and-white glossy inserts of village information.

**Up to date**  
Because the information needs to be updated, staff is moving ahead with plans to produce a new marketing brochure, to be aimed at new residents and prospective businesses. This color brochure will have 16 or 24 pages and is expected to cost about

\$20,000 to produce, Anderson said. Village Planner Mark Janeck last week presented trustees with three options to fund the \$20,000 brochure. The first, and the one staff is proceeding with, is to solicit advertising to cover the entire cost of production. Other options were to split the cost. (Continued on page 17)

Wheeling wants to promote itself as a good destination for new businesses, but trustees are debating how much money the village should invest in doing so. The village currently promotes it-

## ■ Brochure

Continued from page 5

between advertisers and the village or to have the village cover the entire cost itself.

### Options

"I would recommend the village go with the no-cost publication at this time," Janeck said. "We wouldn't have spent any money and we'd have something in hand to critique. In a year or a year and a half from now, we could have another one done."

Through his research, Janeck said, he spoke with community leaders who had produced brochures using either all advertising revenue or all village funds. None he spoke with had produced a brochure with a mix of advertisement and village revenue.

**'We wouldn't have spent any money and we'd have something in hand to critique.'**

Judging from their experiences, he predicted it would be easy to sell advertising for this brochure. Those communities which have similar brochures "felt positive about having the publication," Janeck told trustees.

Trustee Judy Abruscato suggested it would be more fiscally responsible to update the current economic development folder, rather than create a new one.

### Old revisited

"I like that piece even though it's old and outdated," Abruscato said. "I don't like to see the extensive cost of \$20,000 or \$25,000" for a new brochure, she added.

Janeck estimated it would cost \$1,000 per side of page to update the current folder. Trustees asked Janeck to return to the board with cost estimates to update the folder.

Before any brochure is written or revised, Village President Sheila Schultz said trustees and village staff first need to decide what audience the brochure will target.

Anderson said village staff also is following up on a brochure produced by Wilmette.

"It's very nice, easy to read," he said. The Wilmette brochure is aimed at visitors, but Anderson said, the audience could easily be modified.

Additionally, staff members are working in-house to update a citizens information guide which gives new residents information about taxes, village government, service-providers, schools, parks and transportation, Anderson said.

# Store manager faces 20-count indictment for alleged tax fraud

7-21-95

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County grand jury has indicted a Wheeling liquor store manager on charges that he failed to pay more than \$100,000 in state sales taxes.

Young Choi, 58, the manager of Bell Liquors, 767 W. Dundee Road, was indicted by a Cook County grand jury on 20 counts of filing fraudulent sales and use tax returns.

Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan's office Thursday said Choi failed to report more than \$1.3 million in sales from June 1992 to December 1993. SIC Inc., which operates the Bell Liquors store chain, was not involved in the matter, officials said.

"It was just him," said Anna Marie Kukec, a spokeswoman for Ryan's office.

The indictment alleges that Choi, 11 Westwood Lane, Lincolnshire, did not pay \$100,569 in state sales taxes.

Choi denies withholding payment of any sales tax money.

"I don't know what to say. But I have to ask my lawyer," said Choi, who added that he had not

been notified of the charges.

Choi said the store's books were audited last year by the state and he thought that he explained the records to them then.

Ryan's office said the 20 felony charges each carry penalties of up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he would look into the matter but was unaware state officials were investigating a local liquor store manager.

"We get at least a penny of every dollar spent," Anderson said, noting he would check to see if money is owed to the village.

Wheeling has a 0.25 of 1 percent sales tax that includes liquor purchases. That tax is collected by the state, which then sends the village its local portion.

Ryan became involved in the case after the Illinois Department of Revenue turned it over for prosecution.

Choi will be arraigned at Cook County Criminal Court at 26th Street and California Avenue in Chicago Aug. 15.

# Assistant village manager faces drug, alcohol charges

7-25-95

By **CHRISTINE TATUM**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Hoffman Estates Assistant Village Manager Wil J. Parker is facing three misdemeanor drug and alcohol-related charges filed against him over the weekend.

Parker, 36, of 1015 Gannon Drive in Hoffman Estates, was arrested shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and transportation of open alcohol.

He was released on a \$1,000 secured bond, and is scheduled to make his first court appearance Aug. 9.

Parker said Monday he is confident his name will be cleared.

"This is an unfortunate situation, but there is an explanation for everything," he said. "But it wouldn't be wise for me to make any comments at this point. I have secured an attorney, and we think this is going to be dealt with very quickly."

Parker's attorney, Terry Sullivan of Rolling Meadows, couldn't be reached for comment

Monday.

Schaumburg police reports indicate that a tactical officer stopped a black 1994 Chevrolet Cavalier on Bode Road, west of Knollwood Drive in Schaumburg, after he noticed an expired sticker on the car's license plate. Parker, who was a passenger in the car, said it was being driven by a friend who was later charged with driving with an expired registration.

From there, the report states the officer smelled burning marijuana after approaching the car. Parker, who was riding in the front passenger seat, had a bag containing six beer bottles between his legs on the seat. One of those bottles was open, so the officer asked Parker to step out of the car.

Parker, the report states, dropped something on the right side of the seat as he stepped from the car. When the officer investigated further, he found a small, white pipe that contained burning marijuana and a plastic camera film container that stored a leafy, green substance, the report states.

# Support dries up for play area in flood basin

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Country side*  
The proposed townhome development for the Billy & Co. property along Milwaukee Avenue again came under fire last week by residents who want some land reserved as a play area for Whitman School students.

Residents, some wearing T-shirts asking "Should 612 children be denied?" packed the Wheeling council chambers to hear Ira Frank, vice president of the development firm Joseph Freed & Associates, present plans to trustees a final time before the proposal moves to the Plan Commission for a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. July 27 in Village Hall.

Residents argued that Whitman students have been using the undeveloped, privately owned land as their playground for years. They don't want to see the open space developed, and pointed out that the village's comprehensive plan calls for parkland in the neighborhood.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the landowners can do what they want with the property, and are currently negotiating a selling price with the village.

"I know there are people who felt the school owned" that property, Schultz said.

The townhome development is one of many improvements planned to revitalize the TIF district

be able to use the development's detention basin as a play area at Whitman.

Parents, however, are concerned a retention pond would become an attractive nuisance for children.

"This is not a wet retention pond," Frank said. "We shouldn't call it a pond."

Anderson said the basin will be dry most of the time, possibly giving the children three-quarters of an acre of play space.

"I think it's a good idea. Ninety-five percent of the time it will be dry. It's certainly suited for other uses," he said, noting that Wheeling High School uses a nearby retention basin as an athletic field.

"There's water in it after a heavy rain, but most rains drain off right away," Anderson said. A similar retention basin near the Picardy Place development on North Wolf Road is used for block parties and a play area, he added.

"It's worthy of consideration," Anderson said.

In addition to saving the

along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The village has proposed purchasing 7.8 acres of property from several landowners at 129-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., and offering them together for development. Trustees named Freed & Associates the developer of record earlier this year.

Plans presented by Frank on July 10 show one entrance to the 48-unit townhome development off of Milwaukee Avenue. After entering the development, the road splits and ends in cul-de-sacs on the west and south ends of the property.

Emergency access is available from the west side of the development, connecting the west cul-de-sac to a walkway at Whitman School. The developer plans to install a fence along the west and north property lines.

The luxury townhomes, to be priced from \$160,000 to \$180,000, feature two- to four-bedroom units, two-car garages and extensive landscaping. A 3-foot high retaining wall would be built along Milwaukee, with a decorative wrought-iron fence on top of the berm.

Frank said there is a need for townhomes in Wheeling, particularly for "empty-nesters," couples whose grown children have left home.

As mentioned at previous meetings, village officials are still hopeful children would

playground, residents want to protect the mature trees on the property from being destroyed.

"We can keep a couple of them," Frank said. "Most are way too large and too old for movement."

Residents questioned why the development is moving along so quickly, but Village Manager Craig Anderson said plans for the TIF district have been ongoing since the mid-1980s.

"This is not a brand new project," he said.

Other development options for the property that residents would prefer, such as businesses or single-family homes, didn't work well on this site, Anderson said.

"No one was coming in saying they wanted to build there," Anderson said.

"Single-family homes wouldn't work because the only entrance would be from Milwaukee because of the layout of the parcels. They would need access from Highland and/or Center, which wasn't workable," he added.

So far, the board has not ap-

proved plans for the development, but has authorized Anderson to negotiate purchase prices for the properties.

Residents pleaded with officials to work out a compromise with either the Park District or School District 21 so the land could remain as an open, play area.

"This is the last open space area in the subdivision," said resident Mary Mozal. "We're asking you to work with them. Please work with us."

"If the School District wants to work with us, that's great. We'd be happy to work something out," Anderson said.

It's unknown whether the Park District wants to purchase some of the property and create a park.

"The Park District probably will look at this rather quickly and decide whether they want to use it as a park," Anderson said. "Quite frankly, anyone can approach the property owners."

"Nobody's come to them. We've come to them, and they want to sell," he added.

# Crime declines in Wheeling during first 6 months of year

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For a second consecutive year crime in Wheeling is down for the first six months of the year, according to police statistics.

Based on statistics compiled from Wheeling police incident reports, crime has dropped in the village with murder, rape, burglary and theft all posting decreases for the period from Jan. 1 to June 30.

The report also states that the 1,797 offenses the police handled in the first half of 1995 is down 17.3 percent from the 2,172 they had in the same period last year.

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief John Popadowski said the reduction in crime cannot be attributed to a narrow range of factors.

"It's hard to put a finger on what would reduce these numbers," he said.

Popadowski said because the actual number of offenses for particular categories of crimes in the village is so low that one more or one less incident causes a large percentage change.

For example, last year there was one murder in Wheeling in the first six months.

This year for the same period there were none, which is a 100 percent drop in the murder rate.

Popadowski also said because the actual number of incidents is so low for many crime categories, the arrest of an active criminal can cause a large percentage drop for that particular crime.

However, for all of 1994, the crime rate in Wheeling increased 8.4 percent overall due to an increase in burglaries and auto burglaries, according to police reports.

Wheeling police reports also show that in 1994 the village saw an increase in cannabis related violations, liquor relat-

"It's hard to put a finger on what would reduce these numbers."

— **John Popadowski**,  
Wheeling Police  
Deputy Chief

ed violations and criminal damage to property offenses.

Some of the factors police said could have contributed to the reduction in the village's overall crime rate for the recent half-year included naming a sworn officer to be the department's crime-prevention officer.

Currently, Wheeling Police Corporal John Teevans works with residents as the department's crime-prevention officer helping them start neighborhood watch programs and implement other preventative measures.

Previously, police had a community service officer in that post.

Popadowski added that another cause of the village's crime reduction comes from its quick reaction to changes in incident patterns around town.

He said that if police are receiving more reports about certain kinds of crime happening in a neighborhood, such as house burglaries, they direct more patrols to that area.

Last year, police officials attributed the village's reduction in crime in the first six months, in part, to patrols by its plain-clothes tactical officers in unmarked vehicles.

This year, police have said they are moving toward a problem-based policing effort where community cooperation is sought to prevent problems from occurring.

## Crime in Wheeling

For the first half of 1995

Crime	1994	1995	% chng.
All Criminal Complaints	2,172	1,797	-17.3
Murder	1	0	-100
Criminal Sexual Assault	2	1	-50.0
Assault (all categories)	11	15	+36.4
Robberies	3	3	0
Burglary	45	37	-17.8
Vehicle Burglary	95	72	-24.2
Theft	218	180	-17.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	16	+100
Arson	2	5	+150

# Judge won't stall new fire plan in Prospect Heights

8-1-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Starting today, most Prospect Heights residents will see a different fire department respond to emergencies.

The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District Fire Department today takes over coverage of most of the city of Prospect Heights. On Monday, a Cook County Circuit Court judge rejected the city of Wheeling's request to block the move.

"They dial 911, they'll get us," said Prospect Heights Rural Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr.

The Wheeling Fire Department had been protecting most of Prospect Heights under a contract with the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District since 1982.

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District includes unincorporated areas near Wheeling and most of the city of Prospect Heights. It has no equipment or firefighters and contracts out for all fire services.

However, due to a recent agreement between the Wheeling Township district and the Prospect Heights Rural District, Gould's department won the contract away from Wheeling and now covers the majority of Prospect Heights.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Arthur L. Dunne denied an emergency restraining order requested by Wheeling officials. Wheeling is hoping to prevent the changeover.

"I just don't perceive this to be an emergency. The fact remains there

is fire protection for the district," Dunne said. He scheduled a Sept. 5 hearing on the injunction.

"We were concerned this (change) would result in confusion for the residents," said Richard T. Wimmer, an attorney for Wheeling.

Wheeling Township fire board members moved to place the contract with the Prospect Heights department because Wheeling's department didn't reach emergencies in Prospect Heights fast enough, they said.

Meanwhile, Wheeling Fire Department Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said while there may be a dispute over which department covers Prospect Heights, public safety won't be sacrificed.

"I told them (Wheeling firefighters), 'If you get dispatched, you go. We'll worry about it later. The citizens will be served,'" he said.

The small city of Prospect Heights has piecemeal fire protection — no less than four different area fire departments covered bits of the town. Now, there are three, with Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District having the biggest share.

Gould said his department may have to file its own injunction to get information and other items he said the Wheeling Fire Department is withholding, such as keys to apartment complex lock boxes where emergency keys are kept.

MacIsaac said the information Gould wants is "proprietary" and the Prospect Heights department, for technical reasons, may not be able to use it.

# Town house plan to get further study by Wheeling groups

7-28-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission put off reviewing a proposed townhouse development to give school, park and village officials time to discuss the plans.

The plan commission Thursday agreed to delay until Aug. 10 reviewing plans by Wheeling-based Joseph Freed and Associates to develop 44 town houses on 7.8 acres at 124 S. Milwaukee Avenue near Walt Whitman School.

"How can we move forward before we know what the park district wants and the school district wants?" said commission member Steve Walanka.

Wheeling Park District officials and the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 board are considering a joint purchase of some of the land for a park.

"We would like to discuss with him a better plan for these parcels of land," said District 21 board President Phil Pritzker, referring to Ira Frank, Freed's Vice President.

Neighbors said the development would take away a play area for children, open space, trees

and aggravate traffic problems.

"We believe this development would affect our area negatively for a number of reasons," said neighbor Mary Mozal.

In response to neighbors, Freed removed four units from the original 48 town house proposal and added a 1.7-acre open space area on the development's west side.

"I thought we presented an equitable scenario," Frank said.

The parcel is designated as a park site on the village's comprehensive plan.

Wheeling officials selected Freed to develop the parcel. They plan to acquire the land and then sell it to the developer with funds earmarked for redevelopment.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said park, school and village officials would discuss the plans, but it will hurt the village if the town houses aren't developed.

"If this wouldn't go forward we go back to status quo. The owners would be free to sell to whoever they wanted," said Schultz. "If that didn't happen, the land would remain vacant with minimal taxes for the village."

# More fireworks may be in the works

8-1-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials and the Wheeling Park District could hold a Labor Day event featuring fireworks if both sides can iron out the details.

Wheeling Park District officials recently agreed that another event could be held on park land adjacent to village hall on West Dundee Road the evening of Monday, Sept. 4.

The event would resemble recent Picnic In The Park events held by the village and park dis-

trict. It would feature music, refreshments and fireworks.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said officials are looking into having such an event because the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, held during St. Joseph The Worker Church's Familyfest event, was rained out this year.

"We'll put together something, probably a picnic in the park," Anderson said.

Wheeling Park District Director of Parks and Recreation Karop T. Bavougiann said that the park district is willing to put on a joint

event with the village if officials can split the costs.

"It's if they want to participate," he said.

This year, the village allocated \$10,000 for the Fourth of July fireworks display.

Park and village officials have not worked out details of the upcoming event yet. Anderson said while he is uncertain when a new event would be set, he believes it will happen soon with the Labor Day deadline looming.

During the village's recent Founders Day celebration on

June 25, the park district held a picnic in the park event after the dedication of the commemorative centennial fountain.

That fountain is now in front of Wheeling Village Hall.

The park district is holding another picnic in the park event on Aug. 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. on park land between the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center and the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center.

The featured band for the evening will be J.P. and the Cats. Food will also be available.

# Twin's last picture show to hit screen by Oct. 1

7-27-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Twin Drive-In theater will have had its last picture show by Oct. 1.

The long-time fixture at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave. will close by then so work can begin on improvements to Milwaukee Avenue and neighboring Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials, operators of the airport, are expected to approve an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation Aug. 7 to widen a portion of Milwaukee Avenue that would include using the entrance of the Twin.

Earlier this year, the airport acquired 23 acres of the 31-acre drive-in property for \$2.26 million after a lengthy legal battle with owners M&R Theater and Management Inc.

The regional office for Sony Theatres, operators of the drive-in, said there isn't a set date for closing the Twin but it usually closes for the season in September. M&R officials were unavailable

for comment.

The airport needs the Twin parcel to redirect the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through both properties to alleviate flooding, eliminate a safety hazard and create more land to be developed there.

"I'll be giving them a letter terminating their license once both towns approve the intergovernmental agreement," said Palwaukee Municipal Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr.

The work is part of an \$83.5 million renovation project at Palwaukee. Recently, it appeared that a delay in federal funding could halt work at Palwaukee.

As a part of the sales agreement, Wheeling and Prospect Heights allowed businesses that operated at the Twin to continue until they needed the land.

Controversy emerged over a weekend flea market at the Twin that Cook County officials said violated their zoning ordinances. Wheeling officials said the flea market caused traffic, parking and littering problems for neighbors.

Countyside 8-3-95  
**Fire rating could save residents money**

Wheeling's Fire Protection Rating has been upgraded to a Class 3, the second improved classification in the last five years.

The classification was announced by the Insurance Services Office and Commercial Risk Services Division, an independent agency that evaluates fire departments nationwide. A Class 1 is the best rating a community can receive.

Wheeling's rating in 1980 was a Class 5. A re-evaluation in 1992 netted a Class 3 rating. Residents may notice an improved classification with a decrease in their fire insurance premiums.

7-28-95  
**Wheeling seeks court order stopping fire district changes**

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials filed an injunction in Cook County Circuit Court Thursday to stop Wheeling Township fire district officials from breaking their contract with the village.

Wheeling officials filed a request for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against the Wheeling Township

Rural Fire Protection District and the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District.

A Monday hearing has been set for the case.

Wheeling village officials are trying to stop Wheeling township fire protection officials from having the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District Fire Department take over coverage of parts of the city of Prospect Heights. Wheeling covers those portions of the city

under the current contract.

"We're saying they breached the contract with us," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The Wheeling Fire Department has had a court-mandated contract since 1982 to cover most of Prospect Heights.

The new agreement, made in June between the Wheeling Township fire board and the Prospect Heights Rural fire department, is set to start Tuesday.

Wheeling Township fire officials said they expected the lawsuit and it wouldn't stop the change in fire protection for that area of Prospect Heights.

"The agreement goes forward unless the judge says it doesn't," said Karl R. Ottosen, Wheeling Township fire board attorney.

Prospect Heights rural fire department Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. said officials from his district haven't yet seen the injunction.

The change in fire protection for the east side of the Wheeling Township fire district in Prospect Heights was made because the Wheeling Township fire board said the Wheeling Fire Department didn't reach emergencies there fast enough.

The city of Prospect Heights does not have its own fire department and is covered by four others with Wheeling firefighters protecting the largest part.

8-2-95  
**New intersection may open partially**

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sometime this month motorists traveling through the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection could get a glimpse of its future configuration.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials said a part of the relocated intersection could be open to traffic sometime later this month.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said two of the four new north/south bound lanes of Wolf Road will be opened this month along with all four of the new

east/west lanes of Hintz Road.

The intersection will also have a traffic signal by then. Currently, only stop signs are posted there and the former Wolf Road crosses the newly relocated Hintz Road.

The remaining two lanes of the relocated Wolf Road will be opened to traffic later in the fall, Stewart said.

The intersection is being located 575 feet to the west and 250 feet north from its prior location to increase the safety zone between them and the airport's longest runway.

Moving the intersection is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million improvement project to bring the airport up to federal standards.

Stewart said after checking with engineers from the Crawford, Murphy and Tilly firm he found that a part of the project "will be open a little later than Aug. 1."

The airport is also claiming the Twin Drive-In land at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave. to relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch to make more buildable land at Palwaukee, alleviate flooding and address a safety hazard. The Twin will be permanently closed in October.

The Illinois Department of Transportation will also use a portion of the Twin's entrance for widening Milwaukee Avenue.

IDOT officials plan to widen a three-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue through Wheeling.

When it appeared earlier this year that renovations at Palwaukee were threatened by a delay in federal funding, Stewart noted funding for work at the drive-in is tied to improvements for Milwaukee Avenue.

Work on that portion of Milwaukee Avenue is expected to start next year, officials have said.

8-8-95  
**Wheeling takes aim at economic growth with new brochure**

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees agreed Monday to publish an informational brochure to serve as a marketing tool for the village.

In a 5-1 vote, with Trustee Judy Abruscato dissenting, the Wheeling village board approved an agreement with the Libertyville-based Amerigraphix Marketing Communications firm to produce a color brochure of up to 24 pages about the village.

Under the agreement, the firm will publish 5,000 copies of the brochure, which will be mailed to residents and businesses throughout the area.

"The intent is to get (the brochure) out to the businesses and potential businesses," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The agreement also specifies that revenue generated by ad sales for the brochure will fund its publication, and not go to the village. Wheeling officials, however, will have some control over its editorial content.

Further, any profit made by the brochure will revert to the publishing company. Officials on Monday did not

detail the publishing costs, but an earlier in-house estimate placed the cost for 10,000 brochures at \$12,500 to \$31,000.

Abruscato opposed the brochure idea, saying the village should wait until after an Aug. 14 workshop meeting with members of the Wheeling & Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce to get their thoughts on the proposal.

She said some other kind of economic development publication might be more desirable.

"We have no problems getting people to move to our town, it's a nice town. Our problem is getting people into our village who have businesses to complement it," she said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, however, said the chamber favored publishing the brochure.

In the recently held spring election, some trustee candidates questioned the village's efforts to market the town to attract business.

Jeffrey D. Clausen, from Amerigraphix, said he hopes the brochure will serve as more than just an advertising book and contain an even mix of advertising and editorial content.



8-2-95  
**Crime fighter**  
Trainer Alex Rothacker works with Wheeling police dog Nitro, a German shepherd, during National Night Out at the Tahoe Village Condominiums in Wheeling Tuesday. Nitro was protecting Wheeling officer Randall Olsberg for the demonstration. Annual National Night Out observances were held throughout the suburbs Tuesday in an effort to prevent crime and drug use and to boost police-community relations.  
Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

# Play area has everyone talking

8-3-95

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

After a show of unity by village leaders, the Wheeling Plan Commission voted to continue the public hearing on the proposed townhome development for the 7.8-acre parcel along Milwaukee Avenue to its Aug. 10 meeting.

More than two hours after the July 27 hearing began on the properties at 129-141 S. Milwaukee Ave., Village President Sheila Schultz, Park Board President Greg Klantecki and School District 21 Board President Phil Pritzker approached the commission together and asked that the hearing be continued.

"We have some serious interests in how this property gets developed," said Pritzker. "We'd like the opportunity to discuss with (developer Joseph Freed & Associates) perhaps a better plan for these parcels that takes everyone's opinions in a better view."

"The village, the park and the school are working together to find some resolution," Schultz said.

Residents who oppose the townhome development have organized a community action group, approaching the various board and asking for their help in stalling the village's approval process of this TIF district property.

The residents want to see a plan created that would maintain some of the open



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

Effie Myrick, left, and Jean Graf stencil a lawn sign asking residents to help support an effort to save open space next to Whitman School for a play area.

space the children at nearby Walt Whitman School now use for recess.

Just two weeks ago, the residents presented their case to the Wheeling Park Board and District 21 School

Board and asked that all boards work with the village to work out a compromise.

Prior to the public hearing, Village Planner Mark Janeck announced that he had received a letter of intent from

the Park District, saying it is interested in creating a park on the property.

Because the land is designated on the village's comprehensive plan as potential parkland, the Park District

has the right of first refusal when it is proposed for development.

In the letter Janeck read, Parks Director Karop Bavougian said the Park District would "possibly encourage School District 21 to participate in acquiring this property."

As a result of community meetings with the residents, Ira Frank, vice president of Joseph Freed & Associates, reduced the number of townhomes from 48 to 44 units.

New plans also allocated 1.7 acres as a play area for Whitman students. Earlier plans noted a dry retention basin where children could use as a play area.

Frank conceded that he "picked the wrong site at the wrong time," noting residents' opposition to the proposal. He suggested that the village needs to determine where and when redevelopment begins along Milwaukee, and what that will consist of.

"This is a perfect spot for redevelopment along Milwaukee," Frank said. "It (the townhome development) is a perfect spot for a transition from single-family (houses) to some of the uses already in existence there."

However, Commissioner Ken Brady questioned why townhomes and not commercial development are being considered for the site.

"I think commercial development is a better use of the site." (Continued on page 12)

development along Milwaukee is in its infancy. The state of Illinois has told us for 15 years they're coming to grab it up," Brady said. Construction by IDOT to widen Milwaukee Avenue is expected to begin this fall.

"I don't personally think this (townhome development) is the best use of land along Milwaukee," Brady said, noting that he'd like commercial uses along the Milwaukee frontage and that he's "very open-minded" about uses for the west end of the property, where the residents want open space. "I'm concerned about the loss of potential retail use," he added.

"I don't think anyone can say commercial (uses) would not be viable on this site," Janeck agreed. "The Union

Hotel was viable for a long time. There's got to be some commercial use that would be viable there."

Schultz, Pritzker and Klantecki are expected to meet with village staff and the developer to find a "better utilization of the parcel," said Pritzker.

Pritzker noted that District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie is out of town for a week, and that it may be difficult to have a development solution by the Aug. 10 meeting.

Schultz, however, said the group will return to the 7:30 p.m. Aug. 10 Plan Commission meeting with as much information as possible at that time. The commission meets in Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.



### Getting there quickly

Response times over last three months in Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District. Based on study of response times by the Wheeling Fire Department. Total average in three-month study was 5.11 minutes.

Area	Avg. Response Time	Response Time	Number of Calls
AREA 1	3 minutes	6 minutes	6 calls
		7 minutes	1 call
AREA 2	Avg. 4.42 minutes	2 minutes	3 calls
		3 minutes	2 calls
		4 minutes	5 calls
		5 minutes	4 calls
		6 minutes	3 calls
		7 minutes	2 calls
		8 minutes	1 call
AREA 3	Avg. 5.05 minutes	3 minutes	2 calls
		4 minutes	3 calls
		5 minutes	9 calls
AREA 4	Avg. 5.41 minutes	1 minute	2 calls
		2 minutes	1 call
		3 minutes	7 calls
		4 minutes	5 calls
AREA 5	No calls	6 minutes	17 calls
		7 minutes	9 calls

- Number of calls from 1 to 3 minutes: 16 (16.4 percent)
- Number of calls from 4 to 5 minutes: 32 (36.8 percent)
- Number of calls more than 6 minutes: 39 (44.8 percent)
- Total average: 5.11 minutes

# Wheeling to pursue long-awaited plan for development

8-15-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz on Monday announced an initiative for a wide-ranging community development plan, sparking a moment of tension for chamber of commerce officials in the audience.

Schultz said a consulting firm, the Denniston Group, would be brought before village officials next week to outline the focus of the program. The board's decision, she said, was made at a village board retreat before the spring elections.

But her announcement came on the heels of a presentation Monday by a chamber-hired consultant — Terrence M. Jenkins, president of Business Districts Inc. — who told village trustees that they should consider embarking on an economic development program.

In addition, the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged the village to form an economic develop-

ment committee and spend at least \$75,000 to hire a consultant to direct the village's economic development efforts.

Had the chamber known that the board already had made plans to move in that direction, "we certainly wouldn't have hired (Jenkins)" to address the board, chamber member Denise Kennedy said.

Schultz, however, said she had discussed the plan for a consultant with chamber officials months ago.

She described the planned efforts Monday as a "total community development process where we make sure we have a consensus of the village."

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the consulting firm would create a vision for making improvements in the village and focus on more than just the Milwaukee Avenue corridor, which recently has received the majority of attention for redevelopment.

Schultz said that in September the village will seek interested residents to serve on an advisory panel for the program.

## Looking for a quick response

8-4-95

### Study: Fire districts answer calls in similar times

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire Department responded to emergency calls in Prospect Heights and other portions of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District in an average of 5.11 minutes, based on a study of three months' worth of records.

However, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District is pledging to do better.

The Daily Herald analyzed response times for three months, looking into how fast the Wheeling Fire Department got to emergency calls in the fire district.

Wheeling recently was "fired" from providing fire protection to large areas of Prospect Heights — largely because trustees on the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board said residents would get faster results by contracting instead with the Prospect Heights Rural

Fire Protection District, another nearby department. The switch was made Aug. 1.

The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District has no comparable track record for coverage in Prospect Heights. However, Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. said his department has a history of getting to emergency calls well under five minutes and he thinks they can perform as well

See FIRES on Page 6

## FIRES: Wheeling tries to stop contract

Continued from Page 1

in the new territory.

"We can reach anything in our district in two to three minutes," said Gould.

However, the one trial run his department made — from the station at 10 E. Camp McDonald Road to the Denny's restaurant at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave. — took four minutes and 25 seconds. And Gould admitted the trial run was done when there was little traffic on the road.

The Daily Herald study also showed that Wheeling's response times to Prospect Heights ranged from one minute to eight minutes. The longer calls were grouped around apartments and condominiums south of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac said the longer response times were due to traffic, road construction and weather. Getting to calls in apartment complexes is more difficult because drivers have to maneuver equipment through crowded parking lots and then find the right unit, MacIsaac added.

All in all, "it's not a bad responding time considering we live in a metropolitan area," MacIsaac said of his department's five-minute average. "That five minutes is from the time the phone rings to the time we're on the scene."

Gould estimates that a second fire station, on the east side of Prospect Heights, could reduce his own department's response time to that area to about 1 minute, 35 seconds.

However, the Prospect Heights City Council voted recently to reject the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District's bid to house a fire engine in the public works garage on the town's east side at 401 E. Piper Lane. Council members said the

### How they serve the public

August 1st, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District Fire Department took over protecting most of Prospect Heights from the Wheeling Fire Department. Here is a breakdown of what both departments offer the residents they serve.

Wheeling	Prospect Heights
<b>Fire protection services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sends 10 to 13 firefighters; Two pumper trucks and one command vehicle</li> <li>■ Firefighters deployed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two each to: hold the main hose; hold a back-up hose; break out windows and doors; search the building for trapped people.</li> <li>One to run the pumper</li> <li>Either the chief or deputy chief</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sends at least seven firefighters, a fire engine, an ambulance, a two-man tanker truck (for non-hydrant areas or a ladder truck (in areas with fire hydrants).</li> <li>■ Firefighters deployed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two each: driver-engineers (handle water supply); fire officer-team leaders; firefighter/paramedics do search and rescue or ventilation</li> <li>One firefighter handles hose</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District Fire Department also has a staff of 56 on-call firefighters.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency medical services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sends a driver and attendant to the scene in an ambulance; 3 other firefighter/paramedics arrive in a ladder truck. Nearly all of Wheeling's 43 firefighters have paramedic training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sends 2 paramedics in the ambulance and another paramedic and an emergency medical technician in a pumper truck. The department has 20 firefighters with paramedic training.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional equipment and services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Annual fire department budget: \$3.5 million</li> <li>■ Number of firefighters: 43 full time</li> <li>■ Population served: 40,000 — 32,000 in the village of Wheeling, 8,000 in the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District (prior to Aug. 1)</li> <li>■ Annual cost per resident: \$87.55</li> <li>■ Tax rate in Wheeling Twp. Rural Fire Protection District: 40 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation (1993 rate)</li> <li>■ Fire stations: Two, at 255 W. Dundee Road and 780 S. Wheeling Road</li> <li>■ Emergency calls in 1994: 3,323 total, 800 in the fire district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Annual fire district budget: \$970,000</li> <li>■ Number of firefighters: 8 full-time positions, 56 on call</li> <li>■ Population served: about 8,000</li> <li>■ Annual cost per resident: \$121.25</li> <li>■ Tax rate: 90 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation</li> <li>■ Fire stations: One at 10 E. Camp McDonald Road.</li> <li>■ Emergency calls in 1994: 625</li> </ul>

Daily Herald Graphic

The Prospect Heights rural department is responsible for providing fire protection to about 16,000 residents, twice the population of what it covered before Aug. 1. The

nois along with 2,000 firefighters and 2,000 paramedics. He said his group doesn't set standards for how many firefighters should be available per thousand population.

either 12-hour or 24-hour shifts.

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# FIRES: Wheeling tries to stop contract

Continued from Page 1

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However, the Prospect Heights City Council voted recently to reject the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District's bid to house a fire engine in the public works garage on the town's east side at 401 E. Piper Lane. Council members said the engine wouldn't fit in the garage.

The Illinois Department of Public Health says six minutes is the recommended maximum time it should take to get to a fire or medical emergency.

Peter Urban, one of three members of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District, said the issue is more than response time. He said the Prospect Heights Rural Fire District has a pumper truck — important in an area that is largely on well and septic and has no hydrants.

In signing a 15-year agreement with the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District, the idea of an actual merger between both boards is on the back burner, said

## How they serve the public

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### Wheeling

#### Fire protection services

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- Firefighters deployed
  - Two each to: hold the main hose; hold a back-up hose; break out windows and doors; search the building for trapped people.
  - One to run the pumper
  - Either the chief or deputy chief



### Prospect Heights

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- Firefighters deployed
  - Two each: driver-engineers (handle water supply); fire officer-team leaders; firefighter/paramedics do search and rescue or ventilation
  - One firefighter handles hose
- The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District Fire Department also has a staff of 56 on-call firefighters.



#### Emergency medical services

Sends a driver and attendant to the scene in an ambulance; 3 other firefighter/paramedics arrive in a ladder truck. Nearly all of Wheeling's 43 firefighters have paramedic training.



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- Emergency calls in 1994: 625

Daily Herald Graphic

The Prospect Heights rural department is responsible for providing fire protection to about 16,000 residents, twice the population of what it covered before Aug. 1. The department had 625 emergency calls last year and estimates getting 600 more from the new areas each year.

Ronald P. Kubicki, president of the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts, said the Prospect Heights rural district probably will need more firefighters to adequately protect its bigger area.

"In my opinion, more men would be needed," he said. "These men are going to be answering 600 calls. What about the other 600?"

Last year, the Wheeling Fire Department responded to nearly 800 calls from the entire Wheeling Township fire district. MacIsaac said about 500 of those were in Prospect Heights.

nois along with 2,000 firefighters and 2,000 paramedics. He said his group doesn't set standards for how many firefighters should be available per thousand population.

However, he said factors such as the department's emergency response time and access to fire fighting equipment are figured in when fire officials are determining if they can adequately protect an area.

Kubicki also is a trustee with the Pleasantview Fire Protection District board near La Grange. With 58 full-time firefighters, 12 paramedics and four stations, Kubicki said his department has an average two-minute response time for emergency calls.

Gould said his department sends seven firefighters to a fire and can call up to 56 more.

The Prospect Heights rural fire department staffs its fire station

either 12-hour or 24-hour shifts.

Meanwhile, Wheeling is trying to block the new contract from becoming permanent. The village is seeking an injunction in Cook County Circuit Court.

Earlier this week, Circuit Judge Arthur L. Dunne denied Wheeling's request for a temporary restraining order to block the contract change but set a Sept. 5 hearing to review the injunction request.

The Insurance Services Office, an independent agency that evaluates fire departments and communities, gave Wheeling a 3 rating. On the ISO scale, the lower number means a better rating and can affect the cost of homeowners' insurance.

The Prospect Heights rural fire district has ISO ratings of 6 for hydrant areas and 9 for nonhydrant areas. But Gould says the rural dis-



Wheeling firefighters Lt. Mike Proebstle and Vincent Adams check their air bottles during a drill in a burning building at Childerley Park. Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

## Firefighters test skills at drill in Wheeling

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Those who pass by a house at 506 McHenry Road in Wheeling today should not be alarmed if it's on fire. The house, on the

grounds of the Wheeling Park District's Childerley Park, is being used by five area fire departments for training exercises starting at 8:30 a.m. today and Wednesday.

"We light up a room and put it

out. It's just a lot of practice," said Wheeling Fire Department Lt. Tom Counley.

Included in the exercises, which started Monday, are firefighters from Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect, the Vernon Area Fire Protection District and Wheeling.

About 35 firefighters from those departments are participating in such exercises as extinguishing a building fire, breaking out windows to provide ventilation for such fires and doing a search and rescue of victims who would be trapped in a blaze.

As a part of the training exercises, the firefighters have to rescue a 150-pound dummy, affectionately called "Rescue Randy," to simulate pulling a person out of the fire, Counley said.

Wheeling Park District officials have scheduled the old house for demolition after those exercises are completed.

The abandoned house will be razed as a part of improvements planned for the park.



A Buffalo Grove firefighter airs out a room in a burning building in Wheeling as part of training exercises. Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

## Wheeling village board wants to keep authority over airport

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board is opposing a proposal from Prospect Heights officials to give the Palwaukee Municipal Airport commission power to hire and fire the airport's manager.

Prospect Heights officials are proposing a change in the intergovernmental agreement, under which both towns run the airport, that would take away the authority the Prospect Heights City Administrator Kenneth Bonder and Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson have to hire and fire the airport manager.

Prospect Heights 4th Ward Alderman Raymond Suerth said this week that the city council community and economic development committee recommended the airport commission be given the authority so it has some power.

"One of the ways to do it is to give them the power to hire and fire," said Suerth, who chairs the committee.

The eight-member airport commission includes four members each from both towns

appointed by Wheeling and Prospect Heights elected officials.

Bonder and Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. were unavailable for comment.

Wheeling officials indicated they opposed the proposal saying it changes how the airport is operated.

"I wonder by what authority officials appointed by elected officials would take on that authority?" said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Under the intergovernmental agreement, items the commission approves, such as purchases, must also be approved by Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen before they're carried out.

Some Prospect Heights officials have previously pressed airport officials to generate more revenue from Palwaukee for the towns and have questioned some of Stewart's actions.

Wheeling Trustee and commission member Elizabeth Hartman said that if the issue isn't resolved later this fall it should be discussed at the Oct. 30 joint meeting between the two towns.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

### Herald 8-9-95 Dry cleaner to replace pub in shopping center

Wheeling trustees approved the placement of a dry cleaning shop at the shopping center at 141 S. Milwaukee Ave.

In a 5-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved shopping center owner Howard Kagay's request for the location of a dry cleaning business at the site formerly occupied by Hein's Pub. The pub closed because it had difficulty meeting the requirements for parking under the village's zoning code.

### Purchase of four-wheel drive Bobcat approved

Wheeling trustees approved the purchase of a four-wheel drive skid-steer loader for the operations and maintenance department for \$32,000.

The village will purchase the Bobcat from Atlas Bobcat, Inc. of Schiller Park. The equipment is targeted for use by the village's water department.

### Village awards heating, air-conditioning contract

Trustees approved the purchase of two heating, ventilation and air conditioning units for the Municipal Complex Building for \$13,500.

## Wheeling approves new 2-year contract with police employees

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees this week agreed to a new two-year labor contract with police that gives officers a 3 percent pay raise the first year.

Police officers last month ratified the new pact, which replaces the old three-year contract that expired May 1.

The new agreement covers 43 sworn officers. Also covered under the new contract are police support personnel, including nine dispatchers, four record clerks and six community-service officers.

"We approved them all together," Wheeling Assistant Village Manager Ingrid Velkme said. "The talks went well."

The new contract, retroactive to May 1, raises starting pay for police officers from \$33,628 to \$34,637.

At the top of the pay scale, the highest salary increased from \$45,328 to \$46,688.

The new contract calls for a 3.5 percent pay raise May 1, 1996. A 1/2 percent pay raise goes into effect Nov. 1, 1996.

The current pact will also require employees for the first time to make health insurance contributions ranging from 5 percent to 6.5 percent of their monthly pay, depending on which health plan they are enrolled in. The officers will begin making health premium contributions next July.

Velkme said other towns have sought similar contributions from employees and the village is doing

so because of "skyrocketing" health-insurance premiums.

"It was a compromise on both sides. Both sides are happy with the agreement," William Stutzman, a Wheeling police officer and union representative said of the insurance contribution.

Velkme said Wheeling trustees did not approve the contract before this week because of questions they had over language in the pact.

Contract talks started in January. Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village allocated \$3.4 million for police salaries in its budget, a 6 percent increase over the \$3.2 million allocated last fiscal year.

The increase included money for individual raises and the overall pay increase, he said.

# S, but Palwaukee just plain busier

## Comparing airports — how big is enough?



Despite a smaller recreational market, suburban airports are trying to court more corporate aircraft with expansion or improvement projects.

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Schaumburg	1	3,800	90,000	\$26 million
Waukegan	2	6,000	104,000	\$1 million

\* Covers long-term completed projects and plans ranging from ditch relocations to new runways.

\*\* Midway Airport, a commercial facility, is included because of its familiarity to the public. The other airfields are general aviation airports, which typically serve private and recreational airplanes.

Sources: Airports, Illinois Department of Transportation

Daily Herald Graphic

services for a lot less money.

## Location, location

The key difference between Palwaukee and DuPage is the old real estate adage about location. Straddling Wheeling and Prospect Heights, Palwaukee is closer to downtown Chicago and numerous

corporate headquarters and executives' homes.

Manager Fred Stewart sums up the charms of his airfield simply: "What we have to offer people is location, and 5,000 feet of runway."

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go in name than in fact.

There are several other differences between DuPage and Palwaukee:

■ DuPage has more aircraft, 450 to 330.

■ But Palwaukee has 55 based jets, compared to DuPage's 14 or

See AIRPORTS on Page 5

Continued from Page 1

so.

■ Because jets use so much fuel, Palwaukee out-pumped DuPage in fuel sales last year, 4 million gallons to 1.5 million.

Fuel sales are key to DuPage, which recently took over fuel operations from a business there, expecting the profits to help get it off property tax bills.

Managers at several other airports object that fuel revenue should go to business at airfields, instead of the airport itself.

"Have you ever seen government do anything efficiently? I never have," says Lake In the Hills Airport Manager Howard Seedorf, who owns a charter service and flight school. "There's also a big liability you're taking on with it... When you're dealing in private enterprise, it's time for them to step back."

This summer, DuPage did step back from running a charter service and flight school, by selling Planemaster Services Inc. to J.A. Air Center.

## Taj DuPage

The most obvious difference between DuPage and its competitors is its new \$10 million flight center.

The facility offers food, fuel and offices, and gleams with granite-tiled floors and reflective windows.

Other local general aviation airports, such as Palwaukee, have no central terminal. Instead, businesses that service the planes have their own modest seating and service areas.

"The only reason you need a terminal is for commercial airlines," Stewart said.

After swearing for years that DuPage would never have commercial airlines, officials there now clarify that such a prohibition applies only to larger jets, and that they could not turn away a commuter airline.

But they say the terminal is simply a way to provide top-flight, centralized services to attract corporate fliers.

Executives can use the meeting rooms, while pilots can exercise or sleep in lounges. In addition, some recreational fliers say they fly to DuPage because it offers a place to eat between flights.

## Cost vs. benefit

While some other airports in the area get funding from the municipalities that own them, DuPage is the only airport designated to relieve traffic from O'Hare that levies its own property tax.

In DuPage, that will cost the owner of a \$150,000 house about \$56 in taxes this year.

By contrast, residents of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the communities that jointly bought Palwaukee in 1986, do not spend a penny on it, officials said. Operations are self-supporting through lease and fuel fees.

Similarly, a constant critic of DuPage, Citizens for Airport Reform, contrasts DuPage with Aurora Municipal Airport. The group cited Aurora's 132,000 operations last year on a budget of

DuPage Airport spokesman Brian Kulpin objected, saying those comparisons are unfair.

Aurora handles smaller planes, is subsidized by the city, and does not operate 24 hours a day in all weather, he points out.

Palwaukee, Kulpin said, has no room to grow because it is landlocked, and runs into O'Hare International Airport's air space.

"As the skies above Palwaukee get busier and busier, it's not the safest situation in the world," Kulpin said. "A lot of corporate pilots don't like that."

The difference between the budgets may be deceiving, Kulpin said. A municipal airport may receive benefits from its city, such as office space or snow plowing, that may not be shown in the budget.

In addition, DuPage covers 2,800 acres, owns about 30 buildings, and has many more based planes, so it has a larger facility to maintain.

Palwaukee is squeezed into only 411 acres and has 21 buildings.

While both airports have or will get new control towers and ramps, DuPage boasts a long list of new runways, lights, instruments, and related facilities.

## Room to grow

The main thing other airport managers envy, however, is DuPage's room.

DuPage plans to lengthen its longest runway to more than 7,000 feet, and has bought up 700 acres to develop.

"We'd all like to, if we had the money," Aurora Municipal Airport Director Bob Reiser said. "It's a way to control compatible land uses."

Critics contend the longer runways will attract commercial airlines, while airport officials maintain the length is needed so corporate jets can take off for long flights with a full load of fuel and passengers.

As DuPage's premier facilities attract development and more corporate tenants, Kulpin said the airport will more than pay its way.

At least one aviation business operator, however, doesn't buy that story.

As president and owner of Viking Express Inc., Robert Bur-

well's airport.

Burwell said he left DuPage because it subsidized his competitor, Planemaster Services.

The key fault in DuPage Airport plans, Burwell said, is that facilities like the terminal and the golf course will not attract any more corporate flights.

From his own experience chartering jets, corporate executives don't fly to an airport to use the terminal or play golf. They fly to save time, by getting as close as they can get to their business destination.

"A guy with a corporate jet is going to go to the nearest airport, regardless of what the frills are," he said.

While Burwell defends airports as assets to the local economy, he describes DuPage airport amenities as "the biggest waste of money that's ever been sprung on DuPage."

DuPage is not alone in some of its controversial actions.

Lewis University Airport in Romeoville sells its own fuel. Officials at Schaumburg Regional Airport have looked into recreational uses of airport land and selling fuel.

The arrangement may be the wave of the future for small airports, as federal funding dwindles.

Ironically, federal cuts may give DuPage one other advantage. While DuPage already has built most of its new infrastructure, other airports, such as Palwaukee and Lake in the Hills, are waiting for funding that is drying up.

The Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics administers federal funds to airports. Spokesman Ed Ardanjan defended his agency's spending on DuPage, noting it was limited to airport operations, not for projects such as the terminal.

"That is one of the busiest reliever airports in the country," he said. "That justifies a lot of the investment we're making now."



Palwaukee Airport handled more takeoffs and landings last year than DuPage Airport, on a much smaller budget.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

# DuPage airport has frills, but Palwaukee just plain busier

## Critics question spending for opulent improvements

By ROBERT McCOPPIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport has no exercise room. It has no golf course. It doesn't even have a central terminal.

But it handled more flights last year than DuPage Airport, which has all of those amenities.

In the battle between the two busiest general aviation airports in Illinois, DuPage officials boast they have the finest such facility in the country.

This year, DuPage will outspend Palwaukee \$23 million to \$2 million. The federal government is chipping in another \$7 million for Palwaukee's new control tower.

Yet last year, Palwaukee recorded 204,000 takeoffs and

landings, versus DuPage's 187,000. Operations at Palwaukee grew at a faster clip despite DuPage's new attractions.

So why did the plain-Jane airport get more business than the super-model?

Several suburban airport managers say that their customers don't care so much about frills. They want an airport that's functional and convenient to use, not a country club.

DuPage officials counter that they are looking to the future. While other airports are landlocked, or do not provide the services and safety pilots want, DuPage has the new infrastructure and the room to grow for 50 years.

But for now, Palwaukee maintains it delivers similar aviation

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Daily Herald Graphic

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See AIRPORTS on Page 5



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Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

Continued from Page 1

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# New rail line falls behind schedule

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Metra and the Wisconsin Central Ry. are behind schedule in finalizing the agreement that will add another commuter rail line to the Chicago area.

But that shouldn't preclude communities along the 52 miles of track between Union Station in Chicago and Antioch, such as Buffalo Grove, from working on their stations because they will be compensated for construction if the deal falls through, said Metra spokesman Chris Knapton.

"We've ensured all communities... if it doesn't happen, any money (they spent), they'll be paid back," Knapton said.

Knapton said it was hoped that an agreement would have been reached this month stipulating Metra's use of Wisconsin Central's track system, which is also used for freight trains.

Although there were no snags, negotiations are taking a little longer than anticipated, he added.

"Everything is drawn up and at the negotiation level," Knapton said. "The grant work is done, and we have to define principles."

Knapton said the two companies now will aim for next month to finalize the agreement on the \$96 million commuter line that could be completed by next summer.

Meanwhile, Buffalo Grove and other communities are moving ahead with plans to build stations so that they are prepared to serve commuters when the line is done.

Wheeling is in the process of purchasing land for its station. Buffalo Grove's village board agreed to continue work on its estimated \$1.8 million station that began this spring.

The village didn't want to delay work — at least \$1.1 million worth that has already been approved — so it can remain on schedule and complete the parking lot this fall, said Assistant Village Manager Lee Szymborski.

Trustee William Reid added that moving forward with the project might also save the village money because prices could be more expensive if it had to renegotiate for the work to be done at a later date.

"We want to stick with the calendar that we set up," Reid said. "There's nothing to be gained by delay."

# Mall owner's new plan taken to the cleaners

8-17-95  
By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
*Countyside*

Just over three months after parking problems forced Hein's Pub & Restaurant out of the shopping center at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., the mall owner has found a new tenant trustees say current parking will accommodate.

Howard Kagay, of Arlington Heights-based Progress Investments which owns the mall, had planned to approach the Village Board Aug. 7 and ask whether a drop-off cleaners and liquor/grocery store would be a suitable use for the site considering the parking shortage.

However, prior to the meeting, Kagay changed his proposal to include only a dry-cleaning business, according to Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The liquor/grocery store could have caused some problems and delays for Kagay because the village "doesn't issue liquor licenses to convenience-type stores," Anderson said.

## To and fro

"We're still cruising back and forth," Kagay said of the liquor/grocery store or cleaners. "We haven't finalized anything yet. It's still up in the air."

If Kagay comes back to the board with a request for a liquor store, trustees would have to determine whether the business would be classified as a convenience store with a limited liquor department or mainly a package liquor store that sells a few food items, Anderson said.

"I think he wants to move rather quickly on this," Anderson said, noting that the process to obtain a liquor license could become lengthy.

Kagay said he's waiting to see what type of business his

prospective tenant wants to pursue. "I have to talk to the tenant. He wants the place to be viable," he added. "I have approval (for the cleaners), but no signed lease."

## Dry deal

"The trustees decided this type of use (the cleaners) would be OK," Anderson said.

Parking became an issue for Hein's Pub owner Joseph Adornetto this spring, after three extensions granted by the village to give him time to solve the parking shortage expired.

**'We're still cruising back and forth. We haven't finalized anything yet. It's still up in the air.'**

Based on the square-footage of the pub and the number of seats inside, the village determined Adornetto needed additional parking for the pub use. However, Adornetto and Kagay maintained that parking was never a problem for pub customers.

Trustees in May gave Adornetto until Aug. 1 to find more parking, but Adornetto instead decided to close his business.

## Keep it clean

Anderson said parking would not be an issue if Kagay signs on the dry cleaner.

Kagay claims the village told him when Hein's closed that he would be able to apply for a package liquor license, if needed for a future tenant. Kagay said he

(Continued on page 12)

# Lights, camera, traffic

8-17-95  
By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
*Countyside*

If you've driven on Dundee Road during Wheeling's evening rush hour recently, you probably were included in a research project involving car manufacturers.

Mark Hislop of Video Impressions of Aurora recently finished two weeks of taping westbound traffic along Dundee Road at its intersections with Wheeling and Elmhurst roads.

"Our work is mainly corporate and broadcast videos — training videos, advertisements," Hislop said. "It's been technically challenging, stringing cable between the intersections and working outdoors in all types of weather. This is a little out of the ordinary for us."

And it's apparently a little unusual for people who drive or walk along Dundee Road.

"I'd say we have 10 people an hour come up to us and ask what we're doing," Hislop said. "Some park at the light and holler over to us. It is something out of the ordinary. Everyone who stops and fills up here asks," Hislop said of the Phillips 66 station at Dundee and Elmhurst roads where he was filming.

Other cameramen were stationed at the Unocal 76 station at Dundee and Elmhurst roads and at Tom Todd Chevrolet at Dundee and Wheeling roads.

Hislop said he has no idea why Wheeling was selected for the filming, except that Dundee Road does carry a heavy amount of westbound traffic during the evening rush hour.

He's seen a number of frustrated drivers, fender benders and a few near misses.

Video Impressions was hired by a research firm to film the traffic for 10 days. Hislop said the study was being done for Motorola, and several car manufacturers.

shield, and a red sheet of paper in the passenger windshield (for identification by the video cameras.) The GDS global distribution system then follows the car's location throughout the day, tracking a car to within 12 feet of its location, Hislop said.

"When you think of how far up in space the satellites are,



Tim J. Tully/Pioneer Press

**Mark Hislop of Video Impressions adjusts cameras placed at the corner of Route 83 and Dundee Road as part of a traffic study.**

"I'm not sure of the purpose," Hislop said. "Once we record this, they'll take the tapes to a research assistant who will keep track of the time it takes a car to get from (Wheeling Road) to here (Elmhurst Road), and mark down whether the car turns

left, right or continues straight ahead."

As another part of the study, certain cars are being tracked from above by satellite, according to Hislop. The cars are equipped with two antennas in the rear window.

(Continued on page 12)

it's amazing," he added. "What they're trying ultimately to do is figure out traffic signals of the future."

The satellite-tracked cars are not part of Hislop's assignment, but have been hired by the same people that hired his video company.

The GDS system has been used in some car models as a

luxury option that allows drivers to pinpoint their location on roaming maps in the dashboard. The option is available in some cars, but still very expensive.

Hislop speculated that the study may be looking for ways to make the technology more accessible and affordable.

## ■ Mall Continued from page 5

planned to meet with the prospective tenant Monday.

"We want to get this thing off the vacant state," Kagay said. "Taxes are greatly reduced when you don't have tenants in there. Hopefully,

something will happen soon."

If current lease negotiations are successful, the mall would be fully occupied.

The dry cleaners would join a martial arts school and a Dessert Gourmet currently

negotiating a lease.

Dessert Gourmet owner Cathryn Fieberg said she hopes to move her business to the Milwaukee Avenue location later this fall.

# Wheeling residents seek quick action on development plan

8-22-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials and residents said Monday that whatever the village does with its proposed community development plan should be done soon.

Some residents raised concerns that a proposal by the Naperville-based Denniston Group consulting firm to recruit community groups to help devise a plan for village improvements would take too long.

They feared the 8 to 12 months it could take form such a committee would be time better spent working on other activities to address the village's problems.

"What I think we need to do is to speed up the process," said Trustee Robert J. Heer.

However, Pamela B. Denniston, president of the firm, said that the duration of the evaluation process can be varied to fit community needs.

"Our expertise is consensus building and getting through a process that everyone can live with," she said.

After a trustees retreat this past January, Wheeling village President Sheila H. Schultz

said the board indicated a desire to develop a sweeping community development plan.

Village officials have said they want the plan to address many issues, such as infrastructure improvements and economic development.

Members of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce and others in town said an economic development plan is needed in Wheeling to address the loss of businesses.

Former Wheeling plan commission member Christine Dolgopol said she's seen in her own workplace the improvements such a consultant can have make.

"We have a vision for where we are going. I applaud the village for doing this," she said.

While the village has not yet officially hired the firm, officials have said a September meeting will be set to recruit interested residents to serve on the community development steering committee.

And while the chamber lauded the move, members said they wanted the committee to be in place by Sept. 15.

They also want it to achieve at least one economic development goal within six months.

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

8-25-95

# Wheeling residents want say in proposal to build on park site

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A third delay Thursday in the review of plans for a Wheeling town house development upset residents opposed to the proposal.

At the request of Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, the Wheeling Plan Commission delayed until Thursday a review of plans for a 44-unit town house development targeted for 7.8 acres at 124 S. Milwaukee Avenue.

Schultz said time was needed so the village, Wheeling-based developer Joseph Freed and Associates, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 and Wheeling Park District officials could agree on a plan that "addresses the residents' open-space concerns."

Officials hope to be able to present revised plans then, she said.

Some neighbors want the open space, located near Whitman School, left undisturbed.

They also want to be included in discussions about the property.

"They're still not including us

in the process," neighbor Gary Hittleman said.

Under Wheeling's comprehensive plan, the site is designated for use as a park.

The neighbors have objected to the development, saying it would eliminate a children's play area, claim old trees and aggravate traffic problems.

As a compromise, the developer dropped four units from the original 48-town house plan and agreed to keep 1.7 acres as open space.

But residents complained the developer was offering too little open space.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said officials were discussing adding more open space to the site, but he declined to elaborate.

"We're working to change that configuration," Anderson said.

Representatives for the developer were not present at Thursday's meeting. They have not returned repeated Daily Herald phone calls.

The developer was chosen by Wheeling village trustees to build the first project in the village's redevelopment area.

# Airport not mourning loss of Wrigley

8-17-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials say the relocation of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.'s corporate aircraft to Chicago's Midway Airport Chicago will have little effect on the Wheeling facility.

Palwaukee's assistant airport manager, Michael F. Zonsius, said the airport normally gains and loses corporate tenants.

He said other than the possible loss of some aviation fuel flowage revenue, the airport won't be affected by the Wrigley Co.'s move.

"The vacancy of this tenant I do not think will be damaging to the economic viability of the airport," Zonsius said.

Palwaukee receives an 8 1/2-cent tax on each gallon of aviation fuel sold there, Zonsius said.

The Chicago city council recently approved Wrigley's move to Midway Airport. The council also allowed Sears, Roebuck and Co. to sublease 30 percent of its hangar space to the Wrigley.

City officials said Wrigley wanted to move its corporate aircraft activity to Chicago. The company is based in the city.

With the move, which will occur later this year, the company is also relocating 12 jobs, city officials said.

Don Augustine, director of marketing for Priester Aviation — which leases corporate hangars and is Palwaukee's first fixed-base fueling operator — said his company houses the aircraft of at least 35 major corporations.

Corporate users of Palwaukee and Priester Aviation include Motorola Inc., FMC Corp. and Household International.

"Right now, we've had a couple of other corporations move onto the field and we have more planes than

we have room for," said Augustine, whose company stored a Gulfstream 5 and Falcon G-4 for Wrigley.

Zonsius also noted that Priester and Service Aviation, Palwaukee's second fixed-base operator, has plans to build additional corporate hangars at the airport.

The airport is operated under an intergovernmental agreement between Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

The facility is in the middle of an \$83.5 million long-range improvement project to bring it up to federal standards.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Wheeling hires consultant to help with plan for future

8-21-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials tonight will start talking about a plan for the future of the village.

Representatives of the Lisle-based Denniston Group consulting firm will present an overview to officials of how they propose to get different groups in the community to meet and develop their own "strategic plan" for making a host of improvements in the village.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said after a January village board retreat, trustees and village staff felt a need for a wide-ranging plan that would address a broad spectrum of issues for the town of about 30,000.

"The board and the staff were pretty much going in the same direction. This was going to be an affirmation to see if we're reading the people right," Schultz said.

Pamela B. Denniston, president of the Denniston Group, said her firm has worked with such towns as Park Ridge, Downers Grove and Lincolnwood.

She said her firm brings to-

gether different community groups and allows them to develop their own plans for improving their towns.

For example, in Park Ridge, the firm found the town had many elderly residents who were through with child rearing.

Denniston said the firm helped community groups make recommendations for improvements of the city's senior transportation, senior medical services and senior housing.

"We don't develop the plan. We create a process where the broad representation develops a plan," Denniston said.

Denniston said her firm gets groups to ask, "Where are we now? What are the major issues facing us in the future and what do we want our future to look like?"

She added the process for developing such community improvement plans usually takes a year to 18 months.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said it could cost at least \$22,000 to retain the firm to direct such a program.

Anderson said besides economic development, the con-

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sultant will help the village determine what local issues deserve the most emphasis.

Anderson cited as an example that some groups may want streets improved while others may favor upgraded police protection.

He acknowledges, though, that Wheeling's economic development is an issue on the minds of many residents.

"I hope one of the outcomes of this process is a collaborative effort between the village and businesses," he said.

If the firm is hired, a meeting will be held by officials in September to find up to 12 people to serve on a community development panel.

That body would be responsible for ensuring the community planning process proceeds smoothly, he said.

Those tapped for the panel could include interested residents, business owners, local religious leaders and officials from other local government bodies, Anderson said.

However, some in the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce have raised concerns about the proposed community development plan saying it may take too long or not be enough to help the village.

"My concern with this kind of consulting firm is what kind of time parameters are we talking about? Are we going to be talking six months and Milwaukee Avenue doesn't get any better," said Denise Kennedy, who chairs the chamber's economic development committee.

Kennedy added "a lot of people know what's wrong (in Wheeling)

Gonsowski et ux, July 26.  
David B. Phillips Jr. to Frank J. \$213,000, 3252 Carriage Way Ct., Mazon and Lyda Ghunem, July 24.  
Alvin A. and Helen Foerster to \$225,000, 1624 Plymouth Drive, son, July 25.  
Steven E. Culler to Kerry W. Pear- \$252,500, 24 N. Regency Drive W., Michele Ott, July 24.  
Stark and Lynn E. Stark to John and \$255,000, 714 W. Maple, Daniel H. Dinsmore to Van Carrigan, July 25.  
Robert L. Dinsmore and JoAnne \$260,000, 1634 S. Surrey Lane,

# Wheeling plans Labor Day fireworks

8-30-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials will get to shoot off their fireworks after all at a Labor Day evening bash.

On Monday at 8:30 p.m. festivities will start at the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center at 333 W. Dundee Road grounds adjacent to Wheeling village hall.

Then, the entertainment will start with music from the Wax Lips, a rhythm and blues band playing from 8:30 to 8 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., the village will hold its \$10,000 fireworks display at Heritage Park at 222 S. Wolf Road behind the village hall.

Wheeling officials originally were going to hold the fireworks display for the Fourth of July during the annual Familyfest event held by St. Joseph The Worker Church.

However, heavy rains forced cancellation of the yearly fireworks display.

The park district and village officials have held similar free admission Picnic in the Park events fea-

turing music and food during the summer. The last one originally scheduled was held Aug. 13.

"Everything is free except the ice cream," Trudy Wakeman, promotions and special events coordinator for the Wheeling Park District said about the Labor Day celebration.

Village and park officials agreed to the Labor Day event because of the Fourth of July rain-out.

The Baskin Robbins 31 Flavors Ice Cream Store will be selling food at the event.

Parking for the event will be

available at the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center at 327 W. Dundee Road and the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center.

Park officials also said that the Aquatic Center will be open for swimming for the last day of its season on Labor Day from noon to 8 p.m.

The Community Recreation Center will also be open that day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Wakeman said village and park officials have not set an alternate date for holding the celebration in case it's rained out.

# New intersection to ease plane fears

9-1-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Life will get a bit easier for motorists driving near Palwaukee Municipal Airport today when four new lanes of Hintz Road in Wheeling will be opened.

Just in time for Labor Day weekend traffic, two eastbound and two westbound lanes of Hintz Road where it intersects with Wolf Road will be opened this morning.

Additionally, two new lanes on Wolf Road, one northbound and the other southbound, will be opened at the intersection. And

traffic signals at the intersection will be activated to have flashing red lights, replacing stop signs there.

The openings come a bit later than engineers on the project originally expected, Palwaukee Municipal Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said.

"Sept. 1: That's the target date," Stewart said.

"I think they're going to make this one."

The project at the intersection included work to relocate the Wolf/Hintz intersection 575 feet to the west and 250 feet to the north

to increase the safety zone between it and Palwaukee's longest runway.

With the intersection further from the runway, motorists should feel more at ease. In the past, the intersection and runway were so close that it sometimes appeared as if incoming planes were going to land on cars there.

Relocation of the intersection is the centerpiece of an \$83.5 million long-term project to bring Palwaukee Municipal Airport up to federal standards.

When the new Wolf Road lanes are open, crews will start work on

two other lanes on that road scheduled for southbound traffic. Stewart is uncertain when that work will be completed.

Much of the work on other parts of the project has been completed, Stewart said, including new bridges over parts of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Work on another part of the project, to relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch running through the Twin Drive-In and Palwaukee, is set to start next year.

The drive-in, at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., will close permanently in October.

# Wheeling planners back town house plan over objections

9-1-95  
BY BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission didn't grant the wishes of a group of residents Thursday night and supported a plan to build town houses on land where kids play and old trees stand.

Commissioners recommended to the board of trustees to allow a 40-town house development to be built

on most of 7.8 acres 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The support came in a series of four, 4-1 votes that supported Joseph Freed and Associates' plan, its request for changes in zoning and some variations from village codes. Commissioner Donald Duncan voted in opposition. Commissioner Ken Brady was absent and Commissioner Ellen Buttor abstained.

Despite the Wheeling-based developer decreasing the number of homes from 44 to 40 and increasing from 1.7 acres to 1.9 acres the amount of undeveloped land, some residents remained opposed to the project.

"We all seem to be missing the point here," Gary Cohn, one of the 65 residents who packed village hall, said. "We could fine tune it. This doesn't belong here. It should remain open space."

Residents would like the nearly four acres of open land where kids play near Whitman School and a wooded area to remain undisturbed.

Some residents said that some of property that fronts Milwaukee Avenue is intended for businesses and said that should not change.

Duncan said he opposed the development primarily because he would have preferred a project such as a small shopping area that could

generate taxes for the village.

Chairman Terry Steilen said he supported the plan because he believes town houses would bring more residents who could help support existing businesses in the surrounding area.

In order for the land to remain undeveloped, the Wheeling Park District or another governmental body would probably have to buy the land, officials said.

# Wheeling Township fire issue may see change of court venue

9-6-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County Circuit Court judge on Tuesday delayed ruling on the village of Wheeling's request for an injunction against the Wheeling Township fire district until she can decide which court should hear the case.

Judge Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird said the injunction to block the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board from terminating its court-mandated con-

tract with Wheeling firefighters to protect parts of the district in Prospect Heights may have to be heard in another court due to a legal technicality.

"This should really be decided at the County Division," said Kinnaird, who is a judge in the circuit court's Chancery Division.

Kinnaird said that because the judge who made the original 1982 ruling to have the Wheeling Fire Department cover parts of Prospect Heights was in the court's County Division, perhaps

the case should be heard there again.

Attorneys for Wheeling and the Wheeling Township fire district didn't object to the possible venue change but raised concerns a judge in the County Division could return parts of the complex case to Kinnaird for a ruling.

"I don't think you are less able than that division to rule (in this case)," Richard T. Wimmer, an attorney for Wheeling, told Kinnaird.

Kinnaird said she will discuss the

matter with Judge Francis Barth, who presides over the court's County Division, and make a ruling Sept. 15.

In June, the Wheeling Township fire board and the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District board agreed to have the latter district's fire department protect the parts of Prospect Heights that are within the Wheeling Township fire district.

That new fire protection agreement started Aug. 1.

# Firm to help develop plan for village

9-8-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Over objections from some trustees, the Wheeling village board hired a consulting firm to help village officials develop a long-range improvement plan for the town.

In a 3-0 vote, with Trustees Robert J. Heer and Pat Horcher abstaining and Trustee Wayne Wisinski absent, the Wheeling board this week approved retaining the Naperville-based Denniston Group consulting firm for \$22,000. Wheeling Village President

Sheila H. Schultz had said that after a January retreat the village board felt a need for a wide-ranging plan that would address a broad spectrum of issues for the town of 30,000.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village staff and trustees felt the firm would be the best one for the town's needs.

"We need to address short-term and long-term objectives. And we need a plan that will take us past the year 2000," Anderson said.

The firm helps towns develop improvement plans by bringing together representatives from dif-

ferent groups within the town to identify its needs.

Anderson said that such a meeting could be held later this month or in October.

Horcher and Heer objected to hiring the firm saying the 12 to 18 months it takes for them to develop a plan is too long because of Wheeling's pressing economic needs.

"I think the period of time required for this is too long," said Heer.

Critics have said the village should start work on an economic development plan to attract busi-

nesses to Wheeling and hire a consultant to help with that effort.

Anderson has said some of the issues the committee could review include infrastructure improvements and upgraded police protection.

Wheeling officials have said that having a broad community improvement plan in place would not prevent them from initiating some sort of economic development plan.

The Denniston Group has previously worked with such towns as Lincolnwood, Park Ridge and Downers Grove.

# Round one goes to the developer

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

9-7-95

Residents who want to preserve open space near Walt Whitman School may have lost a battle last week, but they say the fight is certainly not over.

After listening to two hours of testimony, the village's plan commission voted to favorably recommend a plan for the Billy & Co. site that would permit 40 townhomes and leave 1.9 acres of open space.

The plan has less townhomes than earlier versions, and slightly more space set aside for open space. But it failed to win the endorsement of either the park district or school district, which consulted with the village in an attempt to reach a compromise that would satisfy all three interests.

The plan also failed to satisfy a residents group fighting to preserve 7.5 acres on the west edge of the property as playfield. The land has been privately owned but informally used by Whitman school students during recesses.

The village wants to purchase several lots along Milwaukee Avenue, including the former Billy & Co. site, as part of its TIF district, then sell the property to developer



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Third graders Natal Patel, Nicole Belcher, and Ashley Gushulak play Chinese jump rope behind Whitman School. The play area is slated for townhomes.

Joseph Freed for a residential development.

Freed originally proposed 48 townhome units, but after residents argued that the play area should be preserved, the firm scaled the plans down to 44, then presented 40 units at the Aug. 31

special meeting.

Ira Frank of Freed & Associates said 40 units were agreed to after meetings with the village, park district and School District 21.

The park district and school district don't see it that way.

"Initially, it was stated we were part of this plan, but ultimately we were presented with this plan," said Park Board President Greg Klatecki. "This has not been approved by us."

"We would be interested in anything that would increase

our parkland. We are far behind national standards" in the amount of parkland a village the size of Wheeling should have, Klatecki added. "We had no input."

School Board President Phil Pritzker said the plan may be a "conceptual understanding of the staffs of the three governmental bodies," but noted, "neither the Park District Board nor the School District Board has taken any action on this plan."

"No way should this be represented as a rubber stamp (approval) by either board," Pritzker said.

Residents again tried to stop, or at least slow the development process, when Peter Clark, an attorney who is representing the neighborhood, said the village may face legal problems if it goes ahead with the plans for townhomes.

According to Illinois statutes, Clark said, the village has to develop the property as stated in Wheeling's comprehensive plan, as park space.

"The TIF district requires compliance with the village comprehensive plan," Clark said. "Rezoning it to permit townhomes might be premature."

Plan commissioners had no comment regarding (Continued on page 8)

## Developer Continued from page 5

Clark's charge, but said village attorney Jim Rhodes would review it. They noted that the comprehensive plan has been under review for at least the last year.

Mary Mozal, one of the organizers of the residents' group which is now calling itself SPACE (Save Precious Acreage for Citizens and Children's Enjoyment), said the battle against the townhomes will now focus on the Village Board.

"We're just going to keep fighting it until we get an

equitable settlement. The (school) board and the park have not approved it," Mozal said, adding that the village should go ahead and purchase the property then determine how it should best be developed. "We've maintained that all along," she said.

The village board has yet to set a date it will review the plan.

Plan Commissioner Donald Duncan voted against the referral and Commissioner Ellen Butor, who works for the developer, Joseph Freed & As-

sociates, abstained. Commissioner Ken Brady was absent.

Plan Commission Chairman Terry Steilen noted that commissioners were there to vote on the merits of the plan presented, not to determine if an alternate plan would be better. He said there is still time for the plan to change, but any changes would have to come back to the Plan Commission.

"I think it probably will come back to us a couple more times. I don't think it's over," Steilen said.

## Academy gives civilians taste of police work

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Countyside

If you've ever wondered how police investigators solve crimes or how police combat street gangs, the Wheeling Police Department has a class for you.

Next week, the Police Department begins its first Citizens Police Academy. The concept has been so successful that plans are already under way for another 24-seat Citizens Academy to be offered in the spring.

More than 30 residents applied for the course, said police Cpl. John Teevans of the department's Crime Prevention Unit.

"From the other departments we've looked at who are doing this, there was a large number of people interested," said Teevans, who will instruct a portion of the class.

To structure the Citizens Academy, officers reviewed courses offered by police departments in

Spokane, Wash., Aurora, Elgin and Warrenville, he said.

"We thought we'd get a good response," Teevans added. "This is something the chief (Michael Haeger) wanted and he's one of its biggest supporters."

The purpose of the class is not to recruit or produce patrol officers, but rather to give participants an inside look at the Police Department and a better understanding of law enforcement.

Participants on Sept. 14 will attend the first of 10 weekly classes.

"The program covers various aspects of the Wheeling Police Department and the different specialty areas, such as investigations, the gang unit, tactical unit, crime prevention and DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)," Teevans said.

Those registered for the course, men and women who range in age from early 30s to late 60s, were asked on their applications why they were inter-

ested in the Citizens Academy, he said.

"Basically, they want to know more about how we operate," Teevans said, noting that the O.J. Simpson murder trial has piqued public interest in police departments and their activities.

In addition to providing a unique insight into the Police Department, the course may improve community relations as participants learn how they can assist police in fighting crime by reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods, he said.

"Many people are unaware that they can help us," he said.

Teevans said the spring course may be altered slightly from the fall session depending on participants' reactions and comments.

Residents interested in the spring Citizens Academy can contact Teevans at the Wheeling Police Department at 459-2693. All participants are required to undergo a routine criminal background check.

# Fire destroys former home of Scout legend

BY AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The abandoned home of a woman who brought years of joy to Wheeling Girl Scouts burned to the ground early Saturday.

Firefighters spent more than six hours fighting the blaze at 440 Denoyer Trail, but crews were unable to save the 60-year-old structure.

Destroyed was the former home of Xenia Denoyer, a longtime Girl Scout leader who frequently invited girls to a cabin on her property that she called Camp Singing Grove. The

cabin was not damaged in the fire.

The cause of the fire has not been determined, but police said they are investigating arson as a possibility.

Denoyer died in 1978, but her contributions to the community are remembered vividly by residents like Tina Dean, a former member of Denoyer's Girl Scout troop and now a Scout leader herself. Dean, who has helped maintain the outside of the property for the past 18 months, was stunned by news of the fire.

"I just stood watching the flames coming out of that house and all I

could think was it's gone. Every bit of it is gone," a tearful Dean said. "There's a piece of her that's gone. When I used to mow the lawn, somehow I'd always look back at the house and I could feel her watching out. Her presence was there."

Firefighters had trouble putting out the blaze because the abandoned home had been boarded up earlier this year.

"There was a lot of stuff inside, so it (the fire) just kept going because you can't get inside," Acting Lt. Tom Counley said. "You don't want to put your guy's lives on the line for an abandoned building

that's not worth anything."

He said any time a boarded-up structure catches on fire, it is labeled as suspicious.

Firefighters were, however, able to get into the house long enough to retrieve a curio cabinet filled with Girl Scout memorabilia. The cabinet contained photos dating back to 1935, Girl Scout trinkets and collectible pins, literature and records about past Wheeling troops.

Dean said family members also had removed some of the valuable furniture and memorabilia from the house earlier in the week.



Volunteer Mike Berkowicz of Gurnee keeps an eye on his painting job during Saturday's Community Paint-A-Thon in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

## Volunteers add color to communities

Volunteers from suburban businesses, church groups and Scout troops brushed up on their community service skills Saturday as they took part in

the annual Community Paint-A-Thon. They helped to refurbish some 45 homes in eight Northwest suburban townships. See story on Page 4.

# Hotel workers among volunteers who brush up on community spirit

BY EILEEN O. DADAY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

On any given weekend, staff members of the Hyatt Regency Woodfield and the Hyatt Deerfield combine staffs to pull off large banquets and major fund-raisers. But on Saturday, they combined efforts for a fundraiser of a different sort.

Nearly 20 professionals from the two staffs — from the hotels' chief engineers, to accountants, to front desk personnel — turned out bright and early Saturday morning, in old jeans and worn shirts to paint the outside of 69-year-old John Waller's home in Wheeling.

In doing so, they joined more than 700 volunteers from across the Northwest suburbs, to take part in the annual Community Paint-A-Thon.

The volunteers ranged from church groups, to corporate teams, such as the Hyatt group, to individuals like 13-year-old John Szfraniec Jr. of Mount Prospect, who organized fellow Boy Scouts to help him complete his Eagle Scout project.

The combined efforts of these suburban volunteers helped to refurbish some 45 homes — twice the number of homes painted last year — in eight local townships, including: Wheeling, Schaumburg, Palatine, Maine, Hanover, Elk Grove, Barrington and Niles.

The residences all belonged to either senior citizens or people with disabilities whose income is less than \$15,000 annually.

The job in Wheeling took more than four hours and ranged from



Julie Coker of Chicago does the high rolling and Barb Kovacs of Schaumburg does the low spots during the Community Paint-A-Thon in Wheeling Saturday.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

scraping and priming the home last weekend; to painting the fiber board siding and trim, and pruning the bushes on Saturday.

"I think it's tremendous," said homeowner John Waller, who has lived in the home for 33 years.

At least one member of the paint crew, Julie Coker, the rooms executive at the Deerfield Hyatt, conceded she had never painted before. But that didn't stop her from joining her fellow employees.

"This is the first time I've painted, period," said Coker, splattered from head to toe in paint. "But I thought this was a great project, and it was a great way to boost camaraderie at work. It's a different setting, and a little more relaxed."

It was the first time the two staffs had worked together on a service project of this sort, said Robert Palmer, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Woodfield, but both staffs work with local charities. The Woodfield Hyatt supports Shelter Inc., in Arlington Heights; while the Deerfield Hyatt works with the Center for Enriched Living in Deerfield.

"We saw this as a way we can give back a little to the community," said Rusty Macy, general manager of the Deerfield Hyatt, and a resident of Arlington Heights. "And it was a chance for all of us to get involved; it's a team atmosphere, and it enhances the camaraderie we have between the two hotels."

# Village mulls municipal hall expansion

BY AL CASTRILLO  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling officials are considering expanding the village's municipal complex or at least renting outside space to ease overcrowding there.

On the heels of a consultant's study that reported the 17-year-old complex at 255 W. Dundee Road is cramped, Wheeling officials are considering several options for gaining additional space. Those options include an addition of a second floor to the administration building, relocating the

fire station and using its space for other purposes or constructing a new public works building there. "These are things to think about," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. Considered long-term solutions, officials said the proposals could cost anywhere from \$5 million to \$8 million to implement.

Anderson said members of the village staff is now reviewing the options and should present recommendations to Wheeling trustees before the end of the year. An eight-month, \$20,000 study by the Schaumburg-based RUST Environment & Infrastructure firm discovered among its findings that employees felt the complex didn't give them enough space at work stations, for storage or for interacting with the public. "The facilities are seriously overcrowded," said Alan B. Itzkowitz, a project manager for the firm.

As a short-term solution, Anderson said officials are considering renting vacant office space or space in a shopping mall for some village departments. Officials have not yet set a target date for when that relocation could occur.

Wheeling officials had said that if the administration building is expanded it would have to have another level added to it because the building is in a floodway and can't take up any more space horizontally.

The Wheeling Police Department initiated the request for the study last year, noting that from 1982 to 1994 its workforce nearly doubled from 39 employees to 78 workers.

Village officials later decided that the study should include the entire complex.

# Lions to lift big top in Wheeling

9-14-95

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Ladies and gentlemen should direct their attention to the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center this weekend where the circus will appear once again.

The Kelly-Miller Circus from Oklahoma will return to Wheeling for shows Friday and Saturday in front of the Aquatic Center at 327 W. Dundee Road.

Sponsored by the Wheeling Lions Club this year, the circus is making its third appearance in front of the

park district facility as a fund-raiser for the community group, organizers said.

"A lot of businesses in the area bought tickets through telemarketers and have given them away to Little City and the (Wheeling) Community Resource Center," said Bill Hoos, president of the Wheeling Lions Club.

Hoos said crowds of about 1,500 a performance could attend the four shows the circus will hold during its visit.

On Friday, the circus will have shows at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. On

Saturday, the shows are at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The circus will include all the trappings of a traditional circus with clowns, performing elephants and the big top.

Perhaps the most entertaining part of the circus comes before it actually starts with elephants helping to erect the big-top tent at 7:30 a.m. Friday at the center.

Tickets for the circus are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 if they're purchased in advance.

Tickets purchased the day of the event are each a \$1 more, Hoos said.

Tickets can be purchased around Wheeling at El Famous Burrito Restaurant at 236 McHenry Road; Original Granny's Restaurant at 831 W. Dundee Road; Firststar Bank at 800 S. Wheeling Road; Cole-Taylor Bank at 350 E. Dundee Road and Hoyne Savings Bank at 699 W. Dundee Road. For further information, call 520-4500 or 541-3257.

The Lions Club took over hosting the circus, that previously arrived in the village under sponsorship from the Wheeling Jaycees, which opted not to become involved in the effort this year.

## Wheeling tightening road traffic enforcement

9-9-95

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

To promote traffic safety, Wheeling police are stopping motorists at random to see if they're wearing seat belts.

Thanks to a \$9,200 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to give police officers overtime pay, the department will step up traffic enforcement in some sections of the village.

"We'll put officers on in high-violation areas and high-accident areas and hopefully reduce accidents and when they do have accidents reducing injuries because we'll be checking for seat belts," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief John Popadowski.

Police will also make random stops of motorists to see if their children have proper seat restraints and ensure the drivers aren't driving under the influence of alcohol.

The department also stepped up traffic enforcement during the Labor Day weekend.

The first part of the program will end Sunday evening. Wheeling police said they'll start another phase of increased traffic patrols later this fall.

Areas targeted for increased patrols include those near schools, Popadowski said.

Other areas slated for extra scrutiny by Wheeling Police include South Milwaukee Avenue from Hintz Road to the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant; Schoenbeck Road south to Anthony Road; and Wheeling Road from Mercantile Court to Hintz Road.

Also slated for increased police patrols are Lexington Drive from Lake-Cook Road to McHenry Road and the intersection of Old McHenry Road and Dundee Road.

Last year, the Wheeling Police Department received a \$9,259 federal highway safety grant administered by IDOT.

The department used the money then to give overtime pay to three patrol officers to increase traffic violation enforcement in Wheeling.

## Second grocery chain said to be interested in Wheeling venture

9-12-95

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials said Monday night that an unnamed Midwest grocery store chain is considering opening a store in the village.

At a village board meeting at the Lexington Commons subdivision clubhouse, Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson revealed the chain's interest in the village.

Anderson said that the chain, as well as Elgin-based Butera Finer Foods, would consider opening a store in Wheeling if either could get an incentive "to share sales tax revenue for a period of time, which we're considering."

Anderson, who declined to identify the chain, said that the company first indicated its interest in the village late last month.

Village officials have said Butera is considering opening a grocery store in the space vacated by Dominick's Finer Foods store at the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center at 550 W. Dundee Road.

Dominick's closed its store there this past February after

being at that location for 22 years. Company officials said the store, which had about 24,000 square feet of sales space, was too small for its current needs.

Lexington Commons resident Marjorie Orza touched off Anderson's revelation when she asked "Why can't we get a food store here that's available to us?"

Since the Dominick's store closed, many in Wheeling have complained the town is not being served by a major grocer.

The lack of a grocery store became a campaign issue in the race for the Wheeling village board in the general election held this past April.

Anderson said Wheeling officials are currently reviewing the second draft of a proposed sales-tax revenue sharing agreement with Butera.

He added that the interested grocery chain also is seeking a similar agreement but village officials have not yet started negotiating such a deal.

Wheeling officials have not yet said when any grocery store sales tax revenue sharing deals will be brought before the village board for review.

## Residents receive Schultz scholarship

Countryside 9-14-95

Wheeling residents Victoria Gelfand and Dewey Cooper were each awarded a \$1,000 Sheila Schultz/Private Industry Council Scholarship at last week's Village Board meeting.

Gelfand, a Russian refugee who came to the United States six years ago, said she plans to study economics this fall at Northwestern University. Cooper is working toward his bachelor's degree in public health care administration at Southern Illinois University.

## Consulting firm to help village plan its future

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Countryside

9-14-95

The village of Wheeling hired a consulting group last week to help it plan for economic development, over the objections of two trustees who argued the move was too costly and too time intensive.

Trustees Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher first tried to postpone the project indefinitely, then were the only two trustees to not vote in favor of spending a minimum of \$22,000 to hire the Denniston Group of Naperville.

Horcher voted present and Heer abstained. Trustee Wayne Wisinski was absent.

### Issue search

The firm will begin its work by scheduling a community meeting in late September or October to determine how many residents are interested in participating in the project.

Based on the issues targeted for discussion, committees will be formed with residents, village staff and officials who will continue meeting to decide what improvements are needed.

The Denniston Group will be in charge of keeping the committees focused to develop a strategic plan and give a final presentation to trustees.

Heer said he was bothered that Denniston didn't give a time frame. Previous presentations said the group needs eight months to a year to produce a strategic plan.

"The majority of residents know what is wrong with the village," Heer said. "We have hired a staff to do what this firm is proposing."

Village President Sheila Schultz said she does not expect the project to last more than a year.

"The Denniston Group said they would follow the time frame of the village," Schultz

said. She said it may be possible for some issues, namely economic development and aesthetics, to be addressed more quickly because of the work already completed by village staff.

"I believe we could find a company to execute this project a little quicker," said Horcher, noting that no other firms were considered for the job. "We do need an overall plan. I have only been presented with this firm. That is my concern."

Both Heer and Horcher agreed the village could benefit from the assistance of a consulting firm, but weren't confident Denniston Group was the best choice for Wheeling.

"I am not challenging a consulting group. I think progression in this village is a necessity," Heer said.

### Available funds

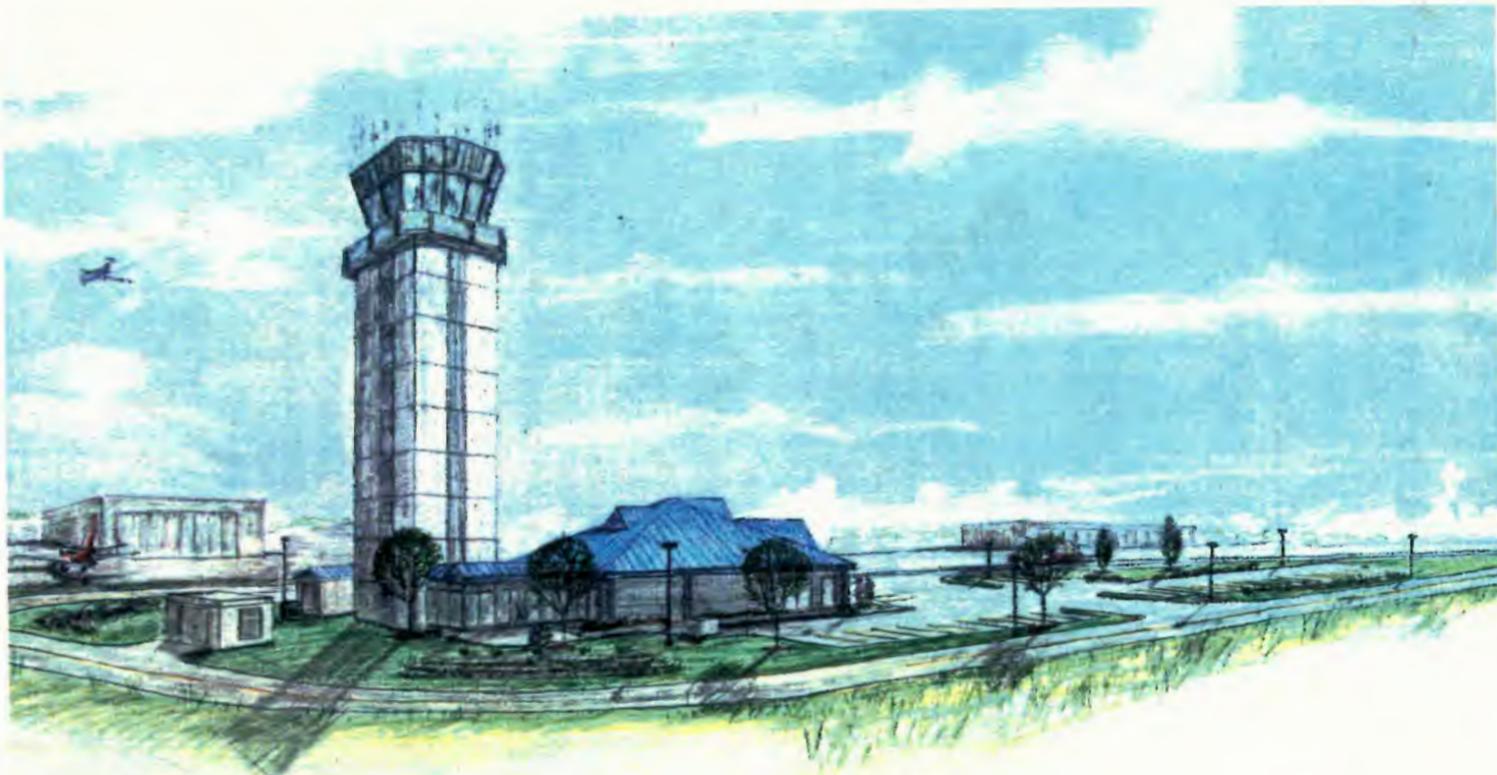
Trustee Judy Abruscato also was concerned about the time frame, but said she wanted to hire the firm so things could get underway. She said she wants to make sure the village has the money to follow the recommendations.

"If we don't implement it, it doesn't matter how long it takes," Abruscato said.

Denise Kennedy, a member of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce board of directors, said the chamber does not support the village's hiring of the Denniston Group.

Kennedy said the group facilitates but does not implement, and the village needs someone to implement.

Schultz said she already has heard from many residents who are interested in serving on the committees which will create the strategic plan.



## Police presence increases until sergeant selected

*Countryside*  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
9-14-95

Wheeling trustees last week gave the Police Department authority to hire an additional officer until a sergeant can be hired to replace Sgt. Jack Koenig, who recently retired after 27 years of service.

The new patrol officer will increase the department's ranks to 44, said Village Manager

Craig Anderson.

"Ultimately, someone from the ranks of patrol officer right now would become a sergeant," Anderson said.

That promotion would return the department's patrol force to 43 officers.

Trustee Bob Heer questioned why it would be in the best interest of the community to hire a patrol officer to replace a supervisor.

(Continued on page 16)

"I think they could utilize the people in the department" to share Koenig's former duties and save taxpayers the cost of hiring an additional officer, Heer said.

He also voiced concern that the department was replacing a sergeant with a patrol officer.

"There is no intent not to fill the sergeant's position," Anderson said.

The list of officers eligible for promotion to sergeant has expired so new applicants will need to undergo testing, interviews and psychological testing, Anderson said.

That testing is expected to be completed by the end of the year, about the same time the new patrol officer would return from the police academy and be able to work, he said.

The board, with Trustee Wayne Wisinski absent, unanimously passed the resolution to allow the hiring of an additional officer.

However, Heer, a Buffalo Grove police officer, recommended that Anderson utilize the department's existing two sergeants to perform Koenig's former supervisory duties until a new sergeant is hired.

## Alderman wants residents to pick fire service for city

9-19-95

By LARRY SMITH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights Alderman Gregory Koeppen is requesting that the city ask residents what kind of fire service they want.

Koeppen, of the 3rd ward, wants the city council through the city newsletter to ask whether the residents want to have a municipal department, maintain the service of two separate fire protection districts or consolidate them into one.

The response would give the city and the two fire districts which protect the city an idea of what the residents want, Koeppen said.

"We're not getting involved," Koeppen said. "We're just asking a question."

On Aug. 1 the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District switched responsibility for covering the east side of the city from the Wheeling Fire Department to the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District to provide quicker response times.

As of Aug. 25 the Prospect Heights fire district has been housing a fire truck and firefighters in the Prospect Heights Public Works

Building on Piper Lane to accommodate the switch.

Koeppen said many residents in his ward, which is served by the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District, are angry because they were not asked what they wanted before the change was made.

"The (Wheeling Township) district won't ask," Koeppen said. "They won't even listen to residents at a meeting."

Some aldermen said they thought the city is not in a position to ask a question.

Second Ward Alderman Thomas O'Donoghue said the city can't ask residents about things they have no experience in, such as fire coverage. O'Donoghue, who is also a trustee of the Prospect Heights fire protection district, said residents at this point have to rely on the decisions of those appointed to the fire district boards.

"You're asking residents to make a choice about things they have no control over," O'Donoghue said.

Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said the city council's public health and safety committee should fashion a question that is posed to the residents.

## Wheeling begins community policing training program

9-19-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police are moving toward a community policing philosophy where residents and police come together to solve law enforcement problems, officials said.

The Wheeling Village Board Monday heard a presentation from representatives from the Washington D.C.-based Police Executive Forum on what community policing is and how to institute it in the village.

John Lusardi, a research associate with the organization and a San Diego police department sergeant, said the concept is one that returns police work to the way it used to be done.

"We're going back to doing policing the way they did when I grew up," where patrol officers knew residents and business owners on their beats, he said.

To illustrate the concept, Lusardi told of a sheriff in Florida who helped an illiterate man fill out a job application so he would stop causing disturbances at local stores.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the concept is a philosophy the department is implementing, "making us more proactive."

"We're changing a philosophy, we're changing the way we police the community," he said.

Steps being taken by Wheeling police to implement the philosophy include its Citizens' Police Academy course, in which residents are acquainted with police procedures.

"I think it's a wonderful program, treating the citizens as customers," said Trustee Robert J. Heer, who is also a police officer in Buffalo Grove, where community policing is practiced.

Haeger said Wheeling patrol officers will undergo extensive training in community policing. The concept may result in more use of police foot patrols to address local problems, Haeger said.

Officials said such policing could take years to implement and that it would involve the entire village and not just police. Other towns, including Mundelein, use the community policing concept.

# Park district says it'll buy Billy & Co. land

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

9-21-95

Neighbors who surround the former Billy & Co. property along Milwaukee Avenue may get a local park after all.

Since July, residents have been asking the village of Wheeling, the Park Board and School District 21 Board to work together and create a development plan that would retain part of the 7.8-acre tract as a play area for nearby Whitman School students.

The village hopes to purchase several lots along Milwaukee Avenue as part of its TIF district, then sell the property to Joseph Freed & Associates which proposes to build townhomes on the site.

At the Sept. 14 School Board meeting, Park Board President Greg Klatecki presented board members with the Park District's letter of intent, which tells village officials that the Park District plans to acquire 3.1 acres of the site on which to develop a neighborhood park.

Klatecki said the letter was sent to Village President Sheila Schultz, Village Manager Craig Anderson and each trustee.

"Wheeling is far below the national norm for amount of open space," Klatecki said. "Neighborhood parks need a minimum of three acres." The site is marked as park space on the village's comprehensive plan.

The most recent development plan presented by Joseph Freed & Associates showed 1.9 acres of open space and 40 townhomes. Wheeling Plan Commissioners approved that plan at their Sept. 7 meeting, forwarding it to the Village Board for consideration.

"We've made it known before that the School Board and Park District would jointly buy it," Klatecki said of the 3.1 acres. "Our hope is

that we can get 3.1 acres to develop as a neighborhood park."

Early this week, School Board President Phil Pritzker said he was sending a letter to President Schultz in support of the Park District's plan to acquire some of the property.

"We indicated it is our strong preference the developer allot between three to four acres of space for the park and school to work with," Pritzker said.

Though some questions have arisen over whether the Park District has a legal hold on the property because it is designated as parkland on the village's comprehensive plan, Pritzker said, the School District has no legal stand in the property.

"We're not in any legal position to dictate, but surely we can let our preference be known," he said. As the current development plan shows, Pritzker said, the School District would work with 1.9 acres of open space if the plan does not change.

"If that's what the cards play us, that's what we'll work with, but we do support the amount of land the Park District would like to see," Pritzker said.

The park and school districts generally have different needs for property, Pritzker noted, but "this is one (situation) we have a strong overlapping need. We have strong similar interests in this property."

Klatecki said he was pleased with the School Board's "very positive" reaction to hearing that the Park District intends to acquire some of the disputed land.

"It's a major step in the right direction. We have two governmental agencies working together," Klatecki said.

Neither Klatecki or Pritzker would say how much they expect to pay for the 3.1 acres.



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

Two-year-old Sami and her mother Ilana Koppinski of Buffalo Grove came out early Friday to see the Kelly-Miller Circus unload the animals for its performances in Wheeling.

## Circus wows children

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Children who giggled at the clowns of the Kelly-Miller Circus last weekend probably had no idea they were aiding research to help prevent blindness as part of the Lions Club's international crusade.

Cooler autumn temperatures brought more than 2,050 people to Wheeling's four circus performances last weekend, said Lions Club spokeswoman F.I. Goldhaber.

"The weather was perfect," Goldhaber said. "There were a lot of kids there having a good time. They were riding around on elephants and ponies."

Under the big tent, acrobats displayed their skills on the highwire and trapeze, elephants and clowns entertained, and a trio of dogs performed tricks. "They seemed to be having as good of time as anyone," Goldhaber said.

"The kids liked everything," she added.

The Wheeling Lions Club decided to sponsor the circus this year after discovering that the Jaycees Club was not planning to bring the circus to Wheeling.

"It sounded like a good idea. We're always looking for ways to make money to buy glasses for needy children," Goldhaber said.

In addition to buying eyeglasses, the local Lions Club has purchased park benches, contributed to the village's Centennial Fountain project, distributed food baskets to low-income residents and worked with senior citizens.

"It also supports our international effort to eliminate all causes of preventable blindness by the year 2000," Goldhaber said. Among those causes are low birth weight, parasites and diabetes, she said.

Contributions from local businesses allowed the Lions Club to provide free tickets for children associated with the Wheeling Resource Center and Little City of Palatine, Goldhaber said.

Whether the Lions Club will sponsor future circus performances in Wheeling remains to be decided, Goldhaber said.

"We'll have to sit down and look at the numbers, the time involved," she said, adding that she believes the circus performance is changed only every other year.

## Wheeling seeks local youth to serve on peer jury program

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-25-95

Hoping to keep other teens in line, Wheeling officials are seeking local youths to serve as jurors in its peer jury program.

Applications for the village's peer jury program, set to start in December, are available at the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center at 333 W. Dundee Road and the Wheeling Police Department at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Program coordinator Ginger Yates said the program is open to youths from 13 to 17 years old who are residents of Wheeling.

"We're going to get the kids familiar with the criminal justice system and how it works," Yates said.

The youths will determine community service-based sentences for teens who violate curfew and other misdemeanors.

The sentences are made after police give a brief summary of the what happened.

For example, sentences can include having youths charged with starting fires work with fire

victims, officials have said. Yates said there is no limit on the number of youths that can serve as jurors.

Officials have said the program is based on the concept of youths in trouble being held accountable for their actions by peers.

In June, Wheeling trustees approved establishing the peer juror program in the village.

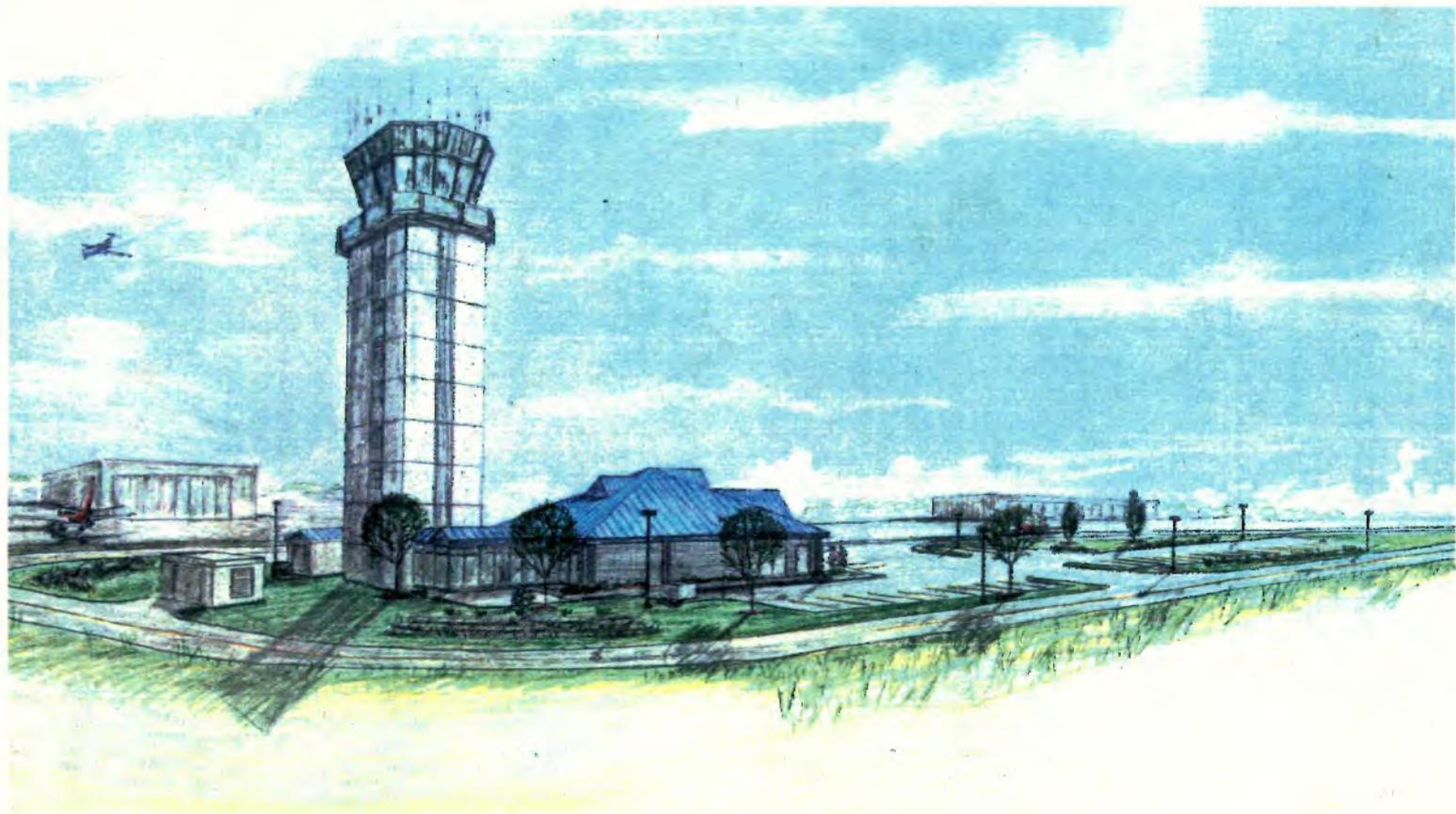
Similar programs are in place in other Northwest suburban communities such as Hoffman Estates.

The applications should be returned to the Wheeling Police Department. Yates said the deadline for submitting the applications is Oct. 31.

Yates said there will be an orientation session for the jurors and their parents, along with a screening process, before the program starts.

As a part of the program, jurors could visit the crime lab in Chicago and other law enforcement locations, Yates said.

For further information, call Sgt. Anthony Cinquegrani or Shantil Clesen, a police social worker, at 459-2632.



**Federal Aviation Administration  
Palwaukee Tower**

**Friday, September 15, 1995  
10:30 a.m.**

*Greetings*

Bill Wagner, Manager, Palwaukee Tower

*National Anthem*

Yvette Graham

*Master of Ceremonies*

Brandt Miller, WMAQ-TV

*Remarks*

Rob Strong, Manager, Airways Facilities Division  
Al Groves, Air Traffic controller and NATCA representative  
Sonia Guy, PASS representative  
Sheila Schultz, President, Village of Wheeling  
Edward Rotchford, Mayor, Prospect Heights  
Raymond Camosy, Camosy Inc.  
The Hon. John Porter, U.S. Representative

*Keynote Address*

William Withycombe  
Acting Regional Administrator, FAA

*Groundbreaking Ceremony*

*The Federal Aviation Administration's new Palwaukee Air Traffic Control Tower will serve the needs of airport operators, pilots, and travelers at the state's third busiest airport for many years to come. The new facility will provide a state-of-the-art workplace for air traffic controllers, technicians, managers, and administrative staffing specialists dedicated to the safety and efficiency of aviation.*

*Special thanks to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, Priester Aviation, Service Aviation, Yvette Graham, Camosy Inc., and the Palwaukee Airport Pilot's Association for their support and contributions.*

# Parade moves back to July 4

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*9-28-95*  
*Countryside*  
After two years of celebrating Wheeling's Founders Day with a parade, the village trustees and Special Events Committee have decided to move the parade back to the Fourth of July.

The village first held the parade on Founders Day in late June 1994 to coincide with Wheeling's centennial celebration. In previous years, the parade was held July 4 in conjunction with St. Joseph's Catholic Church's annual Family Fest carnival.

"It is easier to get (parade) units on a day other than the Fourth, but the consensus to have it on the Fourth outweighs that," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Trustee Judy Abruscato suggested the committee check with other villages that traditionally have Fourth of July parades, particularly Mount Prospect, before scheduling a time.

This would allow time for bands and clubs to participate

in several Independence Day parades, she said.

Lois Gaffke, a member of the Special Events Committee, said discussions about moving the parade back to the Fourth of July began shortly after this year's Founders Day parade.

**"It is easier to get (parade) units on a day other than the Fourth, but the consensus to have it on the Fourth outweighs that."**

**Village President  
Sheila Schultz**

"We found that a lot of churches couldn't participate on an early Sunday afternoon," Gaffke said.

Also, closing major thoroughfares on a Sunday for the Founders Day parades was hard on retailers and drivers. On the Fourth of July, most

retailers are closed for business.

Trustees also asked whether the parade could be held on smaller, interior streets, giving the event a more local flair.

Before a new route could be drawn, Gaffke said, it would be best to consult the Police Department so an appropriate location could be found.

"We've been able to get some great parade units that would have already been booked on the Fourth," Gaffke said.

The Special Events Committee also is discussing whether the village's fireworks display should be scheduled for July 3, leaving July 4 as the rain date.

This summer, the fireworks display scheduled for July 4 was canceled because of rain and was rescheduled for Labor Day.

Abruscato also suggested that the Special Events Committee discuss the possibility of requesting donations from local corporations and businesses to offset the village's cost of the fireworks display.

# Wheeling trustees OK revision of pact to operate airport

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

*10-3-95*  
Wheeling trustees Monday approved a revised intergovernmental agreement for running Palwaukee Municipal Airport that calls for a committee to review airport manager job candidates.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman absent, the Wheeling village board approved the revised agreement. Both Wheeling and Prospect Heights own the facility.

"It was not totally clear to begin with," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said about the prior pact.

The revised agreement, which the Prospect Heights city council also approved Monday night, reiterates that the Wheeling village manager and Prospect Heights city administrator have the authority to hire the airport manager.

The new agreement also adds a clause creating an ad hoc committee, comprised of at least two Wheeling and two Prospect Heights members, to recommend candidates for the airport manager's post.

Anderson said that section was included because Prospect Heights officials wanted more input in the selection process.

In August, some Prospect Heights aldermen said that the airport commission should hire the airport manager, believing that panel should have more power. Wheeling officials opposed that change.

Fred Stewart Jr., the airport manager, is under contract. Stewart has not given any indication he would leave the position anytime soon.

"I have all the confidence of the appointment made by the two village managers," Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

The new agreement also increases the monthly stipend airport commissioners receive.

Under the new agreement, the commissioners receive \$120 a month, which is a \$50 increase from the \$75 they previously received.

Under the new arrangement, commissioners will receive a base of \$75 a month but must attend the panel's monthly meetings to earn the remaining \$50.

# Wolf Road designation change sought

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*10-5-95*  
*Countryside*  
Wheeling trustees are hoping officials at the Illinois Department of Transportation take their recommendation and keep Wolf Road as residential as possible.

Trustees on Monday approved a resolution encouraging IDOT, which has control over Wolf Road as a state route, to designate the thoroughfare as residential from Hintz to Dundee roads.

The biggest benefit to residents, if IDOT accepts the recommendation, is that trucks weighing over 16,000 pounds would no longer be able to use the road. That would likely keep the road in better condition.

Wheeling village officials have verbally asked IDOT for the residential designation along Wolf Road, but never received acknowledgement from the state agency. Police Chief Michael Haeger previously recommended that the speed limit be lowered, but IDOT did not agree with that either.

"We have looked at the site and, based on the number of residential units in that area, the school, a park and also a considerable amount of truck traffic, we thought it certainly would not hurt to send this to IDOT and see if they concur," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Though Anderson is doubtful IDOT will accept the residential designation, he said the resolution is a more formal way of presenting the village's desires.

Trustee Patrick Horcher voiced some concern about whether IDOT would ever turn the road over the village's jurisdiction.

"If they gave the road to us in the current condition, I wouldn't consider that a great gift," Horcher said.

Anderson told trustees that if the truck restriction was approved, the road condition should deteriorate more slowly.

"That's a good reason in their own interest (to accept the residential designation). The road is beat up. There are no curbs or gutters and the edges break off easily," Anderson said, adding that Route 83 or Milwaukee Avenue are suitable truck routes through the village.

# Budget amendment to allow purchase of more police cars

*10-4-95*  
*Herald*  
Wheeling trustees approved a \$149,154 amendment to the village budget to allow police to purchase police cars.

The Wheeling village board approved the change because the police department had not received police vehicles it ordered several months ago.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said Chevrolet did not deliver the department's 1995 vehicle order.

Wheeling trustees approved the release of the money so that police could order vehicles now so they have them by early 1996 instead of much later in the year.

Haeger said that the strike by drivers of car transport trucks may have affected the department's acquisition of the cars.

He added that the department's current fleet of vehicles is starting to require more costly repairs as they gain mileage.

## Officials recognize school debate team

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed appreciation of the Wheeling

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

High School debate team for being a source of community pride.

The proclamation notes that the school's debate teams have won 17 state championships and five section championships.

## Village to sell old equipment

Wheeling trustees approved selling one of the Wheeling Fire Department's cardiac defibrillator/monitors as surplus equipment.

Officials said since the village has been upgrading its equipment, it had one defibrillator/monitor for sale.

Previously, the village has received \$1,525 each for the equipment it sold.

The equipment would be made available to qualified bidders such as doctors, fire departments and other medical personnel who could purchase it by using sealed bids.

# Wheeling Police waiting for new wheels to arrive

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*10-5-95*  
*Countryside*  
The Wheeling Police Department is still waiting to receive seven squad cars the village ordered early this year, and trustees on Monday amended the budget to allow for the purchase of eight more squad cars.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the seven Chevrolet Caprice squad cars were ordered in the spring, as part of a bid placed by the Chicago Police Department.

"We have not received those cars. I think Chevrolet is slowly working its way out of the (police car) business," Anderson said.

Though he has not heard directly from Chevrolet or the dealer, Celozzi-Ettleson of Elmhurst, Anderson understands that Chevrolet plans to honor the orders, providing 1996 cars at 1995 prices.

"We now have a number of vehicles fairly high in miles; some are becoming repair problems," Anderson said. The department is on a maintenance schedule to replace half of its squad car fleet each year, he noted. "We feel it's important to go ahead and order," he added.

Because the department is still waiting for its new squad cars, trustees amended the

budget for \$149,154 to purchase eight Ford Crown Victoria squads through the state bidding process.

Trustees discussed canceling the Chevrolet order, but neither Anderson nor Police Chief Michael Haeger wanted to do so.

Haeger said there would be a benefit to the village to receive the new 1996 Chevrolets at 1995 prices, and added that the Chevrolets cost about \$4,000 less per car than comparable models sold by Ford.

"There is a chance we'll end up buying all of the them this year," Anderson said.

Ideally, he said, the department would receive the Chevrolets within the next two months, then receive the Fords in February or March, allowing the department to maintain its schedule of replacing half of the fleet each year.

"We don't want to get into a situation where we have to buy a new fleet every year," Anderson added.

In a memo to Anderson, Chief Haeger said if the department does not hear anything from Chevrolet within two weeks, he will recommend "painting two of our unmarked (vehicles) black and white in order to get low mileage squads as front line emergency response units."

## Community Resource Center will be bustling with activities

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Over the next few weeks the Wheeling Community Resource Center will be a center of activity. Saturday the center is co-sponsoring, along with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, a workshop at St. Joseph The Worker Church in Wheeling for people interested in becoming United States citizens.

The workshop, at 181 W. Dundee Road, runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is open to all interested people. At the workshop, people will receive assistance in completing the U.S. citizenship application, the first step toward becoming a citizen.

Workshop participants should bring \$10 for the application and records on their employment and where they have lived in the country for the last five years.

They should also bring any information they have on their travels into and out of the country since they have become permanent residents.

Shari Matthews Huizar, the center's site coordinator, said

9-29-95  
volunteers are still needed to help workshop participants complete the applications.

Those interested in volunteering can call 808-1454.

On Oct. 7, the center is holding a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help those served by the facility at 54 N. Wolf Road.

The center is still accepting donations of bicycles, toys and other small household items it will sell to low-income families and others it serves.

To ensure the sale benefits needy families it is open only to those who are invited. Center officials can also do a financial needs assessment of those interested in participating but who weren't initially invited.

The center has served about 2,000 clients this year with such programs as its job placement service and English as a second language classes it co-sponsors with Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

The center was opened two years ago by the village of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services to serve low income and minority residents of Wheeling.

## Park district wants land marked for town houses

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-23-95  
The Wheeling Park District wants to purchase some land planned for development near Whitman School for a park, officials said.

Wheeling Park District board President Greg L. Klatecki said recently his panel would be willing to purchase 3.1 acres of a 7.8-acre parcel at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

However, park officials are currently not involved in any negotiations to purchase land near Whitman School.

Developer Joseph Freed and Associates has proposed a 40-unit town house development for that location.

"Once open space disappears, you won't get it back," Klatecki told the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 board.

Klatecki said the village needs more parks, according to national standards, and those standards also specify that parks should be at least three acres.

Village officials selected the Wheeling-based developer as a part of its program to redevelop the area near Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Wheeling officials said they will buy the land from its four different owners and then sell it to the company to help the developer.

"The only reason we'd buy the land is to develop it," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

The Wheeling plan commission recently recommended a proposal by the Wheeling-based company to develop the town houses and set aside 1.9 acres of the site for open space.

The developer decreased the number of units proposed from 44 to 40 and increased the open space from 1.7 acres to 1.9 acres.

Wheeling trustees may vote on the project in October.

A group of neighbors who live near the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school has complained that the development would take a play area their children use and destroy old trees.

The group has pressed park and school district officials to acquire the parcel.

## Police seek to be more resident friendly

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

9-28-95  
*Countryside*  
Wheeling's Police Chief has announced a major initiative to make the village's police department more resident-friendly.

Without weakening current policing practices in the village, Chief Michael Haeger told trustees last week, the department will eventually shift from a "traditionally reactive philosophy to a problem-oriented policy."

Officers will more readily seek and accept information from residents with the goal of improving quality of life in the village.

The chief said he does not know when the philosophy will be fully incorporated into the department, but said residents should notice a change as officers become more pro-active.

"This is a dramatic change to how we have been policing the community. It's going to be a slow process," Haeger said. "We've been talking about this for a few years and are making a conscious effort to go about it slowly."

Community outreach already began with the department's first meeting of its Citizens Police Academy two weeks ago, he said. This 10-week class gives residents an in-

depth, inside look at the department.

Two instructors from the Police Executive Research Forum of Washington, D.C., recently trained Wheeling officers with problem-oriented policing techniques, he said.

"We're just going back to the way we used to do policing," said one of the instructors, San Diego Police Sgt. John Lusardi.

Lusardi said policing throughout the nation changed once officers were taken off the street and put into squad cars. "Somewhere along the line they lost their creativity. They were being judged by the number of tickets they wrote, the number of ar-

rests they made," he said.

This new philosophy won't mean Wheeling officers will start foot patrols in neighborhoods or begin bicycling through the village.

"All it is, is being more responsive and making decisions not by yourself, but with the community," said John Reynolds, a major in the Savannah, Ga., Police Department, where the policy was adopted in 1986. "The priorities of the police should be the priorities of the citizens. A lot of your citizens are asking you to be more responsive to their needs."

Wheeling Police Cpl. John Teevans, (Continued on page 12)

## Twin Drive-In about to close curtain on 30-year run

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-30-95  
No one is saying when the screens at the Twin Drive-In in Wheeling will go dark for good, but the theater's long run will soon come to an end.

Officials for M&R Enterprises in Skokie, which owned the drive-in at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave., said it will be open this weekend, but a final date for closing the 30-year-old theater has not yet been scheduled.

The drive-in, recently acquired by the neighboring Palwaukee Municipal Airport for \$2.26 million after a lengthy legal battle, will

soon be torn down to make room for airport improvements.

"It's really a special time. It ought to be fun to go there and reminisce a little bit," airport commission Chairman Dan Quiry said.

When the Twin closes, the only drive-in theaters in the area will be in Grayslake, McHenry and West Chicago.

Under its purchase agreement with M&R, the airport has to give 30 days' notice before it takes over the property. The airport commission recently approved a \$22,500 contract for Lake County Grading Co. of Libertyville to demolish the theater.

That work, which Airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said will occur before Dec. 31, includes razing two movie screens, the projector building, the snack bar building, ticket booths and two other small buildings.

The theater originally was expected to close Oct. 1, when officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport, were expected to approve a revised intergovernmental agreement for operating the facility.

That agreement and the demolition contract are scheduled to be voted on by Wheeling's village board and Prospect Heights' city council Monday.

While the airport now owns the Twin, officials had granted M&R a temporary license to run the drive-in there.

Officials for Sony Theaters, which operates the drive-in, could not be reached Friday. Officials for M&R did not return a phone call Friday.

Airport officials are using 23 acres of the 31-acre drive-in for the relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through both properties.

Redirecting the ditch will give the airport more land for development and eliminate a safety hazard, Palwaukee officials have said.

the department's crime prevention officer, attended a training seminar on problem-oriented policing last November in San Diego.

"It's a way of handling different types of problems that happen in a community," Teevans said. For example, instead of officers repeatedly responding to loud noise calls, they would try to determine what could be done to eliminate the loud noise so it is no longer a problem for residents.

"We try to look at the problem in a different light. Instead of going there and arresting someone, what can we do to stop the situation?" Teevans said. "It takes a lot more out of the officer to research the problem."

Residents will notice one officer handling a specific case, and returning for follow-up interviews as he investigates the

problem, Teevans said.

"It's taking police work a step further," he said, noting that some Wheeling police officers have been using problem-oriented policing techniques for years.

Trustee Bob Heer, who works as a Buffalo Grove police officer, said Buffalo Grove already has adopted community policing and treats residents as customers. He said he is glad to see Wheeling officers working to improve service to village residents.

"It's a wonderful program," Heer said. "I can't say enough about it."

Lusardi said the change should give residents more confidence in the Police Department and make residents feel more comfortable giving crime-related information to officers.

# Amoco tries to solve border problems

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Problems seem endless for Amoco Oil Co. officials who are proposing to build a service station and car wash on the southwest corner of Lake-Cook and McHenry roads.

The first problem rests with the site itself. Though most of the 4-acre site is in Wheeling, half of an acre lies in Buffalo Grove.

And that Lake County half-acre contains the six gasoline pump islands and the cash register to escape Cook County's additional taxes on gasoline. Consequently, all the sales tax revenues would go to Buffalo Grove.

"That half an acre is in Buffalo Grove and that's the essential part of the overall tract," said Edward Graham, an attorney representing Amoco at the Wheeling Plan Commission meeting Sept. 28. If they can't arrange the station with pumps and the cash register in Lake County, they said they won't consider building on the site.

Amoco officials said they would be much happier dealing with just one municipality, but that would only happen if Wheeling or Buffalo Grove deannexed its share of the property. The oil company has tried to build on this site since 1991.

"It is important that both communities get their heads together and do something about this site," Graham said.

Wheeling plan commissioners continued the public hearing to their Sept. 26 meeting, indicating they would like to schedule a joint meeting with Buffalo Grove's Plan Commission to discuss revenue sharing and the layout design.

The Buffalo Grove Plan Commission already has approved the plan but is waiting to send the proposal to the Village Board until it is reviewed by the Wheeling Plan Commission, said Buffalo Grove Village Manager Bill Balling.

Balling said he believes Buffalo Grove would be willing to come to some sort of compromise to allow Amoco to build on the site. He said the village would be open to any proposals from Wheeling regarding the property.

Without voting on the plans, Wheeling plan commissioners seemed united in their dislike for the proposal.

Commissioner Otis Hedlund said a right-only exit onto Lake-Cook Road is so close to the intersection with McHenry Road that drivers would have difficulties leaving the station.

Amoco officials, however, said a service station is an ideal use for the site and don't believe it will create traffic problems.

"It's a small building. It serves existing traffic rather than generating traffic," attorney Graham said.

"Maybe this isn't the best use for this site," said Commissioner Lois Gaffke. "There are too many problems with it."

With concerns about traffic, layout and revenue sharing, Amoco Real Estate Manager John Egan said he will again review the plans.

"We have to go back and review the entire plan and see if we can make any adjustments the Plan Commission would find acceptable," Egan said.

## Fire district's newsletter to make case for tax hike

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District officials will mail newsletters to 4,000 district households explaining why they're seeking a property tax hike.

The newsletters will explain the proposed referendum in the Nov. 7 election to raise the district's property tax rate 10 cents, from 40 cents to 50 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

"I think we should tell the people where we're at," said fire board President Anthony Carlin.

With that increase, the owner of a \$214,000 house, the average 1994 selling price in Prospect Heights, where much of the district is located, would see his annual tax bill rise 25 percent, from \$277 to \$346.

District officials hope to replenish the district's reserves and end a nearly \$100,000 deficit in the 1995-96 budget.

Fire district officials decided to seek the increase after the Cook County property tax cap limited revenue they would have collected from the 1994 property tax levy.

The fire board had raised its levy

by 49.5 percent just as the property tax cap limits became law.

Under the measure, taxing bodies' property tax levy increases cannot be more than 5 percent higher than the prior year's levy or the cost of living index, whichever is less.

Cap rules also say levy increases greater than 5 percent must first be approved by voters supporting a property tax hike referendum.

Carlin said without the tax hike the district would eventually go broke and be forced to reduce services.

The district does not have its own firefighters or fire stations and contracts with outside departments for those services.

The newsletters will be mailed after today's Cook County Circuit Court hearing on Wheeling's injunction request to prevent the fire board from dropping the Wheeling Fire Department from protecting of most of the district.

If the injunction is granted, fire expenses will drop sharply, said fire board attorney Karl R. Ottosen.

Officials are uncertain of the mailings' cost. The newsletter will be written by Ottosen with input from the board.

## School OK for occupancy

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Parents who wonder whether London Middle School, which is still undergoing renovations, is safe for their children, no longer need to worry.

A Cook County Regional Office of Education inspector recently gave the district his second stamp of approval for occupancy while construction workers complete their work.

School District 21 has been renovating the building since the summer as a middle school. Despite plans to have construction completed before students began classes Aug. 25, the school opened with some work unfinished, such as shelving, air-conditioning and the parking lot.

Bob Ingrassia, an assistant superintendent with the Regional Office of Education, said he initially gave District 21 a verbal decision in August that the school could be occupied by children.

Two residents who asked for Ingrassia's most recent inspection, Norman Kurtz and Henry Zajda, are seeking seats in the District 21 School Board election in November.

At the September school board meeting, Kurtz said, "I can't help but feel these children, after three weeks of school, have been short-changed and unable to receive the benefit of a fully equipped, fully supplied school."

Kurtz reported a number of jobs that remained to be completed — unfinished floors, missing ceiling tiles, no power to part of the school, inoperable computers and incomplete restroom facilities.

Ingrassia, however, said it's not necessary for all restrooms to be working for children to occupy the building.

"There is a plumbers' code that requires so many urinals and toilets per number of boys and girls, but most buildings are over-built. It's not unusual to take one off service and still have enough," Ingrassia said.

At the request of the School District and a few residents, Ingrassia reinspected the building Sept. 20.

Ongoing construction is a concern of the Regional Office, but does not constitute a significant hazard at London.

**‘While the school wasn't perfect when we opened, we haven't had any problems.’**

"It's not unusual to have construction going on while children are in the building. It is certainly a concern and we ask the district to keep an eye on it," Ingrassia said.

The Wheeling Fire Department has been working with District 21 to ensure students' safety throughout the renovation process, said Chief Keith MacIsaac.

Because schools are under the authority of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Fire Department has no legal power over the schools, MacIsaac said.

However, he said the local department does have a good working relationship with District 21 and makes recommendations that would improve safety.

Prior to the first day of classes, MacIsaac said, the Fire Department suggested that London have emergency lights operating, potholes in the parking lot filled, fire alarms working and easy access for students to exit

(Continued on page 16)

the building in case of an emergency.

"District 21 was very cooperative and did all of those things," he said. "They didn't have to, but they did so in the effort of cooperation."

The department had its inspector at the school throughout the first day of classes to make sure construction was not creating a safety hazard, he said. MacIsaac said the Fire Department annually tours all public schools and

makes recommendations to improve safety.

**‘The workers have been very accommodating and the kids have been very flexible.’**

"When London opened up, we had personnel there be-

cause the school was still under construction," MacIsaac said. "We've had a visible presence at the school."

London School Principal Wendy Billington said she was confident London would pass the second inspection from the Regional Education office.

"While the school wasn't perfect when we opened, we haven't had any problems" in regards to safety, Billington said. "The workers have been very accommodating and the kids have been very flexible."

## Wheeling injunction against fire district denied

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County Circuit Court judge Friday dismissed the village of Wheeling's request for an injunction against the Wheeling Township fire district saying township fire officials can contract with other fire departments to protect parts of their district.

Judge Francis Barth ruled a 1982 court-mandated contract between Wheeling and the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District doesn't prevent the district from dropping the village's fire department as the agency protecting most of the district.

In June, the Wheeling Township fire board and Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District agreed to have the latter district's fire department protect parts of Prospect Heights that are also within the Wheeling Township fire district.

"I do not find any language in the 1982 agreement that was violated

by this 1995 agreement," Barth said.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said officials would review Barth's decision before deciding if they'll file an appeal.

The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Department is a separate, independent agency from the city.

The Wheeling Township fire district includes most of Prospect Heights and unincorporated areas near Wheeling, but not the village.

# Wheeling wants residents to help develop long-term plan for village

10-6-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will have the chance to offer their ideas for a long-range plan for improving the village.

Village officials are looking for residents to serve on steering committees that will set objectives for Wheeling's long-range strategic plan.

"I certainly hope for a big turnout so we get a good cross-section of the village," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

The village board recently hired the Naperville-based Denniston Group consulting company to help develop the long-range plan.

The company will oversee two introductory meetings Oct. 28 and

Nov. 11 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Chevy Chase Country Club at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Denniston representatives have said they don't develop the plan directly, but guide the steering committee to identify its own plan for improving the community.

Denniston has worked with officials in Downers Grove, Lincolnwood and Park Ridge.

A 12-person executive committee, appointed by Schultz and based on the firm's suggestion, will oversee the resident committees to ensure they're progressing toward developing a plan.

The executive committee will include representatives from the school districts, library, religious community and other civic

groups.

Critics of the village's efforts have said they instead want municipal officials to focus on creating an economic development plan to help Wheeling attract and retain businesses.

"We still think economic development should be on the front burner," said Denise Kennedy, who chairs the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce's economic development committee.

Wheeling officials say the long-range plan could include a wide range of objectives, such as infrastructure improvements, besides economic development.

Those who are interested in attending the meeting should contact the assistant village manager's office at 459-2600.

## WEEKLY DIGEST

10-12-95

### Airport holds open house

The public is invited to tour Palwaukee Municipal Airport during an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

A double-decker bus will provide tours beginning at the administration building, 1020 S. Plant Road, Wheeling, where refreshments will be served. Visitors may stop during the tour and visit the following facilities: American Flyers, Priester Aviation, Service Aviation, the FAA Traffic Control Tower and the Palwaukee Administration and Maintenance Facility.

# Forum seeks resident ideas for Wheeling

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

10-12-95

Whether the solution is to bring more business to town, improve road conditions or increase police services, Wheeling village officials want residents to bring their concerns to an early morning meeting later this month.

Village leaders want to know what can be done to improve the quality of life in Wheeling and are hoping residents will provide the answers as the village begins working on its strategic improvement plan.

"I'm really excited about it," said Village President Sheila Schultz, who plans on attending the 8-11 a.m. meeting Oct. 28 at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, but doesn't expect to enter into the discussions.

That, she said, would defeat the whole purpose of the activity — to discover the issues residents want addressed.

"I could see us (village officials) being observers or re-

searchers, but I myself would be hesitant about wading into discussion too heavily," Schultz said. "I do know from another mayor who went through this process, they (residents) came up with (issue) groups she never would've thought of."

Last month, the Village Board, with Trustee Patrick Horcher voting present and Trustee Bob Heer dissenting, voted to spend a minimum of \$22,000 to hire the Denniston Group of Naperville to facilitate this process of developing a strategic improvement plan.

Residents who attend the Oct. 28 meeting will not be obligated to continue with the project as focus group members. However, those who are interested in being on a focus group will indicate their interests and will be assigned to an issue in November.

Besides identifying issues that focus groups will later discuss, residents at the meeting will hear a summary

(Continued on page 13)



Walls come tumbling down

Wrecking equipment begins demolishing landmark building on Milwaukee Avenue. Plans are in the works for townhomes.

10-12-95

of the project and its goals, and will be introduced to the project's 12-member executive committee.

The executive committee, Schultz said, was formed to give the project a good cross-section of representatives from local groups, such as churches, schools and business.

A representative from the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, which was vocal in its opposition to hiring The Denniston Group, has agreed to sit on the executive committee, Schultz said.

"The chamber's concern was, and still is, that economic development be a focus. Economic development is a critical area that needs immediate at-

tention," said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the chamber. "We would like to see the implementation of an economic development plan as soon as possible. We feel it's overdue, actually."

The executive committee, along with chairmen of the various focus groups, will comprise the project's steering committee which will bring the various issues together and report back to trustees. The Denniston Group, as facilitators, will oversee all the committees' work.

Because the project is designed to garner information from residents, whether village trustees and administrators participate in the meeting is up

to the individuals to decide, Schultz said.

"This is going to be a citizens effort and I think it will work well that way," she said. Trustees will be ultimately responsible for implementing the plan and, if they decide to participate in focus groups, "shouldn't in any way be steering them," she added.

Since voting present to hire The Denniston Group, Trustee Horcher has indicated his interest in working on the project. A present vote counts as an affirmative.

"The village decided to go with The Denniston Group and I'll give them all the support I can," Horcher said. "We do need some guidance. I would've

like to see some bids from other firms, a few more proposals to choose from."

Because of a business commitment, Horcher is unable to attend the October meeting, but said he will attend the second meeting, planned for 8-11 a.m. Nov. 11 at Chevy Chase.

"The idea behind these meetings is to see what residents want," Horcher said. "If we can get enough residents there who are interested in what's going on in the community and get them involved in the committees, Denniston will address the problems and come up with a plan."

Residents who want more information about the strategic improvement plan can call Wheeling Village Hall or President Schultz.

# Wheeling panel OKs extensive housing plans

10-13-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling plan commission Thursday endorsed a developer's proposal to build a more than 350-unit town house and single-family house subdivision on the village's southeast end.

In separate 5-0 votes, with two members absent, the panel backed requests by Palatine-based Concord Development Corp. for zoning changes and other approvals so the company could build 204 town houses and 157 single-family houses on a 121.6-acre parcel south of

Palatine Road and northwest of Old Willow Road.

A date has not yet been set for when the Wheeling village board will vote on final approval for the project, but officials said it could happen in a few weeks.

While the plan commission did not object to the project, they were concerned whether the Wheeling Park District would accept up to 45-acres the developer was donating for recreational amenities.

"You've done everything we've asked you to do, and I hate to delay things," said plan commissioner Ken Brady. "But I want you and

the park district to come to an agreement."

Bill Rotolo, vice president for land acquisitions and government relations for the company, said that park officials have indicated they like the donation.

The developer is turning over to the park district land it will use for ball fields, playlots and a path system around the development.

The company is also doing some of the construction work for those amenities.

"We are exceeding the required donation, which is 10 acres, by a factor of four or five," he said.

The panel recommended to Wheeling trustees that final approval of the project hinge on the park district and the company having a donation agreement in place.

Rotolo said if park officials decline the donation, the homeowners' association would pay for land maintenance.

Rotolo said the town houses will run from \$120,000 to \$150,000, while the houses will cost from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Wheeling resident Elaine Gibson complained the village has too many town houses, which she said were "low-end" housing.

## Palwaukee officials offer tour of airport

10-14-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials today will take the general public under their wing and give them a free tour of the Wheeling facility.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. airport officials will take visitors around the facility at 1020 S. Plant Road to show them how it works and what work is under way there.

"Last year, when we were preparing the budget, we thought it would be nice to open up Palwaukee for citizens of Wheeling and the citizens of Prospect Heights to see their airport," said Michael F. Zonius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

The airport is operated by the two towns under an intergovernmental agreement.

The tour will start at the airport administration offices at 1020 S. Plant Road where a double-decker bus will give visitors a guided tour of the facilities.

Free refreshments will be given to visitors at the airport offices.

Visitors can stop at Priester Aviation and Service Aviation, the airport's two fixed-based fueling operators.

Priester Aviation also will make one of the corporate jets it charters available for the visitors to see.

The tour also features a stop at American Flyers, a flight school at Palwaukee.

Another stop on the tour is the air traffic control tower where visitors can view the operations.

Besides the airport's functions, visitors will have an opportunity to see the improvements officials have made to the facility as a part of the \$83.5 million program to bring Palwaukee up to federal standards.

The centerpiece of that project is the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection to widen the safety zone between it and the airport's longest runway.

Another part of the long-range improvement project includes the recent acquisition of the Twin Drive-In property.

Later this year, officials will demolish the Twin's buildings and use the land to redirect a drainage ditch that cuts through both properties to eliminate a safety hazard and create more developable land.

## Two-tier voter registration comes under attack by Wheeling trustees

10-14-95  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board joined Cook County Clerk David Orr and other groups calling for the state to change the way it conducts voter registrations at driver's license facilities.

In a 5-0 vote, with one trustee absent, the Wheeling village board recently became one of the first in Illinois to pass a resolution asking the state to comply with the National Voter Registration Act and exclude so-called "two-tiered system" registration.

Under that system, state employees at driver's license facilities ask people if they want to register to vote without telling them they are being registered only for federal elections and not for state or local

contests.

"We don't want people coming into the polling places being told they can't vote for their state, county or local elections or referenda. They'll be disappointed," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Orr has been at the forefront of a protests over the state's enactment of the federal voting standards, known as the Motor Voter program, requiring voter registration be allowed at driver's license facilities.

Other state officials and the Illinois League of Women Voters also have raised objections to two-tiered registrations.

Orr said Wheeling's resolution demonstrates a statewide trend opposing two-tiered registration.

"I think it's great and beginning

to happen everywhere. Wheeling, in a traditional GOP area, is against two-tier," Orr said.

Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar's office and other state officials fought the Motor Voter law saying it could lead to large numbers of voters being registered twice or to voter fraud.

Privately, some within the Republican Party raised concerns the measure could lead to large numbers of Democrats being registered in Chicago and other urban, heavily Democratic areas.

Some state officials will ask the General Assembly when it reconvenes in November to back a measure requiring state workers to ask people at state driving facilities if they want to register for state and local elections.

## Village honors firefighter for 36 years of service

10-20-95  
Retired Wheeling firefighter Vern Nystrom received a Certificate of Appreciation from the village board for his work with the department.

The certificate, awarded to Nystrom Monday night, noted that he contributed to "an improved quality of life for all residents of the village of Wheeling."

Nystrom served on the Wheeling Fire Department for 36 years as a paid-on-call part-time firefighter.

### Trustees agree to update fire code

Wheeling trustees agreed to update the village fire code using updated standards from the Building Officials and Code Administrators organization.

The national standard replaces the 1987 code the village had in place.

One key change involves regulation of above-ground fuel storage tanks. The new code now permits the use of storage tanks in areas with special industrial zoning designations.

The new code also brings the village's fines for fire code viola-

### WHEELING BOARD NOTES

tions in line with those for building code violations.

### Schultz remembers Zettek's contributions

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz noted the death of longtime Elk Grove Village President Charles J. Zettek saying the region "lost a good friend."

Zettek, 69, died last week from heart failure. Zettek served on a number of regional panels and was known as the "father of the Northwest suburbs."

### AMVETS cleared to conduct raffle

Wheeling trustees agreed to allow Wheeling AMVETS Post 66 to conduct a raffle and waived the village's insurance requirement.

Normally, the village requires organizations holding a raffle to obtain an insurance bond.

### No debate about team's recognition

10-20-95  
Wheeling Village Board recently honored the Wheeling High School debate teams and coach Don Tantiello who has been leading the team since 1971 and was named Coach of the Year in 1992.

Since 1980, the proclamation stated, the debate teams have won 17 state championships and five sectional championships.

Village President Sheila Schultz presented the proclamation saying the debate team "have always been and continue to be a source of community pride."

10-20-95  
The Wheeling Village Board recently honored Daniel Taylor of Metra and Thomas Michener of the Wisconsin Central Railroad for their continued involvement in railroad safety programs throughout the village.

"Safety is not only a job, it's an attitude, a state of mind," Taylor said after accepting his award from Village President Sheila Schultz. "Everything we can do to help just a little bit, we're glad to do, he added."

10-20-95  
Wheeling gives railroad safety awards

# Land claim puts stall on townhomes

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*10-19-95*  
If all goes well, Wheeling could have a new residential development on the village's south side and the Park District would have a new park.

But before that will happen, it has to be determined whether the Prospect Heights Park District has any jurisdiction on the 126-acre site located west of the Commonwealth Edison right of way, south of Palatine Road and north of Willow Road.

"It does not appear to me the Prospect Heights Park District has any jurisdiction on this property," said Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck.

However, Prospect Heights park officials have informed the Wheeling Plan Commission by letter that some of the site may be in their Park District.

"The letter said part or all

of the property is in their area, but I will check further," Janeck said.

Meanwhile, the developer, Concord Development Corp. is negotiating a land donation of between 38 to 45 acres to the Wheeling Park District.

"We've had the ownership check all their records and never had they (the Prospect Heights Park District) had any jurisdiction over this property. All of our records indicate we are in the Wheeling Park District and we are proceeding as such," said Bill Rotolo, vice president of land acquisitions for Concord.

In addition to the property, Rotola said, Concord will donate thousands of dollars worth of in-kind services to the Park District by grading the property that may eventually be developed into several sports fields and a play lot.

"We think that's a fair trade for the Park District.

(Continued on page 13)

They're very excited about this," Rotolo said, noting that the company also would provide utilities for the park area. The preliminary agreement also has the Park District taking over maintenance of the development's three retention areas.

**'They knew we were meeting tonight to discuss this issue.'**

"I've asked the (park) district to make me a proposal and I'll react to it," Rotolo said.

If the Park District does not agree to accept the property, Rotolo said, the homeowners would pay a monthly fee to maintain the open space which would be used as a passive recreation area. "It can be done without the Park District," he assured the Plan Commission.

The site is proposed to be developed in two stages — the first with approximately 150 townhomes and the second with about 200 single-family homes. With Steve Walanka and Donald Duncan absent, the Plan Commission voted

unanimously last week to recommend approval of the townhomes to trustees.

However, because there was no written agreement between Concord and the Park District, final approval of the plans is contingent upon receiving that written agreement.

"My concern is if the Park District isn't committed to taking over the land, I'd have a difficult time approving this," Chairman Terry Steilen said prior to the vote.

"How long do you wait for the Park District?" asked Commissioner Lois Gaffke. "They knew we were meeting tonight to discuss this issue."

Rotola said the townhomes are expected to cost between \$120,000 and \$150,000, and single-family homes, to be built later, will range from the high \$100,000s to \$260,000.

One resident, Elaine Gibson of Walnut Ave., blasted the idea of building more townhomes in Wheeling and what she said were low prices for the homes.

"If we want to build Wheeling as a better community, we need to look at improving the townhomes. That's very low-end housing," Gibson said. "This is a beautiful piece of property. We can do better than this for Wheeling."



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

## Eagle eye view

*10-20-95*  
Airport commissioner Henry Levin gives an overview of Palwaukee past, present and future to Ed and Jean Kmiecik of Wheeling during an open house at the airport.

# Village seeks to ban trucks from Wolf

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

*10-23-95*  
Wheeling trustees are calling on the state to designate a section of Wolf Road as a residential street, even though they're pessimistic about winning the change.

The village board recently approved a resolution that calls for the Illinois Department of Transportation to reclassify the portion of the road from Dundee Road to Hintz Road.

With that residential designation, the road on the east side of Wheel-

ing would be off limits to trucks weighing more than 16,000 pounds.

Between Hintz and Dundee roads, Wolf Road is lined mostly by single-family houses, Heritage Park and Holmes Middle School.

William A. Rogers, a former village trustee who lives on Wolf Road, said trucks from a nearby industrial park south of his neighborhood have damaged the road and caused inconveniences for residents living along the thoroughfare.

"Trucks should not be in our area due to its residential nature," he said.

To support his argument, Rogers presented Wheeling trustees with the results of a traffic count he did on three different days. The counts showed 88 to 130 trucks a day use Wolf Road.

Rogers said he would like the village to eventually take ownership of the street.

However, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he is not hopeful about IDOT quickly changing Wolf Road's designation.

"IDOT doesn't have to do anything with it (the resolution). I'm not overly optimistic," he said.

The resolution states, in part, that the road "has all the characteristics of a neighborhood, including: single family homes, schools and parks ..."

Rogers also said that before the state changes the designation of Wolf Road, he would want to see parts of it repaired.

The resolution also states that Milwaukee Avenue and Route 83 provide alternative routes for truck traffic.

Wheeling officials are not sure when the state will consider their request.

# New zoning tools to add flexibility

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling's Plan Commission is proposing the addition of two zoning categories — planned unit developments and light industrial — that would give developers more flexibility to build in the village.

The changes were discussed recently when plan commissioners and trustees met in a workshop to discuss proposed designation changes to 13 undeveloped properties on the village's comprehensive plan.

The comprehensive plan shows the village's preferred uses for undeveloped land, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"It's pretty much a guideline for developers, that if we sites that don't have one obvious land use," Janeck said.

Janeck expects the new zoning would require more discussions between the village and developer as the site uses are determined.

"Normally, with a PUD, you have a point system where if the developer wants more density, he may get it if he provides some amenities, such as a playground, better street lighting, sidewalks," Janeck said. "The appearance can mean a lot to the village, while density means a lot to

had our druthers, this is how we'd want to see the land developed," Anderson said. The changes ultimately will come before the board for adoption.

The proposed PUD zoning would enable developers to use a site for several uses, such as part residential and part commercial, said Village Planner Mark Janeck.

"I think this will make it more palatable for a developer to take a look at some parcels," said Janeck. "The developer could do more uses on one property, possibly."

PUD zoning is available in nearby communities, such as Buffalo Grove, and allows more flexibility by developers in terms of land uses, street widths, setbacks and housing types.

"The PUD is designed for (Continued on page 16)

the developer."

Buffalo Grove Village Planner Robert Pfeil said the village has had PUD zoning for its commercial and residential districts since the early '70s.

"It's a very powerful zoning tool for the village, it's very precise site planning," Pfeil said, noting that the PUD is a special use in Buffalo Grove. "Most developers realize that larger-scale developments have to be more specific. It's very specific as to what will be built and to what the uses will be."

Under Rosemont's proposal, the NWMC, a consortium of 40 North and Northwest suburban communities, would divide tax revenues from the casino. Under the most conservative estimate, the NWMC would handle \$2.8 million for the Northwest suburbs.

The towns do not have a deadline for deciding individually if they favor having a casino in Rosemont.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schnitz said that for distributing the money, the NWMC would receive 2 percent of those funds as an administrative fee.

She said that the gambling revenue could be used to pay for conference's services now paid for by its members.

"If this would go forward, there is a considerable amount of money that would defray our expenses," she said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the village could support the NWMC distributing the gaming money even though trustees are uncertain if the town will support building the casino.

Wheeling officials have not set a date for deciding if they support the casino proposal.

Rosemont officials are proposing to share tax revenue from the casino with other communities in Cook County in return for active support for their efforts before state lawmakers.

Rosemont officials also want to keep area towns from backing other casinos.

# Village wants group to take responsibility for casino tax funds

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday agreed a regional government group should distribute any revenues that could come from a proposed casino in Rosemont.

The village board agreed that at a Oct. 30 meeting of the Northwest Municipal Conference the village will vote in favor of having that organization distribute to its members any money collected from the casino.

"As far as the municipal conference being the administrator, I think it should be," Trustee Robert G. Todd said.

"It helps everybody. About having the village taking its share, I would have to think about it."

Under Rosemont's proposal, the NWMC, a consortium of 40 North and Northwest suburban communities, would divide tax revenues from the casino. Under the most conservative estimate, the NWMC would handle \$2.8 million for the Northwest suburbs.

The towns do not have a deadline for deciding individually if they favor having a casino in Rosemont.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schnitz said that for distributing the money, the NWMC would receive 2 percent of those funds as an administrative fee.

She said that the gambling revenue could be used to pay for conference's services now paid for by its members.

"If this would go forward, there is a considerable amount of money that would defray our expenses," she said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the village could support the NWMC distributing the gaming money even though trustees are uncertain if the town will support building the casino.

Wheeling officials have not set a date for deciding if they support the casino proposal.

Rosemont officials are proposing to share tax revenue from the casino with other communities in Cook County in return for active support for their efforts before state lawmakers.

Rosemont officials also want to keep area towns from backing other casinos.

Wheeling plan commissioners agreed that the new PUD designation would give the village more control over proposed developments, while developers have more flexibility.

"I'm in favor of PUD because the village has a lot more control over developments," said Plan Commissioner Ellen Butor. "If you wanted to have some commercial use, it could be split between commercial and residential."

"I think developers like to go to communities that have PUDs because it gives them more flexibility," she added.

Plan Commission Chairman Terry Steilen noted that developers wanting to create a PUD would have to go through the village's approval process because a PUD will be considered a special use in a residential district.

Anderson said it's now up to the Plan Commission and village staff to write specifications for the PUD zoning.

"I think the Plan Commission has given us good rea-

sons for the recommended changes. We need very specific criteria though, so it's not open-ended. It does give you some flexibility and allow developers to be more creative," Anderson said. "I think it's something worth trying," he added.

The other zoning addition recommended by the Plan Commission is a "light" industrial area, which would allow for warehouses, sales offices, contractor offices and some light manufacturing.

Current zoning allows heavy manufacturing in all industrial districts. This proposed light industrial district would create a better transition area between homes and heavy manufacturing areas.

The area proposed for the light zoning designation includes properties west of Milwaukee Avenue, south of Wolf Road and north of Mayer Avenue.

"It basically acknowledges certain areas where the uses are already there," Anderson said, mentioning Cookie Specialties Inc. at 482 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"These are uses that don't create a lot of traffic, there's no pollution and no noise," he added.

# Trustees change Billy & Co. designation

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling's comprehensive plan that stalled a proposed townhome development on South Milwaukee Avenue is being revised, this time to designate the former Billy & Co. site to townhome residential.

The village proposes to have developer Joseph Freed & Associates build townhomes on the property as part of the TIF district, but when the plan was proposed, the comprehensive plan designated the land for a park or retail stores.

That plan, which is used as a guideline for developers, is being reviewed by the Plan Commission and will be before the Village Board in a few months for adoption.

The recommended change to townhomes "coincides with what is proposed for the property," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

However, the townhome proposal is stalled because the current compre-

hensive plan designates the property as parkland and commercial use.

Because of that designation, the Wheeling Park District had a "right of first refusal," and recently exercised that right by notifying the village that it intends to purchase 3.1 acres of the 7.8-acre site, Anderson said.

Nearby residents are vocally opposing the townhomes, saying the development would take play area away from students at nearby Whitman School.

For now, the project status is in the Park District's hands, Anderson said.

"It's up to them to try to purchase that," Anderson said, adding that the longer the Park District delays its decision, the longer future development is stalled.

"We're still discussing within the board what our options are," said Wheeling Park Director Karop Bavougiann. A final decision will be determined by a board vote, he said.

If trustees approve these recommended changes to the village's com-

prehensive plan, the new townhome designation would have no impact on the current proposal, said Village Planner Mark Janeck.

However, if the townhomes were proposed after the comprehensive plan is revised and approved by trustees, the Park District no longer would have its right of first refusal, he said.

One plan commissioner, however, isn't ready to give up so easily on Milwaukee Avenue's potential as a successful retail district.

At a recent joint workshop between the village trustees and plan commissioners, Commissioner Ken Brady said the designation change may be premature for the property along Milwaukee Avenue, between Center and Mors avenues. The Plan Commission reviewed designation changes for 12 other properties as well.

"I feel we may be too hasty in cutting out commercial development," Brady said. Brady reiterated his concerns about changing the designation

of commercial retail property east of Milwaukee Avenue and south of Jeffrey Avenue to townhouse residential.

Longtime beliefs that people who live in communities east of the forest preserve will not come to Wheeling to shop did not convince Brady that the village should give up on commercial development along Milwaukee.

"I don't believe in the Forest Preserve buffer. If that's the case, why are the restaurants so successful?" Brady asked.

Numerous delays by the Illinois Department of Transportation concerning the widening of Milwaukee Avenue has "hindered our development," Brady conceded. "There are some very nice pieces of property (that) with aggressive planning we could finish off Milwaukee Avenue in a commercial way," he added.

However, Trustee Wayne Wisinski said mixing residential with the already existing commercial uses on Milwaukee will bring more customers into those businesses.

# Here's chance to plan future

**M**ost of us, at one time or another, succumb to the urge to criticize the faceless "them" who we perceive are responsible for some pretty poor planning when our community evolves in a direction we don't particularly like. Our frustration may be as simple as the unstated desire for a nearby movie theater, or converting that overgrown lot near our house into a useful park for children. Sometimes it's more complicated, as in our seemingly conflicting priorities for increased services, protections and amenities that would require less taxpayer money.

Ideally, a village should reflect the culture and desires of its residents. Perhaps when towns consisted of a small cluster of families, with a couple of shops in town, this happened in a fairly natural way. Everyone could contribute informally, when they met in the (one) street, and little got lost in the shuffle. In the often chaotic and sprawling suburbias of the last forty to fifty years, though, it seems as if towns are built and rebuilt at a staggering pace, and for incomprehensible amounts of wasted money. It is only in the fairly recent past that some towns are beginning to follow the lead of very successful businesses who create comprehensive long range plans for their organizations, rather than constantly racing around to fix all the inevitable glitches that are the result of forging ahead with blinders on.

Wheeling: 2,000 and Beyond is your chance to participate in the planning and development of the core of Wheeling community life. You can even help decide what the "core" is. What should a community look like? What kind of recreational, social, educational and resource facilities would be desired? Should there be a "center of town"? What kind of safety's should be assured, and how would that be accomplished? Should the village be environmentally progressive, and, if so, how would that be carried out? What about the social needs of diversity, single parent families, and families where both parents work? What options can and should a village offer to

accommodate all these needs? And how much will it cost? And where will the money come from?

The Denniston Consultant Group has been hired by the Village to facilitate the planning process, which has already begun, and will be looking for your input and participation beginning on Oct. 28, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Chevy Chase Country Club. An executive committee representing various interests within the community, such as school districts, the park district, the library district, businesses, and social, charitable and religious organizations, has already been formed. They will meet periodically throughout the year to help with the comprehensive plan. All Wheeling residents are encouraged to join these community representatives at the Oct. 28 meeting to help identify your key areas of interest and concern related to community life. Committees will then be formed to address each of the identified areas. If you are unable to make the Oct. 28 meeting, there is another one scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8 to 11 a.m. as well (also at the Chevy Chase Country Club).

You can participate once, at one of the meetings mentioned, or you can get on a committee and help make it happen. The Assistant Village Manager's Office, 459-2600, would be happy to answer any questions you have or to help you get involved in if you are unable to attend either of the two meetings, but would like to help out.

This is your community, and it should reflect your wants and needs. Village President Sheila Schultz summed the process up nicely; "We hope the citizens of Wheeling take full advantage of this unique opportunity to positively impact the quality of life in the Village of Wheeling as we prepare for the 21st century."

If you have any ideas or suggestions about people, programs, services and issues within the Wheeling community that you think need to be heard, please don't hesitate to call or fax me at 419-0781.

## Students hold court for the day

Students from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Stevenson high schools on Monday participated in the annual Civics Forum sponsored by the village of Buffalo Grove. Each group of students served as an "ad hoc" committee discussing issues that affect local youth and presented their solutions to trustees that evening.

Participating from Wheeling High School were Grant Olan, Jon Pluskota, Rich Osborne, Fred Kwong, Robyn Sterling, Stephanie Kaplan, Anita Chari, Jen Toppliff, Joslyn Cohen and Karyn Bass. Buffalo Grove students were Mike Hanson, Rachel Rosenblum, Dan Kurt, Amy Jackson, Andrew Ho, Christine Mah, Lindsay Martin, Dan Polenska and Dan Haave. Stevenson participants were Julie Greenfield, Nicole Rubin, Fran Bankendorf, Kristin Floress, Jennifer Josephson, Amy Simons, Julie Weiner and Erik Worth.

# Park district can't afford to buy land

Elementary District 21, that includes Whitman School, have said the entire parcel had a \$1.5 million price tag that made it too expensive for the school system to buy on its own.

Park officials said at least 3 acres are needed for an adequate park there.

whole parcel," said Klatecki. "The village did not want to take part in our purchase."

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Now that Wheeling park officials opted out of buying the land, District 21 officials said they want to purchase the 1.9 acres for recreational use once the village acquires the entire parcel.

"We told them the project doesn't work for us if you buy three acres," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Wheeling officials have said that they want to buy the parcel from its four different owners and then sell it to Joseph Freed & Associates. The Wheeling-based company is proposing a 40-unit town house development for the parcel.

Wheeling Park District officials have decided against purchasing land for a park near Whitman School saying Wheeling officials wouldn't provide financial assistance for the acquisition.

"We trust negotiations between the village and school district will be respectful of each others' positions," said District 21 board President Phil Pritzker.

Anderson is uncertain when the Wheeling village board would vote on the project.

Wheeling officials selected the company as a part of its program to redevelop the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road area.

Wheeling Park District board President Gregory L. Klatecki said this week that the park district could not afford to purchase 3.1 acres of a 7.8 acre parcel at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

Some neighbors of the project object to it and wanted park and school district officials to buy the property.

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## WEEKLY DIGEST

### Residents invited to plan future

Saturday marks the beginning of Wheeling's strategic improvement plan.

Residents are invited to an informational meeting from 8-11 a.m. Saturday at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Residents will be asked what can be done to improve the quality of life in Wheeling. Those issues will be investigated by focus groups facilitated by The Denniston Group, a consulting firm, and a strategic improvement plan will be presented to village trustees within a year.

Residents who attend this information-gathering meeting are not obligating themselves to participate in future meetings as committee members.

### Villages set trick-or-treat hours

Buffalo Grove trick-or-treat hours are set for 2-7 p.m. on Halloween, Oct. 31. Village President Sid Mathias encourages parents to accompany their children as they go door-to-door Tuesday.

Wheeling trick-or-treat hours will be 3:30-6:30 p.m. on Halloween.

### Wheeling to support casino proposal

Wheeling trustees have agreed to support the Northwest Municipal Conference's involvement with the proposed casino at Rosemont, however, they haven't yet decided whether the village will support gambling.

Based on the board's consensus, Village President Sheila Schultz will cast her vote in favor of the NWMC's involvement at Monday's conference meeting. If approved by the NWMC's 40 member communities, the conference will serve as the distributor of gambling revenue generated by a Rosemont casino.

If the village decides to support the casino, Wheeling is estimated to receive between \$100,000 to \$500,000 revenue annually. "It really depends on the amount of money generated and the number of towns that choose to participate," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.



# Fire board member: No need for tax hike

11/04/95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling Township fire district board member is disputing the district's need for a tax increase, saying it has enough money in reserve to avoid going broke.

The district on Tuesday will ask voters to approve a referendum for a 10-cent property tax rate increase, from 40 cents to 50 cents per \$100 equalized assessed valuation. The board says it needs the money to replenish its reserves.

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board member Peter Urban said the district doesn't need the increase, however, because it saved money on its fire contract with Wheeling and should have money left over.

"The referendum is not about a tax increase; it's about building a fire station," Urban said, noting that the fire district hopes to build a permanent fire station in Prospect Heights.

With the increase, the owner of a home with an estimated market value of \$150,000 in the district would see his fire district tax bill rise from \$189 to \$231 in a one-year period.

Fire district officials have said the tax hike is needed because previous fire boards tapped out the district's budget reserves to keep its tax rate low.

Urban said the district allocated \$434,000 in its 1995 budget to pay the Wheeling Fire Department for fire service. The district contracts for fire services and does not have fire-fighters or equipment of its own.

The fire district changed its contract with Wheeling this year to have the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District cover most of the Wheeling Township district that lies in Prospect Heights.

That change, Urban said, reduced the amount Wheeling will receive to a maximum of \$216,000 under the new contract.

The village of Wheeling has not accepted any money from the Wheeling Township fire district and is considering appealing a court decision upholding the new pact.

Urban said money saved on Wheeling's payment can offset a deficit district officials estimate will be \$40,000 next year and could bankrupt it in two years.

"I think he's confused. All this stuff about a fire station is bunk," said fire board President Anthony Carlin, who noted Urban voted to place the referendum on the ballot. The money from the tax referendum would not be used to fund the fire station, Carlin said.

Urban said he voted for seeking the referendum because he did not have all the information about its impact readily available to him.

Fire board attorney Karl Ottosen said while the district is paying less to Wheeling, its expenses increased because of a temporary station it operates from Prospect Heights' public works garage.

# Past holds keys for future

Wheeling trustees watched Saturday as 100 residents began a process to help the village plan its future. The forum began with a history lesson of sorts, as residents were asked to recall key happening in the past as a way to shed light on future goals.

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday was "Make a Difference Day" and Wheeling residents were told they did just that by attending the first meeting in the process of creating the village's strategic improvement plan.

"I think by meeting today we are starting something that will really make a difference in Wheeling," Village President Sheila Schultz said in her welcoming comments.

Schultz told residents the process to create the improvement plan, now named Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond, was generated from a January 1994 trustees retreat. "We realized we needed that same open dialogue with the people we serve, you the community."

An estimated 110 residents gathered in the dimly lit Chevy Chase ballroom on the rainy Saturday morning to voice their thoughts on what



Todd Heisler/Pioneer Press

Wheeling residents David Cantwell, Minerva Solano and Gary Cohn share ideas on how to improve Wheeling during a town meeting of sorts Saturday.

can be done to improve the village.

As promised, village officials and trustees who were present stayed out of the limelight and restrained from comment, allowing residents to voice their opinions.

Coming up with the issues

the entire audience.

"Write down events that affected the village during those times. Identify issues that shaped the village," Warren Denniston said. A group labeled 1995 and beyond focused on goals for the village.

For example, the before 1960 table listed "volunteer fire and police departments," "Memorial Day parade down Milwaukee Avenue," "no parks" and "not enough schools." After reading the list to the entire audience, the Dennistons asked for topic headings that arose from that list. Suggestions included "sense of community" and "downtown Wheeling."

Topic headings that emerged from the 1970-1985 group included "services," "diversity" and "lack of open land." Among the issues on their list were "school closings," "annexed Palwaukee," "Diminishing open land" and

that affect Wheeling residents was the goal of Saturday's meeting, but doing so took on the appearance of a lengthy history lesson.

Pam and Warren Denniston of The Denniston Group directed residents to move to tables corresponding with the

"increase in multi-family housing."

After each group gave its presentation, participants were asked to brainstorm about which issues they would like the process to address during the next 10 months.

Residents listed economic development, image, infrastructure, aging population issues, education, diversity, taxes, community services, communications and open space.

"You've taken the first step by coming out and addressing the issues," said Warren Denniston, encouraging residents to pledge their time to work on issue committees that will be announced at the Nov. 11 meeting.

Pam Denniston said all the groups' lists will be taken back to The Denniston Group's Naperville office and processed before that meet-

dates of when they moved to Wheeling.

The tables were labeled before 1960, 1960-70, 1970-85, 1985-90 and 1990-1995. Each group was asked to generate memories of those years and write them on a large notepad to be later shared with

(Continued on page 105)

ing. "The last step is identifying the eight, 10 or 12 at most, areas we want to investigate in the next 10 months," she said.

Denniston said she will review the lists and form committees by trying to match residents' interests to a specific committee.

"This is what I had hoped for," Schultz said of the meeting and number of residents who attended. "We knew from the beginning that people were interested."

So far, Schultz said, she had not heard any new issues, but said they may be generated through committee discussions.

"What comes from the focus groups will be important. I'm really pleased with the groups and the number of people (who were here) that I have never met. It was a good outreach."

# Executive committee draws fire

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

The village's strategic improvement plan got off to a shaky start Saturday when resident David Kolssak questioned the need for the executive committee.

After opening comments by Village President Sheila Schultz and a brief introduction of The Denniston Group, Kolssak asked whether residents' input will be impeded by the executive committee.

"It seems like brainstorming needs no parameters. It seems that at end of the process, we've put parameters on it with the executive committee already cho-

sen," Kolssak said, generating scattered applause from the audience.

The leaders should arise during the 10-month process, he said.

"Why don't we make the process dictate the leadership?" Kolssak later asked. "You should let those people naturally emerge. It sounds like they have the ideas already and it sounds a little suspicious."

Kolssak, 26 years old, operates Kolssak Funeral Home with his family. He came to Saturday's meeting so the village's young adults would be represented. "I think the young people should be heard. This is the same old faces as far as I'm concerned," he added.

Warren Denniston, of the Denniston

Group firm hired to facilitate the planning process, responded that the executive committee is comprised of village leaders because they will be the ones to implement whatever comes out of the committee meetings.

But he noted the most important aspects of the process are the issue committees and the steering committee, which will be formed from residents beginning Nov. 11.

Schultz appointed the executive committee members, who represent various organizations in the village, are Karop Bavougian, Wheeling parks director; Frank D'Angelo, chamber member and manager of Bob Chinn's Crabhouse;

(Continued on page 105)

Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie, superintendent of School District 21; Cynthia Holder Rich, pastor of Community Presbyterian Church; Patricia McLean, campus director of National-Louis University; Chris Reading, outreach director of Indian Trails Library; Bertha Sanchez, Wheeling High School em-

ployee and volunteer at the Wheeling Resource Center; Patricia Sordyl of Lexington Health Care Center; and Nancy Holman, associate principal of Wheeling High School.

After the meeting, Schultz said, she welcomed Kolssak's question, saying it was proba-

bly a concern of many residents.

"I'm glad it came up. These are the people who could possibly help with implementation," Schultz said.

"We wanted and needed a broader base. I don't feel I know all the issues, let alone all the answers."

# Early reviews mixed

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents who attended Saturday's meeting may not yet be convinced the strategic improvement plan will create a better village, but they are committed to seeing the plan through to completion.

Resident Linda Fijackowski said she was disappointed with the meeting and questioned the role of the executive committee which was appointed by Village President Sheila Schultz.

Schultz said the executive committee was chosen to ensure that local organizations and other government bodies in Wheeling were included in the creation of the strategic improvement plan, named Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond.

"If that committee is making the final decision, is this going to work or our we just spinning our wheels?" Fijackowski asked. "I was a little disappointed when I heard (about the executive committee) earlier in the week."

However, Fijackowski volunteered to remain in the project and hopes to work on either a cultural diversity or image-improving committee.

Don Augustine, representing Priester Aviation and the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, said he would like to see more residents involved, but thought the project got off to a good start.

"I went up and thanked Sheila Schultz because it's hard for the village to open themselves up to criticism. It was very brave and very

(Continued on page 105)

Chicago Tribune 11-6-95

# Town seeks clearer image of its future

■ **Wheeling:** A former farm community now criss-crossed by busy suburban thoroughfares, the village is a patchwork of residential, commercial and industrial areas looking for a unified identity.

With that in mind, about 125 Wheeling residents turned out for the opportunity to join a planning process that promises to shape the village's redevelopment priorities over the next 20 years.

Don Malin, a Wheeling firefighter since 1971 and a participant in the meeting, said, "Wheeling is the kind of place people drive through. We need an identity and to change our image to a place where people want to go."

A gathering Saturday at the Chevy Chase Golf Club was the first of two town hall-type meetings run by a consulting group hired to coordinate the formation of several volunteer committees. Over the next 10 months, the committees are to research such major issues facing the village as education and transportation.

Steering groups of each committee then are to compile their recommendations and forward them to an executive committee, said Warren Denniston, of the Denniston Consulting Group.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the hope is that the process will end a divisive view of development priorities for the village.

One contentious subject among Wheeling business leaders is the location of Wheeling's true central hub. There has been a debate over whether it should be at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, with its strip of well-established



Tribune photo by Nancy Storie

A field south of the Burger King on Dundee Road at the railroad tracks may someday be downtown Wheeling. Residents are concerned about developing a focal point for the community.

restaurants, or at an area slightly west of there near the site of a future commuter rail station.

"We hope to come out of this with a clearer picture of what the whole community wants to be," Schultz said. "There's so much cynicism and despair at times

that I hope there's recognition of the good things that we have."

The Denniston group has helped with similar long-term planning processes in several other communities, including Park Ridge and Lincolnwood.

Patrick O'Toole

Continued from page 5

courageous to schedule this meeting," Augustine said.

The chamber, which initially opposed the hiring of The Denniston Consulting Group, remains determined to see economic development addressed in the plan, Augustine said, noting that is also his top concern as a local businessman.

## It's a positive move to the future.

"We need the village to be able to work with and encourage retail business," he said. Augustine volunteered for the aesthetics and public relations committee, saying both would help encourage businesses to move to Wheeling.

"People aren't proud to live in Wheeling — that's an issue that needs to be addressed," Augustine said. "We (chamber members) are happy to see other people concerned about economic development, public relations and aesthetics of the village," he said, adding that is reassuring to the chamber.

Resident Gary Hittleman said planning is admirable, but asked about eventual implementation.

"I'm disappointed about this because planning is no good without implementation," Hittleman said, adding that maybe an implementation committee is needed. "I'm not

against planning, but I wanted to go beyond that stage."

In addition to no mention of implementation, Hittleman said, none of the issues raised was news to anyone at the meeting.

"It would have been very easy to walk out, but I want to contribute to Wheeling. I think I have a lot to offer and I want to contribute. I plan on being here for a long time," Hittleman said, noting he is particularly concerned with the village's lack of business.

Trustee Bob Heer, who abstained when the board voted to hire The Denniston Group, said he plans on being involved with the project, although he still is not convinced it will work.

"It's a positive move to the future. I hope something concrete will come out of it for the betterment of Wheeling," Heer said, who volunteered for any committee. "I don't think it's money well-spent, but it's here. I'm willing to get involved, but I don't think it will materialize. Every issue on those (easel) boards are issues we know.

"It was voted in and we'll work with it," Heer added.

Gail Wisinski said the meeting touched on many issues, but she would like more residents to get involved.

"My biggest concern is improving the image of the town, improve public relations and bring people together," said Wisinski, wife of Trustee Wayne Wisinski.

# Wheeling targeting teen smokers

11-6-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees today will consider a change that would snuff out minors' access to tobacco products in the village.

Wheeling trustees are considering changing a village's ordinance that allows minors under 18 years old to possess and purchase tobacco products if they have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Wheeling trustees will consider the ordinance at the same time Buffalo Grove trustees review a

resolution that addresses minors' use and possession of tobacco.

"Over the past couple of years, from time to time, various trustees have inquired about tightening our ordinance," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

A village memo says that if Wheeling officials want "to send a message to the community that it does not tolerate smoking by minors" it should eliminate the section of the ordinance allowing them to purchase tobacco with written parental permission.

Communities such as Carol Stream, Wauconda and Lake Zurich have already enacted ordinances banning minors from possessing tobacco or smoking herbs.

Arlington Heights officials are also considering adopting a similar measure to restrict minors' access to tobacco.

Village officials have said that in the past year Wheeling police have issued 25 citations, mostly at Wheeling High School and Holmes Middle School, for minors violating the current ordinance.

Under that ordinance, minors

are receiving fines ranging from \$25 to \$100 for the misdemeanor violations.

The rewritten ordinance also would require retail store owners to display near tobacco vending machines a card that says it's illegal for minors to misrepresent their ages to purchase tobacco.

Wheeling officials noted state law says if a minor purchases tobacco from a vending machine in a store employees' line of sight, that purchase is considered an illegal sale by the store employee.

In Wheeling, fines for violating the ordinance can reach \$500.

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling considers toughening teen tobacco ordinance

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-8-95

Wheeling trustees are joining the pack of towns considering restrictions that would make it tougher for minors to purchase tobacco.

Wheeling trustees are joining officials from Arlington Heights and other area communities that are now considering local restrictions to prevent those under 18 from purchasing tobacco and smoking herbs.

Meanwhile, Buffalo Grove officials this week approved a measure prohibiting minors from possessing tobacco aimed at curbing their use of cigarettes.

While state law prohibits minors from purchasing tobacco, Wheeling officials said an updated ordinance was needed to help them curb teen tobacco use locally.

"The concern is the tobacco industry is targeting the younger children," said Wheeling Assistant Village Manager Ingrid S. Vekme.

Wheeling trustees are considering revisions to the vil-

lage's ordinance that would eliminate a section allowing minors to purchase tobacco if they have written parental permission.

The ordinance already prohibits possession, purchase and sale of tobacco by minors.

The revised Wheeling ordinance would also require retailers to post a sign near tobacco vending machines noting it is illegal for minors to misrepresent their age to purchase tobacco.

Under state law, if a minor purchases tobacco from a vending machine in a store employee's vision, that purchase is considered an illegal sale by the store employee.

In Wheeling, fines for violating the ordinance can reach \$500.

Communities such as Streamwood, Carol Stream, Wauconda and Lake Zurich have already enacted ordinances banning minors from purchasing or possessing tobacco or smoking herbs.

Daily Herald staff writer Bob McKee contributed to this report.

PIONEER PRESS

## BRIEFS

11-9-95  
Countywide

### Lighting firm launches expansion

Task lighting manufacturer, Waldmann Lighting Company Inc. of Wheeling, has begun an 18,000 square-foot expansion which will be completed in 1996. To allow for even more future growth, adjacent land has been purchased, enlarging Waldmann's site to 3.5 acres.

Waldmann Lighting has been operating in the United States for 15 years; assisting valued customer in the office, machine and magnification task lighting market. A subsidiary of Herbert Waldmann GMBH and Company, headquartered in Germany, Waldmann serves customers in the entire Western Hemisphere.

### Wheeling inductees into Hall of Fame

Richard B. Mazursky, president of VTech Industries in Wheeling, and Michael H. Saranow, chairman and managing general partner of Fluid Management L.P. in Wheeling, were inducted into the 11th annual Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in ceremonies at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

The 1995 event, sponsored by the Arthur Andersen Enterprise Group, William Blair & Company, LaSalle National Bank, Lord Bissel & Brook and the University of Illinois at Chicago, recognizes innovators and leaders in the metropolitan-area businesses and honors their entrepreneurial spirit and success.

Acting on the results of a study by Wheeling Police, Wheeling trustees approved traffic control signs for the Eastwood Trails subdivision. Signs include yield signs on Denver Trail at Greenview Lane, on Waverly Avenue at Greenview Lane and on Waverly Avenue at Denver Trail. Speed limit signs of 20 mph will be posted on Denver, Greenview and Waverly.

### Village board approves purchase of copier

The village board approved a \$70,400 engineering contract with Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc. for chase an Oce 3045 Copier Machine for \$12,700. The machine will be used by the Wheeling Police Department. The village purchased the copier from OCE Office Systems of Chicago.

### Engineering contract for airport project gets OK

The village board approved a \$70,400 engineering contract with Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc. for work on a water main extension project at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. The company will handle design engineering services for a \$1.2 million project to extend the water main to areas at the airport where future construction is anticipated. Those projects include the corporate hangars, Priester Aviation will build and the Federal Aviation Administration control tower.

Currently, those areas where the new buildings will be erected are on a well and septic tank system, said Robert D. Gray Jr., Wheeling's director of operations and maintenance.

### Village to spend \$800 on paramedic equipment

Trustees approved a \$800 bid from a Trukey Park company for one of its surplus defibrillator/monitors. The village board accepted the bid of Bio-Tron, Inc. for the Physion Control Lifeepak 5 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator. The equipment is used by paramedics during emergency situations to help people experiencing cardiac difficulties.

# Eastwood Trails to get traffic signs

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

11-10-95

### Park district backs off land bid

The Wheeling Park Board recently decided to back off from its plan to acquire 3.1 acres of the former Billy & Co. property for a park near Whitman School. The land is part of a 7.8-acre site targeted for townhome development as part of the village's tax increment financing district.

Developer Joseph Freed & Associates has arranged the townhomes to give the school 1.9 acres of play area. Parks Director Karop Bavougian said the cost of acquiring more land was not justifiable to taxpayers.

"Some good came out of it. (The play area) went from 1.7 to 1.9 acres, and the detention area is no longer in it," Bavougian said.

"We would've been forced to buy all 7.8 acres, then we'd be a landowner and have to try and sell the front. That's not a good use of taxpayer money," said Park Board President Greg Klatecki.

6  
Neighborhoods that don't have a watch program should consider forming one.  
9

## Crime watch

11-7-95  
Country Club  
**D**on't even think about committing a crime in Tahoe Village.

If you do, the neighborhood watch group will have you in its sights, and a squad car from the Wheeling Police could be less than three minutes away.

Tahoe Village's neighborhood watch program, made up of a core of 20 residents, is the most active and visible in the village, but just one of a dozen or so such groups. It is the perfect example of citizens banding together and helping the local police department keep the village safe.

The Tahoe Village volunteers have set a great example of what a good neighborhood watch program can do. It should prove inspiring to all residents.

Tahoe volunteers spend every weekend night patrolling their 453-unit condominium development in cars. If they see anything suspicious, they call police. Most observations turn out to be nothing. But neighborhood watch calls have led to the arrest of late-night swimmers in the complex's pool, stopped vandalism in progress and resulted in drug arrests.

Volunteers realize something else very important. They are not trained police officers. The watch program's spokesman said the volunteers never leave their cars but report anything to police immediately. Their mission is to be the eyes and ears of the police department.

As a result, residents feel safe walking the streets of Tahoe Village at night.

Neighborhoods that don't have a watch program should consider forming one. Cpl. John Teevans coordinates the village's watch groups; he can be reached at 459-2693.

After all, police department can never have too many eyes and ears.

## 2000 and Beyond continues Saturday

11-7-95  
The second public meeting in the process of forming Wheeling's strategic improvement plan is scheduled for 8-11 a.m. Saturday at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

At this meeting, The Denniston Group is expected to form committees of those residents interested in pursuing specific issues that will eventually be included in the strategic plan, called Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond.

Residents are encouraged to attend Saturday's meeting and become involved with the plan. For information, call Village Hall at 459-2600.

## Checkers says ready to proceed

11-7-95  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
Country Club

More than two years after Checkers proposed to build a drive-through restaurant on the southeast corner of Dundee and Wheeling roads, company officials now say they are ready to begin building.

Checkers' officials on Monday were to ask village trustees to re-issue a special use permit that would allow the double drive-through hamburger stand to open on the site of a former Brown's Chicken restaurant.

In June, trustees voted unanimously to revoke the special use permit and site plan they issued to Checkers in June 1993, saying they saw no significant progress on the site other than razing the abandoned Brown's Chicken just a few months earlier.

At that time, Village President Sheila Schultz said some improvement should have been made on the lot, and requested that the property be seeded with grass, as a minimum gesture of good faith.

Though trustees had urged Checkers' officials to reappear before the board when they were ready to build, Village Manager Craig Anderson was to recommend Monday that trustees table the matter until Checkers can provide some type of assurance that they are indeed able to start construction.

"That's certainly my recommendation unless something new pops up" at Monday's meeting, Anderson said. "We're not sure if they'll be able to proceed in a timely fashion.

"Maybe they'll come in and say something to change our minds," he added. "They'll make their case and we'll go from there."

Without a firm commitment to build, Anderson said, he is uncomfortable re-issuing the special use permit and approving the site plan because it would make it easier for another business to come before the village with a similar plan and replace Checkers at that site.

"From the landscaping they have proposed and what they're willing to do with (toning down) the appearance of the building, it seems to make sense and will be a good use of the corner," Anderson said.

At the June meeting, Checkers' officials said they had signed a 20-year lease on the property and do intend to build a restaurant in Wheeling.

They said delays on building new restaurants were occurring nationwide, and not associated only with the Wheeling proposal.

## Nurse's assistant charged with assault of elderly patient

11-9-95  
By CHRISTY GUTOWSKI  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A certified nurse's assistant at the Lexington Care Center in Wheeling was arrested after a 90-year-old resident complained she had been sexually assaulted, police said Wednesday.

Julito F. Barrientos, 27, of 640 S. York Road in Bensenville, was arrested Monday and charged with aggravated criminal sexual assault. Barrientos could face six to 30 years in prison for the felony charge.

The incident occurred Saturday night after the woman ate dinner in the center's cafeteria as the assistant helped the resident, who was in a wheelchair, get ready for bed. Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said.

Barrientos is accused of sexually assaulting the woman in her room after undressing her, officials said. Police said he stopped the assault when the resident yelled, finished getting her ready for bed and left the room.

Wheeling police were contacted by the woman's son, who learned of the incident from his 89-year-old father.

"She was afraid to tell any of the staff what had happened," Hermes said. "She waited until she saw her husband the next day at lunch."

Although the woman was not seriously injured, she received precautionary treatment at Holy Family Medical Center. Authorities said she had only been a resident at the care center for about 10 days when the assault occurred.

Lexington Care Center officials did not return repeated phone calls for comment Wednesday afternoon.

Barrientos has no prior criminal history, Hermes said. He has worked for the care center at 730 W. Hintz Road since it opened in late May.

Police said they do not anticipate any further allegations against Barrientos. No similar complaints of misconduct against the center's employees have been reported to police since it opened, Hermes said.

Barrientos was remanded to the Cook County jail in Chicago on a \$200,000 bond. He is facing a preliminary court hearing today at 10:30 a.m. in Rolling Meadows.

## Wheeling wants court to rehear fire district case

11-15-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials plan to ask a Cook County Circuit Court judge to reconsider a decision allowing the Wheeling Township fire district to hire a fire department other than Wheeling's for protection.

"We've now gotten a copy of the transcript of the trial and we'll be reviewing the transcript and be filing a motion to reconsider," Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said.

Judge Francis Barth recently gave Wheeling officials 45 more days to file a request to reconsider his decision in favor of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District.

In October, Barth denied Wheeling's request that the district be barred from contracting with other departments for service.

Wheeling officials argued that the fire district's move violates a court-mandated contract it has with the village.

But Barth ruled that the 1982 contract between the village of Wheeling and the Wheeling Township fire district doesn't prevent district officials from dropping the village's fire department as the agency protect-

ing most of the district.

In June, the township fire board agreed to have the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District protect parts of Prospect Heights that are within the Wheeling Township fire district.

Wheeling Township fire officials said the village's move for a review of Barth's decision is unnecessary.

"I believe that what we have here is a waste of taxpayers' money to have a motion for reconsideration filed in this case," said Karl R. Ottosen, the attorney for the Wheeling Township fire district.

Wheeling Township fire officials switched to the Prospect Heights Rural fire district because they believe it can respond to emergencies on the district's east side faster.

The contract change, which took effect Aug. 1, decreased the Wheeling Fire Department's payment from the township department to a maximum of \$216,000 from more than \$500,000 annually.

In anticipation of further litigation, Wheeling officials have not accepted any money from the rural district since the contract change. Ottosen said a hearing could be held in February.

## Wheeling tackles planning for future

11-11-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Now that Wheeling residents have laid the foundation for developing the village's long-range improvement plan, they'll try to nail down specific committees for planning today.

Wheeling officials, residents and representatives from the Naperville-based Denniston Group consulting firm will meet at Chevy Chase Country Club at 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. to set committees for developing the improvement plan.

Wheeling officials are inviting interested residents and those employed in the village to a second introductory meeting for long-range planning.

"Basically, we'll organize people into their committees. We'll talk to them about what the next steps will be for their committee," said Gene C. Mandarino, a consultant for Denniston.

Wheeling trustees recently hired the firm to develop such a plan. The firm creates the plan by guiding a steering committee to identify its own community improvement goals.

A 12-person executive committee, appointed by Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, based on the firm's suggestion, will oversee the resident committees to ensure they're progressing toward developing a plan.

Committees formed at the first meeting cover such issues as economic development, government, education, infrastructure, community diversity and cultural integration and community services.

"From my perspective, economic development is a critical issue," said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"There seemed to be interest from residents as well as from the chamber representatives in attendance. That's a positive sign," she said about the last meeting.

Some village business leaders had said Wheeling officials should have an economic development plan.

Wheeling officials said the long-range plan will be more inclusive including such issues as infrastructure upgrades.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Police Cpl. John Teevans, crime prevention officer, talks with members of the Tahoe Village Neighborhood Watch about the program's effectiveness.

# Tahoe keeps an eye on crime

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Armed with two-way radios, police scanners and cellular phones, the Neighborhood Watch group of Wheeling's Tahoe Village condominium complex voluntarily hits the streets every weekend night.

At any given time, up to five cars patrol the 453-unit condominium development located on the northeast corner of Buffalo Grove Road and Lakeview Drive.

These weekend patrols are supported by the Wheeling Police Department, which encourages residents to be aware of and report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods.

On a recent Friday night, the mere sight of a jogger was enough to send the volunteer forces into action. One driver slowly cruised by, notifying the other volunteer drivers by radio where the jogger was and in which direction he was headed.

As long as the jogger remained in the complex, the Neighborhood Watch volunteers knew where he was and what he

was doing.

Meanwhile, a volunteer manned the clubhouse, monitoring radio communications and recording suspicious activity.

They have even logged the Police Department's average response time at under three minutes, said Vicki Heart, assistant director of the Neighborhood Watch.

**'We've never had a lot of trouble here. I'm sure everyone knows we're out and watching.'**

"We've never had a lot of trouble here. I'm sure everyone knows we're out and watching," said resident John McKechan, director of Tahoe Village's Neighborhood Watch.

"Even sometimes I think we're a little over zealous, but it doesn't hurt," McKechan added.

The group also has access to a video

camera if the need arises, night-vision binoculars and recently were given a used radar gun from the Wheeling Police Department.

When a car comes screaming through the complex, a Neighborhood Watch volunteer jots down the license plate number, passes that information along to the Police Department, and the car's owner receives a warning letter from the police.

Though several neighborhoods belong to Wheeling's watch program, none is as overtly enthusiastic as Tahoe Village.

"It's been our attitude to just keep the trouble out of here. There's always some people out to test you, you can't stop it completely," said volunteer Arnie Solars.

If real trouble arises, the police are notified.

"We won't get out of the cars. We call the police, give them all the information, and it's their discretion of whether to take them in," Solars said. "We are strictly the eyes and ears of the community. We don't want to be police officers. We're not trained. We don't carry guns."

(Continued on page 15)

## Watches dot entire village

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Though not all as visible as Tahoe Village's, Neighborhood Watch groups exist in several neighborhood throughout Wheeling.

Members of these groups watch for suspicious activity in their neighborhoods and call police to investigate anything that appears unusual.

Neighborhood Watch groups in Wheeling are generally identified by the subdivision where they are formed. Wheeling groups and their coordinators are:

- Arlington Club, coordinator Harvey Kaplan
- Arling Grove, coordinator Joanne Purvin
- Cedar Run, coordinator Karen Schmidt
- Chelsea Cove, coordinator Joanie Wilson
- Eastwood Trails, coordinator Judy Metzger
- Dunhurst East, coordinator Judy Abruscato for the north end; coordinator Al Hembd on the south end
- Hollywood Ridge, coordinator Marvin Smith
- Harmony Village, coordinator Georgianne Duff
- Sandpebble Walk, no coordinator named
- Polo Run, in process of forming a Neighborhood Watch group.

The Police Department also has two Kid Watch programs, which are similar to Neighborhood Watch, but their members are children. Coordinator of the Meadowbrook Kid Watch program is Pat Drews and coordinator of the Whippletree Kid Watch program is Mary Bolton.

Residents interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program in their neighborhood, or joining an existing group, can contact Cpl. John Teevans at the Wheeling Police Department at 459-2693.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

John McKechan, director of the neighborhood watch program in Tahoe Village, walks into a command nodule of the program.

### Tahoe Continued from page 5

Tips from Neighborhood Watch members recently resulted in two arrests for possession of marijuana, they said. They also have reported vandalism in progress and had officers retrieve two intoxicated people from a spontaneous late night swim at the complex's pool.

"For the majority of people, the biggest investment they have is the house or condo they live in, and the best way to keep crime down is a Neighborhood Watch program," Solars said.

Cpl. John Teevans, crime prevention officer for the Wheeling Police Department who organizes Neighborhood Watch programs, said there are about a dozen such groups in Wheeling, but Tahoe Village is in a class of its own.

"They care an unbelievable amount about where they live. If they feel they have to go out and monitor the neighborhood on a Friday or Saturday night, they will," Teevans said.

As he does with the other Neighborhood Watch groups, Teevans holds regular meetings, informing residents of area crime and providing them with crime-prevention tips. Recent meetings at Tahoe focused on domestic abuse, Halloween safety and the dangers of inhalants.

All Tahoe residents are encouraged to attend the Neighborhood Watch meetings and participate in the program, even if they don't want to volunteer for the weekend patrols. Residents also are informed of the meetings by articles written for the condominium association's monthly newsletter.

"I think it's so unusual to

**'This is a community really working toward helping the police in any way possible.'**

"The Wheeling Police Department is very aware how Neighborhood Watch can help them. They've been behind us 100 percent," Solars added.

These 20-some core members are easily identifiable by police. They are the ones wearing photo identification badges, jackets with "Tahoe Village Neighborhood Watch" emblazoned on them, and T.V.N.W. embroidered hats.

Even their license plate numbers are on record with the Police Department. After the new year, all core members will be certified in CPR training.

"We don't try to be a security outfit," McKechan said. "We're just trying to help ev-



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

**John McKeegan, director of the neighborhood watch program in Tahoe Village, walks into a command nodule of the program.**

## ■ Tahoe *Continued from page 5*

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"We don't try to be a security outfit," McKeegan said. "We're just trying to help everyone at Tahoe. Most of the time you see something and it turns out to be nothing — and that's what we're hoping for."

"Because of the Neighborhood Watch, the people are

able to walk the streets at night. We see people walking hand in hand at 10:30 or 11 at night. We're proud of that," McKeegan added.

Last summer, Tahoe Village scheduled its annual block party to coincide with National Night Out, an evening devoted to crime prevention. Residents watched demonstrations from the police and fire departments, and children registered their bicycles with the Police Department.

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All Tahoe residents are encouraged to attend the Neighborhood Watch meetings and participate in the program, even if they don't want to volunteer for the weekend patrols. Residents also are informed of the meetings by articles written for the condominium association's monthly newsletter.

"I think it's so unusual to get so many people this involved," Teevans said. "This is a community really working toward helping the police in any way possible."

# Wheeling may shed more light on village with new proposal

11-16-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Things could be a little brighter in Wheeling next year. In a meeting Monday with residents of the Tahoe Village Condominium Association, Robert D. Gray, Jr., director of the village's operations and maintenance department, said Wheeling needs an additional 424 street lights.

However, the estimated \$4,000-per-street-light cost has kept Wheeling officials from purchasing them.

"They are extremely expensive," Gray said.

But now, Gray said village officials are considering allocating money in the 1996-97 budget to launch a five-year village-wide installation program.

While village officials are uncertain of the exact cost of such a program, Gray said nearly \$1 million could be earmarked for the work.

Under the current village budget, \$18,000 was allocated for street light maintenance including replacements.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village has occasionally placed lights along some streets for

safety reasons, but such installations are rare.

"In residential areas, we've pretty much not done that," said Anderson, who added the village tells residents seeking additional street lights they would have to agree to special assessments to pay for the installation.

Wheeling officials are planning to install street lights along Milwaukee Avenue from Manchester Drive to Wolf Road in the village's redevelopment district after the Illinois Department of Transportation widens Milwaukee Avenue.

However, money for Milwaukee Avenue street lights will come from the village's redevelopment budget, Anderson said.

While many residential areas would benefit from the lighting program, officials said they won't install lighting in some multi-family subdivisions because many of their streets are privately owned.

"The bottom line on that item is we don't get nothing from Wheeling," Steven K. Bierlich, a Tahoe Village resident who asked about additional street lights, said jokingly.



Wheeling Police Officer John Teevans, left, plays a question-and-answer game with Kris Santiago during the Law Enforcement Fair at Randhurst Shopping Center in Mount Prospect.

11-10-95

Herald

Daily Herald Photos/Daniel White

## Fair focuses on police, safety tips

There were a lot of police officers at Randhurst Shopping Center recently, but no trouble was afoot.

It was the annual Law Enforcement Fair sponsored by the Mount Prospect Police Department. More than 1,000 people visited the fair, which was populated by many area police departments.

Patrons were able to get safety tips and see the Blues Brothers car and Vince and Larry the crash dummies. There were also puppet shows put on by the Wheeling, Park Ridge and Elk Grove Village police departments.



Several police vehicles were on display in Randhurst during the law enforcement fair.

## Wheeling wants to see funds for Checkers plans

11-20-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Village approval for a new Checkers drive-through in Wheeling is on hold until the company building the restaurant can prove it has the money to start the project soon.

The Wheeling village board decided to table the proposal for the second time amid concern that the company may not be able to move on the project in a timely manner.

Chicago Double Drive-Thru Inc., a Willowbrook-based franchisee for the Checkers fast-food chain, wants permission to build a restaurant at 625 W. Dundee Road.

"Our concern is we're not positive they'd build on a timely basis," said Wheeling Village Planner Mark Janeck.

Based on a recommendation from village planners, the village board put off reviewing the company's request until it proves it would build the restaurant within 90 days of winning approval.

Earlier this year, Wheeling trustees rescinded their approval of the project saying the company hadn't proved it is in financial position to build on

the site. Wheeling trustees originally granted permission for the company to build there in 1993.

The company wants its permission restored to build a 1,300-square-foot restaurant with drive-up windows on a 32,000-square-foot site once occupied by a Brown's Chicken & Pasta Restaurant.

Company officials have said the Clearwater, Fla.-based fast-food restaurant chain lost an \$80 million line of credit to build 20 Chicago-area stores due to problems occurring during previous ownership.

Officials with the franchisee told the Wheeling village board it was possible some time this month that the company could be in financial position to start work on the proposed restaurant and reapply to have its project reviewed.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said if Checkers wins approval to build on the site and doesn't proceed with those plans, another restaurant could request permission to build there.

The company also hopes to build a restaurant at Lake-Cook and Weiland roads in Wheeling.

## Construction on Wolf Road near Palwaukee completed

11-17-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Motorists who will be driving past Palwaukee Municipal Airport around Thanksgiving should have an easier time, thanks to newly opened traffic lanes near the facility.

If the weather cooperates, officials will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday to mark the opening of the final two north-south lanes of the relocated Wolf Road. Officials from the airport, Wheeling and Prospect Heights will be on hand.

With that opening, motorists will have four east-west lanes and four north-south lanes through the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads, by the northwest corner of the airport.

"The opening of all the lanes on Wolf and Hintz should make travel safer and more convenient for motorists and aviation users at the airport," Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said.

The project added two additional lanes to each road and

turning lanes when the intersection was moved.

The relocation of the intersection north and west of its original location was the centerpiece of the airport's \$83.5 million project to bring the facility up to federal standards.

Now that the relocation is completed, airport officials will turn their attention to projects on the airport grounds.

That work includes relocating the Wheeling drainage ditch cutting through Palwaukee and the neighboring site of the former Twin Drive-In at 1010 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Moving the ditch would alleviate a safety hazard and create more usable land at Palwaukee, officials said.

Airport officials acquired the drive-in earlier this year. However, state and federal funding cuts have delayed further work there for an unspecified period, said Stewart.

The airport is operated jointly by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement.

## Trustees stall Checkers move

11-16-95

By mutual agreement, Wheeling trustees last week postponed re-issuing a special use permit and site plan approval for a Checkers restaurant proposed for the southeast corner of Wheeling and Dundee roads.

The board is hesitant to re-issue the special use until it is assured Checkers could begin construction soon. Otherwise, it would be easy for another business to come before the village with a similar plan and replace Checkers at that site.

# Town house plans not buried at all

11-21-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even though the deadline Wheeling and a developer had agreed on for building town houses near Whitman Elementary School has expired, village officials say the project still could become a reality.

The village's agreement with locally based Joseph Freed and Associates to build 40 town houses on 7.8 acres at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. expired in October, officials said. But Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the pro-

ject still is on schedule and is unaffected by both sides missing a deadline to have plans set for developing the town houses.

"Freed is still interested in the land. We can talk about proceeding," he said.

Ira Frank, vice president of the company, declined to comment.

Because Wheeling's comprehensive plan identifies the land for a park, park officials had first rights to acquire the parcel, village officials said.

"When the park district said it was taking its prerogative to take the land, that stopped progress,"

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

Park officials said recently they couldn't afford the entire 7.8-acre parcel, which has a \$1.5 million price tag.

Park officials wanted to acquire 3.1 acres there for a park. The developer instead proposed setting aside 1.9 acres of the development for open space.

Anderson said the development couldn't be completed with 3 acres removed and that park officials should have attempted to buy the entire parcel, which is

owned by four different people.

Schultz has said the village would purchase the land to consolidate ownership and then sell it to the developer.

The project is a part of the village's plans to redevelop the area.

Some neighbors objected to the project, saying it would remove a school play area. They wanted park officials or Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 to buy the land to keep it undeveloped.

Wheeling officials are expected to discuss the project with Freed again later this month.

## Wheeling questions housing proposal

11-21-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday put off the review of a town house and single-family home development for the village's southeast end, citing concerns over its housing price and open space use.

The Wheeling village board tabled until at least Dec. 4 its review of a proposal by Palatine-based Concord Development Co. for 204 town houses and 157 single-family houses for a 121.6-acre parcel south of Palatine Road and northwest of Old Willow Road.

Some Wheeling trustees were concerned that the 204 town houses were not upscale enough for the village because their base price would be between \$120,000 and \$150,000.

"I personally would like to see something of a little higher quality

than that," Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said.

Bill Rotolo, vice president for land acquisitions and government relations for the developer, said the parcel is too close to "negative influences" such as Palatine Road and railroad tracks to place higher-end housing there.

"Not everything can be at the upper edge of the market. There's not that many buyers there," Rotolo said.

He also said home buyers would pay more for their units when they purchase options such as fireplaces and carpeting.

Rotolo said that at the proposed prices, town home buyers would have to have an annual income of about \$60,000, higher than Wheeling's median.

The single-family homes would be priced between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Wheeling officials also were concerned about what recreational amenities could be placed in 44 acres of open space being donated to the Wheeling Park District.

"I think there needs to be a lot of discussion of what that open space should be," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

Wheeling Park District's supervisor of parks and recreation, Karop T. Bavougian, said the developer and park district were close to an agreement over details of the land donation.

"Given our discussions, it is not a pig in a poke we're taking," Bavougian said about the donation.

Developers said the project would be developed in phases, with 242 units being developed in the first phase, including 136 town houses and 106 single-family houses.

## \$20 million road project around Palwaukee finally complete

11-22-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After years of work and millions of dollars spent, new traffic lanes were opened near Palwaukee Municipal Airport Tuesday — a move that will ease traffic and clear the way for more development at the airport.

At a ceremony at Wolf and Hintz roads near the Wheeling-based airport, officials from the airport and area communities celebrated the opening of the final two lanes on Wolf Road.

"This is probably the finest example and most complex example of government agencies working together and municipalities working together," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

The opening gives motorists traveling past the airport four lanes each in the east-west and north-south directions.



From the vantage point of a double-decker bus, local and state officials look at the relocated Wolf and Hintz roads intersection near Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling, as workers finish striping on the road.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

Airport officials relocated the intersection 250 feet to the north and 575 feet west to expand the safety zone between it and the Pal-

waukee's longest runway.

The project took 10 years and more than \$20 million of state and federal funding to complete, airport officials said. Construction work began in 1993.

The intersection relocation is a key to the airport's \$83.5 million upgrade project aimed at bringing the airstrip up to federal standards.

With the road work complete, Palwaukee officials now can focus on other work at the airport.

That will include relocation of a drainage ditch through the former Twin Drive-In land to increase safety for aircraft and create more usable land at Palwaukee.

Airport officials recently bought the drive-in for \$2.26 million. However, federal funding cuts have put the drainage ditch project on hold for an unspecified period.

The airport is operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights under an intergovernmental agreement.

# Ruling encourages optimism for future of SWANCC balefill

By DORIS FOLKL  
STAFF WRITER

11-23-95  
With the Illinois Supreme Court ruling recently against lawsuits brought by opponents in Kane and Cook counties, only one major legal hurdle remains before development of a solid waste balefill in northwest Cook County can move forward.

The decision by the state's high court of appeals Nov. 2 cleared more of the way for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County to construct its 182-acre landfill in unincorporated Cook County near Bartlett.

The landfill, called a balefill because trash will be baled at a transfer station before being transported to the site for burial, will provide waste disposal for 23 communities in the north and northwest suburbs.

Originally brought by the Kane County State's Attorney in Kane County and by Citizens Against the Balefill joined with Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin, Wayne and Hanover Township in Cook County, the two suits were consolidated before SWANCC's appeal a year ago to the state supreme court.

The court's decision comes just two months after a U.S. District Judge ruled the interests of Citizens Against the Balefill and the village of Bartlett were not sufficient for them to intervene as defendants in SWANCC's suit filed last December against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That suit against the Army Corps, which twice has denied a permit to SWANCC, constitutes the last major legal hurdle remaining before construction can proceed.

In a 5-2 decision, written by Supreme Court Justice James D. Heiple, the state supreme court ruled against balefill opponents, maintaining the action of the Cook County Zoning Board was not arbitrary and capricious when it granted zoning approval for the balefill in 1987 and that it had properly deferred to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in assessing the environmental safety of the balefill. SWANCC has held an IEPA permit to develop the site since 1989.

In the Kane County portion of the suit, the court ruled Kane County approval is not required for the balefill. The court further held allegations of environmental harm in this case amounted to an improper attack on the IEPA's regulatory authority.

The dismissal of the action lifts a court-ordered tempo-

rary restraining order on the balefill property.

SWANCC Executive Director C. Brook Beal said the decision affirmed SWANCC's long-held opinion that these lawsuits were frivolous and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Mary Byrne, president of Citizens Against the Balefill, said she was not surprised by any decision the Illinois Supreme Court makes and called the ruling another "notoriously bad decision."

"SWANCC does not have a permit to build because the Army Corps of Engineers has not granted a permit," she said. "This whole thing should be over and done, but it won't be until we get a final ruling from the federal court."

Bartlett Mayor Catherine Melchert said the decision was a disappointment, but opponents are looking to the federal court for a decision, with a status hearing scheduled for April 1.

"The Army Corps has twice denied SWANCC's application for a building permit and is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which said the site should only be used as a last resort," she said. "Brooke Beal has said they will not go forward until a decision by the federal court says whether the Army Corps has jurisdiction. This (supreme court) decision does not give them a foothold in going ahead with the balefill at that site."

Melchert said she has every confidence the federal court will find the Army Corps does have jurisdiction and is there to protect not only the environment but the people who are there where the balefill is sited.

SWANCC members voted in late 1994 to file suit in U.S. District Court disputing the Corps' decision to deny a permit for construction of the balefill.

In denying the permit, the Corps said the balefill posed a potential risk to the water supplies in the St. Charles Aquifer and would have an adverse and unmitigatable impact on wildlife.

In 1990, the Corps initially turned down the balefill without mention of groundwater pollution but said it posed a danger to certain species of endangered birds, and that SWANCC had not investigated alternate sites.

Park Ridge Mayor Ron Wietecha, who sits on SWANCC's Executive Board, called the supreme court decision "the best news SWANCC communities have had in a long time."

# Sale of Hotel bricks raises money for park

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

11-23-95  
Now is your chance to own a piece of Wheeling history and, at the same time, help beautify the village.

Members of SPACE, a group working to stop the village from building a proposed 40-unit townhome development on the former Union Hotel and Billy & Co. restaurant site along Milwaukee Avenue, are selling bricks from the circa-1925 building to aid their cause.

Resident Gary Cohn last week presented

## Bricks Continued from page 7

Cohn contacted the Illinois Department of Transportation, which recently had the building demolished in preparation for the widening of Milwaukee Avenue, and received permission to stockpile 1,000 of the bricks. The remainder of the bricks have been crushed and taken from the site, Cohn said.

SPACE began its efforts to save the property from development, saying they wanted to preserve the play area for children at nearby Whitman School.

Since their campaign, developer Joseph Freed & Associates has scaled a project down from an original 48 townhomes. He also has increased the amount of open land to 1.9 acres.

The Park District looked into purchasing 3.1 acres of the 7.8-acre site to develop into a neighborhood park, but later said it was unable to justify the expense.

Park Board President Greg Klatecki said the Park District would have been forced to purchase the entire site, then try to sell the frontage along Milwaukee for retail development.

Cohn said the group is hoping proceeds from the brick fund-raiser can help save the land from development, and would be donated to any group that steps forward to purchase the land for something other than development.

None of the money will be used for expenses incurred by SPACE volunteers, such as photocopying and paper, he

the District 21 School Board with a commemorative brick. He plans to do the same for the Wheeling Village Board and Park Board this week.

The group is selling the majority of bricks for \$20 each, which includes an engraved plate and certificate of authenticity. They will try to sell others for \$100, he said.

"I was in my accountant's office and saw a Chicago Stadium brick, and it just clicked," Cohn said of getting the idea to sell bricks from the Billy & Co. restaurant. "I thought there must be thousands of bricks there."

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noted.

If the group is not successful in purchasing the property to stop the townhomes, Cohn said, the money will be used as a beautification fund for Wheeling.

"Somehow it will go to beautify the village if we can't save the land," he said. "We'll keep going until it's done."

For information on where bricks can be purchased, call the SPACE hotline at 685-ROBB (7622). Residents who want to volunteer their time to SPACE can call 685-7663.

In another effort to raise money, SPACE has established a 976-HELP phone number that charges callers \$5. Those proceeds will be combined with money raised from the bricks, Cohn said.

# Village passes tobacco law

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

11-23-95  
Wheeling trustees are favoring a measure making it even harder for Wheeling youth to buy or possess tobacco products in the village.

Village code already outlaws the purchase and possession of cigars, cigarettes and tobacco by anyone under 18 years old. But village staff is proposing the elimination of a clause that allows minors to purchase the products if they have a note from their parent or guardian or if their parent or guardian is present during the sale.

"Within reason, we want to make it as difficult as possible for an underage person to purchase tobacco," said Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

The proposed change also requires businesses which

sell tobacco products to post a sign warning minors that they can be fined up to \$500 if they purchase tobacco products or misrepresent their age to purchase them.

Some establishments already have posted similar signs voluntarily, Anderson said.

A state law already requires that vending machines containing tobacco products be placed in view of a clerk or employee to ensure that no one under 18 purchases them, he said.

According to a village staff memorandum to trustees, the Wheeling Police Department issued 25 citations for violation of the smoking ordinance during the 1994-95 school year.

The majority were issued at Wheeling High School and some at Holmes Junior High School.

According to statistics from the American Cancer Society, 70 percent of students in grades 9-12 have tried smoking cigarettes and about 14 percent of high school students frequently smoke cigarettes.

Village staff plans to review the stringent tobacco ordinance adopted by the village of Woodridge, Anderson said.

Southwest suburban Woodridge uses "stings" to check whether someone underage can purchase cigarettes, he said.

That is similar to routine checks many police departments make on liquor stores to ensure that no one under 21 is able to purchase alcohol, he noted.

These changes, if adopted, would mark the first alteration of the tobacco ordinance since 1986, Anderson said.

# Officials charge restaurant, bar with violating village liquor laws

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have fined a restaurant for serving alcohol after hours and they plan to prosecute a local bar for another sales violation as a part of their enforcement of the village's liquor code.

The Wheeling liquor commission, composed of Wheeling trustees and Village President Sheila H. Schultz, recently fined Guardino's Restaurant, at 521 S. Milwaukee Ave., \$500 for selling liquor after 2 a.m.

Wheeling police said on Sept. 12 they observed a bartender selling drinks at 3:01 a.m., which is later than the 2 a.m. limit on

their village liquor license.

Michael J. Guardino, president of MJG Inc., the company that runs the restaurant, admitted the establishment was guilty of the violation he said was caused because unnamed members of the Chicago Bears football team were being served there.

"We have a set of ordinances that need to be followed," said Wheeling Trustee Judy Abrusca to about the village's liquor code before the panel approved the restaurant's fine.

In a second case, Wheeling Village Prosecutor Steven J. Handler said six witnesses and business records would be subpoenaed in a case against Matty's Place at 1750 W. Hintz Road.

Wheeling police charged that on July 16 the bar employed Leora Geppert, 17, as a waitress who served alcoholic drinks to customers.

Employing a waitress under 18 to serve alcohol is a violation of Wheeling's code that requires those serving liquor to be at least 21.

Kathleen M. Mark, co-owner of the bar, said the establishment is innocent of the charges. The liquor commission delayed holding a hearing on the charges until Jan. 2 to give the bar owners time to find an attorney.

In 1993, Matty's Place was fined \$275 for serving liquor after 2 a.m. and preventing police from entering the bar to investigate.

## Liquor commission approves extra registers

The Wheeling liquor commission approved a request by Sam's Club at 1055 McHenry Road to use additional cash registers for alcohol sales.

Officials of the commission, whose members are Wheeling trustees and Village President Sheila H. Schultz, granted the store's request.

Store officials requested the extra registers to handle holiday liquor sales.

### Trustees OK purchase of maintenance trucks

Wheeling trustees agreed to purchase six trucks from Northwest Ford Truck Center, Inc. of Franklin Park for \$135,563.94.

The pick-up trucks will be used by the village's operations and maintenance department.

Wheeling officials were originally set to purchase the trucks from Tom Todd Chevrolet of Wheeling, but the dealership, the low bidder for the village's business, couldn't supply all

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

the vehicles.

Northwest Ford Truck Center, Inc. had the second lowest bid for the village's business.

### Contract amendment protects water valves

Wheeling trustees agreed to amend its contract with RUST Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. to have the company ensure that valves in the village's water system are opened and closed to guard against freezing.

The Wheeling village board agreed to the amendment, which wouldn't exceed \$45,000, to allow the company to modify water valves at some village water tanks so those valves open and close automatically.

Village officials said automatically having the valves opened and closed keeps the water from freezing and

ensures good water quality.

Also, Wheeling officials said that having the water tanks handled automatically saves the village from having to pay employees overtime to attend to the valves.

### Trustees approve subdivision upgrades

Wheeling trustees accepted public improvements made to the Schwind subdivision on the northwest side of the village.

The village board accepted improvements done in the 37.6 acre subdivision that included the placement of a traffic signal, various sewers, curb and gutter infrastructure and other amenities.

The subdivision is located on the east side of Weiland Road between Lake-Cook Road and includes the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores.

# Wheeling Twp. fire taxes inch up

In addition to the tax cap, the district's property tax rate will also probably drop as a result of the county's triennial reassessment of the Northwest suburbs, which is expected to result in property being more highly valued.

The Wheeling Township fire district includes most of Prospect Heights and unincorporated areas near Wheeling. It excludes the village of Wheeling. It has no firefighters or equipment of its own and contracts with outside fire departments for fire service.

Fire board attorney Karl R. Ottosen said that because of restrictions imposed by the Cook County property tax cap the district would probably not be able to collect the full amount of its levy. Under the tax cap, local taxing bodies can only approve property tax levies that are no more than 5 percent higher than the prior year's levy or the consumer price index, whichever is less. Currently, the CPI is 2.7 percent.

The tax rate will go down, but because of the tax cap we'll probably get a three, four percent (levy) increase," Ottosen said. The Cook County tax cap also specifies that taxing bodies seeking property tax increases greater than 5 percent must first win approval from voters of a tax hike referendum. In the Nov. 7 election, voters rejected a referendum to raise the district's property tax rate by 10 cents to offset a budget deficit by a 266 to 108 vote. With the district's current tax rate, the owner of a house with a \$150,000 market value now pays an annual fire district property tax bill of \$186.

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Township fire district board approved a 1995 property tax levy of \$644,800, which is a 4.9 percent increase over last year's \$614,141 levy. In a 3-0 vote, the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board approved a new property tax levy that officials said probably won't result in an increase in the district's property tax rate. "We have nothing to lose," said fire board member Peter Urban.

## Wheeling commercial site to remain vacant for now

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Due primarily to an uncertain real estate market, plans are on hold to build a shopping center in the heart of Wheeling, village officials said.

Plans for commercial development on a 13.5-acre parcel at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road have been delayed for an undetermined period, officials said recently.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village's agreement with Chicago-based Hiffman Shaffer Associates Inc. to develop plans for a commercial project at the intersection recently expired.

"They're (HSA) still interested in the corner. They're exploring options for commercial and retail, but nothing is firm," Anderson said.

He also said an uncertain commercial real estate market and a glut of retail space are keeping developers from starting any large shopping center projects.

HSA officials could not be reached for comment.

The company had a 120-day agreement with the village to draw up plans for a possible retail center at the corner.

Anderson said three developers are considering building on the corner, including HSA. He declined to name the other two.

Previously, the company proposed building a 125,900-square-foot shopping center there.

The largest building now on the mostly vacant property, the Sportmart Inc. store at 240 E. Dundee Road, is up for sale.

The land is included in a 125-acre area at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road designated by Wheeling trustees for redevelopment.

The land will be redeveloped through a special property tax funding method called a tax increment finance district. The method allows a portion of the property tax dollars raised from the land to be used to pay for public improvements to the land.

Village officials previously talked with the Wheeling-based sporting goods retailer about anchoring a shopping center there, but those talks broke off.

## Wheeling residents take aim at speeders with radar guns

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents now have a new weapon to slow down speeders.

Speaking to residents of the Chelsea Cove Condominium subdivision Monday, Wheeling Police Commander Eric Larson highlighted a new program where neighbors are given radar guns to clock drivers in their neighborhoods.

"We're trying to get everyone to comply with the speed limit," Larson said.

In the less than one-month-old program, residents from neighborhood watch groups are given radar guns to use for a week or two by Wheeling Police after passing a background check.

The residents are instructed to check the speeds of vehicles traveling their neighborhoods during peak traffic periods. The residents also record the license number and a description of vehicles they see speeding.

They forward the information to police, who in turn mail a letter to the vehicle owners noting

they were observed speeding and a record of the speed they were allegedly traveling.

The residents in the program do not directly confront speeders, Larson said.

The drivers observed speeding on radar by the residents are not ticketed by police.

Chelsea Cove residents complained that some drivers traveling on Denoyer Trail in the subdivision often exceed the posted 20 mph speed limit.

"They don't know what the speed limit is," said Frank Hosticka, a Chelsea Cove resident.

Larson said Wheeling police based the resident radar gun program on a similar one now in place in Vernon Hills.

Larson said the department will post additional patrols to nab negligent drivers in areas where Wheeling police receive a high number of speeding incidents from radar-using residents.

Residents who are interested in participating in the radar program are urged to call Larson or Commander Michael Rompala at 459-2632.

# Village: don't sell us short

11-30-95

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Countryside

Wheeling trustees last week tabled a decision on the Concord residential development proposed for the village's south side.

Rather than concur with the Plan Commission's recommendation to approve the plans for 204 townhomes and 157 single-family homes, trustees first want an explanation as to why the developer cannot increase the price of the townhomes by raising their quality.

"We think there's a market for upper-end townhomes in the village. In essence, we don't want them to sell the village short," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The development is planned for a 122-acre site located south of Palatine Road, east of Wheeling Road and west of the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks.

But, she said, location did not hinder the success of a residential development in Northbrook, along Dundee Road and near the Tri-State.

"The location doesn't seem to be as much of a factor as it used to be," Hartman said.

Schultz agreed.

"We know we've had some very nice developments put in some not-so-prime sites, and they do very well," she said. The site may be more desira-

Officials from Concord Development Corp. in Palatine have said the two-bedroom townhomes would be priced beginning at \$120,000, with various upgrades, such as fireplaces and basements, increasing the price.

"They say everybody wants upgrades, so why aren't we starting at a higher (price) level?" Anderson asked. "If they can't do that, they need to tell us why."

Village President Sheila Schultz said she does not think trustees question Concord's quality. "They're questioning whether a townhome with more amenities, which would make it more expensive, would be feasible," Schultz said.

Similar townhomes elsewhere in the village have sold for closer to \$200,000, she said.

"We think people are looking for those type of townhomes. There's a market for them," Anderson said.

Trustees did not comment on the sug-

gested price of the single-family homes which begin at \$200,000, he added, noting that there is a significant need in the village for more single-family homes.

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said she has concerns with the development's quality, rather than price.

"I'd like to see a better quality home," she said, though not specifying what upgrades she would like to see to improve the quality.

"We have lots of reasonably priced homes in our community and people want to move up to larger homes," Hartman said, adding that those who cannot find a larger house often leave the village.

At the meeting, Hartman said, the developer kept emphasizing that the location of the site, near industry, is one reason the homes cannot be priced higher.

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ble for residential development than Concord believes, she said.

Anderson said the proposal may be considered by trustees again in December, but before that meeting, he wants village staff to meet with Concord representatives to determine whether some of the townhome upgrades can be made standard, and therefore increase the base price.

As part of the approval process, trustees will need to re-

zone the site from industrial to residential.

Currently, Anderson said, there are industrial uses bordering the property on the east and north sides; a mixed use of residential apartments, Woodland Creek, industry and a church on the west; and single-family homes to the south, which is Prospect Heights.

Access to the subdivision would be gained off of Palatine and Old Willow roads, he added.

# Rural fire boards consider merger

11-29-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township and Prospect Heights rural fire protection district officials may consider a merger that would make the Prospect Heights district the area's sole provider of fire protection.

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District fire board President Anthony Carlin said the two districts are considering merging so Prospect Heights has one main fire department.

"It makes sense to have Prospect Heights (fire district) take it over and get Prospect Heights under one fire department instead of the three or four that now serve it," Carlin said Tuesday.

He said the fire boards have informally discussed dissolving the

Wheeling Township fire district and turning over responsibility for protecting its former coverage area to the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District.

Carlin said details of such action haven't been worked out yet and nothing would happen before his board's Jan. 9 meeting.

Wheeling fire board member Peter Urban said a merger would enable the district to finance construction of a fire station in Prospect Heights.

"This would increase the tax base," he said.

The Wheeling Township district includes most of Prospect Heights and unincorporated areas near Wheeling, but excludes the village of Wheeling.

Stephen G. Daday, attorney for the Prospect Heights fire district, said he is unaware of such merger

discussions on his board.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson is uncertain what village officials would do if the merger is attempted.

Wheeling is currently trying to get a Cook County Circuit Court judge to reconsider rejection of an injunction request against the Wheeling Township district.

Wheeling requested the injunction after the Wheeling Township fire board dropped village firefighters from protecting most of the district and contracted instead with the Prospect Heights rural district's fire department.

The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Department is an agency separate and independent of the city.

A 1988 referendum to merge the districts failed when the circuit court upheld Wheeling township residents' defeat of the measure.

# Wheeling police send report of murdered dancer to L.A.

12-1-95

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police have sent information on the unsolved murder of a local woman to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department investigating whether a photographer accused of slaying a model there might be connected to unsolved murders in the Midwest.

Wheeling police have sent a report on the 1991 murder of exotic dancer Jamie L. Santos to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in response to a nationwide request for information on unsolved homicide cases as part of their investigation of free-lance photographer Charles Rathbun.

"They're looking for unsolved cases in the Midwest of females

who dealt with photographers," Wheeling Police Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes said Thursday. Hermes also said Wheeling police do not have information that places Rathbun in the area at the time of Santos' death. Santos was found strangled in her Wheeling apartment on Oct. 28, 1991.

Rathbun, 36, is charged with the murder of model and former Los Angeles Raider cheerleader Linda Sobek.

Rathbun has relatives in Ohio, Michigan and other states, and detectives were checking to see if there were unsolved killings in those states as well as areas Rathbun may have visited as a photographer, according to published reports.

Daily Herald wire services contributed to this report.

# Wheeling gives appearance awards

Five Wheeling residents were honored by the village last week when they accepted the first residential awards for appearance. Winners received a plaque and gift certificate from Wheeling Nursery.

Winners in the residential category were Hank and Nancy Poellinger, 237 E. Norman Lane; Nora Rainey and Sandra Ernst for 361 E. Wayne Place; Joel Pilka, 940 Wilshire Drive; Greg and Sue Klackecki, 278 Fifth St.; and Stephen and Erica Ames, 409 Meadowbrook Lane.

Peer Bearing Co., 241 W. Palatine Road, was the winner in the industrial category; Arlington Grove Court at Lakeview and Buffalo Grove Road won the multifamily category; Wal-Mart, 1455 W. Lake-Cook Road, won in the commercial category; and the Wheeling Park District's Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, won in the non-profit category. Each category was judged on design, architecture and landscaping.

# Wheeling considers increasing garbage fee

12-2-95  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday will review a proposed 3.3 percent hike in garbage disposal fees that could add more than 40 cents to residents' monthly bills.

Wheeling officials are proposing the increase in the fees due to set-vice increases being sought by Waste Management-Northwest, the village's waste hauler, and the Solid Waste Agency of Cook County.

SWANCC, a regional waste management agency, is seeking an increase from the municipalities in the consortium to cover increased expenses for operating the Wheeling Township Waste Transfer Station in Glenview where garbage is prepared for landfill disposal.

"The increase is reasonable in light of the fact there was no increase last year," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Under the proposed increases, those living in attached single-family houses in the village would see their monthly disposal fees hiked from the \$11.15 they now pay to \$11.63.

"Those living in detached single-family houses would see their monthly disposal fees rise from the \$13.01 they now pay to \$13.44.

If Wheeling trustees approve the rate hike, residents would begin to be charged the new fees in January.

Waste Management-Northwest officials said they needed the fee increase to cover increases in their labor expenses.

Rates for additional garbage pick-ups and for the collection of white goods such as old washing machines will not be increased, said village officials.

There is also no rate increase proposed for the yardwaste stickers from Waste-Management sold throughout village in the spring and summer for \$1.50 each.

At recent village board workshops held in multi-family housing subdivisions in town one of the topics residents seemed to be the most interested in were the garbage fees.

The current contract the village has with Waste Management expires in December 1996.

# Upscale housing wanted

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
11-30-95

Village officials feel there is a need in Wheeling for more upscale housing, and they are hoping to convince Concord Development Corp. of the same.

Rather than vote to approve plans for a townhome and single-family home development on Wheeling's south side last week, trustees tabled the plans to see whether Concord will agree to raise the \$120,000 base price of the townhomes by adding some quality upgrades.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village needs to encourage more upscale housing in Wheeling to retain residents who want larger homes to reflect their incomes or to accommodate growing families.

"It gives people broader options to stay in the village," he said. "We want a community anyone can feel comfortable in. Where we're short is on the upper end."

"And we've heard that from residents, 'I want to stay here, but I can't find a house,'" he added.

The creation of upper-end housing is of particular concern to Wheeling as it continues to work towards enhancing its image in the northwest suburbs.

Having housing that appeals to more expensive tastes could help the village retain families looking to move upward into larger homes, and could in turn help boost property values in surrounding neighborhoods. The possibility is particularly appealing in areas turning from industrial to residential, as it can set a precedent for the whole surrounding area and future rezonings.

Until Picardy Place, a single-family development near Wolf Road and Meadow Lane, was built about four years ago, families who wanted to

(Continued on page 98)

# Asking price snags plans for hotel site

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
12-7-95

A chief property holder of part of the old Union Hotel site is backing out of negotiations to sell the land to the village as part of a future townhome development.

For months, the village has been negotiating to purchase several sites along Milwaukee Avenue, including the former Billy & Co. site. The village plans to consolidate the lots and then offer the 7.8 acres for development as part of the village's tax increment financing district.

The most recent plan was to sell the property to Joseph Freed & Associates who wants to build 40-unit townhomes on the site.

Arch Goldin, who owns about 3.25 acres of the proposed townhome site with his grandsons, said he was informed Friday that the village no longer has the money to pay Goldin's asking price for the property.

Though Goldin said he and the village agreed on a selling price in 1993, Goldin said he has since raised that price because of the property taxes and interest he has paid on the property.

Village Manager Craig An-

derson, however, said no selling price was agreed upon.

"I'm not sure we've ever agreed to a price. We've been negotiating," Anderson said. Village staff last met with the three property owners involved about three weeks ago, and tried to work out an agreement, he said.

"The ball was left in their court. We're still very interested in pursuing this. We put out the number on the table that works for us," Anderson said. "Their expectations on the price may be a little higher" than the village can afford, he added.

Goldin said the village should have purchased the property in 1993.

"There was no urgency for them to take money out of the TIF (tax increment finance) fund and buy the property when we were ready to sell," Goldin said, calling the village "too timid."

Neighborhood resident have fought to have the Milwaukee Avenue frontage used for commercial development, leaving the west side near Whitman School for a park. After residents approached the District 21 School Board and the Wheeling Park District, both were

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## Hotel Continued from page 5

briefly interested in purchasing about three acres of the site, but neither could afford it.

Goldin said he, too, would like to see a park developed there, but the village has not cooperated with the parks or school.

"They're not working together as a team," Goldin said. "Wheeling needs to unify their plan, their purpose."

Goldin said he has been holding on to the property for the last two years because of the village's promise to buy. "Up until last Friday, the village agreed to pay the price," he said.

Anderson said Monday the village is still in the dark as to Goldin's intentions.

"If he doesn't want to sell the property to us, that's fine. He has not told us that directly," Anderson said. "That's their prerogative."

"Our concern was having a nice redevelopment there, and we thought townhomes would work best," he said.

The village wants the property developed into a use that would be beneficial for the village and improve the appearance of the Milwaukee Avenue corridor, he said.

"One of the reasons we got involved was to put together the property," Anderson said. He said he has a difficult time envisioning how any of the parcels would be developed individually, but said it could be done under the current commercial zoning.

"There are certain requirements they have to meet, such as setbacks, parking," he noted.

Goldin said he would still consider selling the property to the village, but only if his price is met. However, he does not expect that to happen.

"They don't have any money to work with and they don't have any prospect of getting any," he said.

As a property owner, Goldin said, he has not seen any progress in Wheeling's TIF district, besides the northeast corner of Dundee Road and

Milwaukee Avenue purchased to create a small parklike area in front of Cole Taylor Bank.

Anderson said he understands the owners may be frustrated, but the most recent delays were caused by opposition to the plans. "We were trying to come up with a project that worked," he said, noting that the play area for Whitman School was enlarged as plans were updated.

Goldin now expects the village to eventually refinance the TIF, as Buffalo Grove recently did for its Town Center shopping mall at the corner of McHenry and Lake-Cook roads.

"They're going to have to do it here," he said. "At least (Buffalo Grove) is running things in a businesslike manner."

Meanwhile, fellow property owner Gus Mandas, who owns about 3.5 acres of the proposed townhome site, has agreed to sell his land to another party and expects to close on the real-estate deal this month.

Mandas said the buyer is not the village, but the new owner could possibly sell to the village. He thinks the village's plan to put several sites together for development is worthwhile.

"We have to sell it sometime," Mandas said. "The problem with my property is that it had 50 feet of frontage (along Milwaukee). It's kind of hard to work with a 50-foot frontage."

In 25 years of owning the site, Mandas said, he has tried repeatedly to develop the property, but was never successful in the village's approval process.

"We had a church, they said no; an apartment, no. The school didn't want it," he said. "At the same time, I'm stuck with an investment there." Mandas does not expect the new owner will have difficulty with the village's approval process, but he does not know the buyer's plan for the property.

move up into larger, more expensive homes had few options in Wheeling, Anderson said.

"Picardy Place is certainly an asset to the village and an enhancement of our residential properties," he said.

"Now there are more options. We have a good mix and this (Concord proposal) would certainly continue it," he added.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the development will consist of \$200,000-plus single-family homes and therefore should attract a higher price for the townhomes than \$120,000.

"We're looking into some pricing issues," she said. Schultz said there is a market for high-end townhomes in Wheeling, and noted that all townhome proposals will be looked at with the same scrutiny.

Michael Klitzke, community development director, said he believes trustees want the quality of the exterior to be improved, rather

than have the developer focus on interior upgrades.

"That's the impression I get, and that's what I think they'll (Concord) have to take a look at," Klitzke said.

"When you drive down the street, you want the appearance, the quality, the aesthetics," he said, adding that interior upgrades do not impact on the development's image. "You can change the carpeting, the interior, but the outside will last forever."

Klitzke, too, believes there is a market in Wheeling for luxury townhomes. If trustees are seeking a more appealing appearance, such as more brick, the improvement would be reflected in a higher price. But Klitzke said, the townhomes still would be marketable in Wheeling.

"Hopefully, we can explain to them (Concord) what is going on," he added.

# SPACE unsure what it will mean for park

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

12-7-95

Neighbors who have been fighting for a park near Whitman school were guarded in their reactions this week to the news that two of the Union Hotel site property owners were seeking buyers other than the village.

"I think (Arch Goldin's) just frustrated," said Gary Cohn, spokesman for SPACE, a group of residents in the Whitman School area who are fighting the proposed townhomes.

"He's been trying to sell for a long time."

The village planned to purchase and consolidate Goldin's property with that of two other landowners to put together a 7.8-acre parcel as part of the village's tax increment financing district.

The land would then be sold to developer Joseph Freed & Associates, which planned to build 40-unit townhomes on the site.

Nearby residents have fought the townhome development because it

would eliminate open space that Whitman School students used as a playground, although the school does not own the property.

Residents formed the SPACE group and asked both School District 21 and the Park District to save about three acres of open space.

Cohn said Goldin's announcement that he will not sell to the village "doesn't mean anything negative for the townhomes. I doubt they (the village) even care."

The village, he said, still has the

upper hand and can condemn the property as it chooses.

"The village doesn't have anything to worry about. To me, it's meaningless," he said.

SPACE already has decided that the village will not help preserve parkland, so the group has begun selling bricks from the former Union Hotel to offset the cost for whoever eventually purchases the site.

If the village proceeds to purchase the properties for the townhome de-

(Continued on page 17)

## Wheeling to honor St. Nick at parade

12-9-95

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Before he works the local chimneys Santa and Mrs. Claus will hit the streets of Wheeling today leading the annual parade in his honor.

The Wheeling Historical Society's annual Santa Parade will start at 1:40 p.m. from the Dundhurst Shopping Center at Dundee Road and Route 83 and proceed east on Dundee Road to Wolf Road.

On Wolf Road, Santa and his wife, who will be together on a trailer, will be taken north to Chamber Park at 251 N. Wolf Road. There the society has set up Lollipop Lane in the historic Presbyterian Church at the park.

"We've been doing this for 23 years," said Frank Schnaitmann, president of the historical society.

"It's a service to the children of the community," he said.

At Lollipop Lane, children can meet with Santa, being portrayed by Don Allison and Mrs. Claus, played by Willie Franta, and receive gifts including a ring, a coloring book and a lollipop.

Lollipop Lane will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

From Monday to Friday, it will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Children can visit the couple from Dec. 9 to Dec. 17. Schnaitmann said the society averages 1,000 children visiting St. Nick and Mrs. Claus during their 9 day stay.

Schnaitmann said the entire membership of the society, about 30 members, participates in the annual event.

Those activities include decorating the church at Chamber Park with 10 ornamented Christmas trees.

The historical society is supported by the Wheeling Park District, which donates funds for the event.

Additionally, local businesses and banks support the event, said Schnaitmann.

The event is popular with local parents and it gives children another location where they can meet Santa Claus before he makes his appointed rounds on Dec. 25.



Holiday's happiest couple

Saturday's below-average temperatures didn't phase Santa Claus (Don Allison) or Mrs. Claus (Grace Kostrzewski), who blew in from the North Pole to make an appearance in Wheeling.

12-10-95 Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

## Palwaukee to examine long-range plan's progress

12-9-95

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials soon will review the long-range improvement plan for the facility to determine its progress and see if it should be changed.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. said that on Dec. 14 the airport commission will review the progress made on the facility's \$83.5 million long-range improvement plan to determine how much of it has been completed.

"They'll see what we've done on that and discuss some more," he said.

Stewart said his proposal to change engineering firms for the project, which is currently being handled by the Aurora-based Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., was rejected by the commission.

Stewart sought the change to have the program rebid, he said.

Airport officials initiated the massive program in 1990 to bring the Wheeling-based airfield up to federal standards.

Recently, airport officials com-

pleted the centerpiece of the program which was the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection that included giving both routes four lanes through the area.

The relocation work also expanded the safety zone between the intersection and Palwaukee's longest runway.

Other projects completed at Palwaukee include the installation of some runway upgrades and land acquisitions.

The land acquisitions included purchase of the former Twin Drive-In property adjacent to Palwaukee earlier this year for \$2.26 million.

The property will be used to divert the Wheeling drainage ditch cutting through both cities to increase safety for aircraft and create more land for development there.

However, that diversion project is now on hold for an undetermined period due to a delay in federal and state funding.

Stewart said the commission will seek input on the plan from the more than 300 tenants who have aircraft housed at Palwaukee.

Wheeling trustees today are expected to review a \$5 million bond issue that could eventually require a property tax increase to finance construction of the village's commuter rail station.

The Wheeling village board today is expected to vote on the proposed bond issue to fund construction of the village's commuter station on the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

The bond issue, that would be repaid over 11 years, would likely increase property taxes for rest-

development, Cohn said, the money raised from the brick sale will go into a beautification fund for the village.

Resident Mary Mozal, who has been active in forming SPACE, said her group expected to raise \$1.6 million to purchase the 7.8 acres. However, she noted, they hope to get financial help from the Park District, School District or possibly through grants.

The neighborhood would then have the west side of the property for a park and the frontage could be sold for commercial uses.

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-11-95

dent in future years, said Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski.

However, village officials won't know the exact tax increase until Cook County releases information on the area's assessed valuation sometime next year, Fialkowski said.

He said the village tax hike also depends on the interest rate officials receive for the bonds.

Under Wheeling's proposed \$11.2 million 1995 property tax levy, slated for a Dec. 18 village board vote, officials project the village's tax rate will drop slightly from \$1.01 per \$100 of assessed valuation to

# Trustees mull repercussions of bonds

less than \$1.

Wheeling officials have said that the station will cost at least \$4 million to build. They expect state and federal grants to pay for some construction expenses.

"We're hoping a portion would be reimbursed," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Last year, the Wheeling village board temporarily borrowed \$4.5 million for construction of the station.

Anderson said the latest bond issue is a permanent deal for Wheeling to fund construction of the station.

Anderson said a deal is near for Wheeling to acquire 8 acres for the station from Meyer Material Co.

Wheeling officials have said the station located just south of West Dundee Road and west of Northgate Parkway will handle 750 commuters a day, making it the busiest stop on the line.

When it opens next spring, the 5.3-mile rail line will take commuters from the Wisconsin border to Chicago's Union Station.

The Wheeling station will include 626 commuter parking spaces and a temporary parking area for dropping off riders.

# Wheeling says putting police officers in bank good investment

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Banks in Wheeling are getting better security — not so much for their financial investments as for their employees and customers.

Starting Monday, desks will be set aside in each of the village's five banks for police officers to use. While not directly assigned to the banks, police will be encouraged to stop in and use the desks to write reports, make phone calls

and otherwise be more visible to the banks and the community.

Wheeling police say it's the first program of its kind around.

"It's a part of our community policing (program)," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes on Wednesday.

Patrol officers on day shifts will file reports and make phone calls from the banks instead of traveling back to the Wheeling police station.

Officers at the banks also will

talk with people, and accept any crime reports people wish to file.

Wheeling police say they need greater visibility in the banks in part because of a record-breaking 128 bank robberies in the greater Chicago area this year as of Sunday.

The patrol officers won't keep regular hours at the banks, but will make frequent visits, Hermes said.

Police will also hand out crime prevention and community pam-

phlets, he added.

The Wheeling police department developed the idea as part of their community policing program in which officers spend more time in the communities they protect.

Police in other area towns such as Buffalo Grove and Mundelein also employ the community policing concept.

"It's an excellent approach," said Mount Prospect Police Chief Ronald W. Pavlock about the bank detail program.

When Mount Prospect built a new police station two years ago the entire police department operated from the First Chicago Bank building for 18 months during construction.

Mount Prospect police now have a substation at Randhurst Shopping Center and another one at the Mount Prospect Park District's Recplex facility — often used by the department's community policing officer for filing reports and other duties.

"The concept of that is not that unusual, it's a nationwide concept," Pavlock said of efforts by police departments to increase their community visibility.

Judy Abruscato, an assistant vice president at First National Bank in Wheeling, lauded the new program.

"It's great. The community and customers and clients of the bank will get to see and know the police officers and will see them operate in the community," she said.

# 2000 & Beyond panel takes look at image

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

12-7-95  
Image is everything.

At least it is to the citizens committee that has been given the task of enhancing Wheeling's. The committee is one of several spun out of Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond, the strategic planning process begun two months ago by Denniston Group, a Naperville-based consulting firm hired by the Village Board.

The consultants are being paid a minimum of \$22,000 to work with residents on the committees and to produce a final report to trustees, which is expected to be completed within a year.

## Benefits

Village officials say this report will be beneficial because it is being generated largely by residents.

Residents who attended an initial public meeting in late October at Chevy Chase Clubhouse were given a brief overview of the process.

About 100 residents attended that meeting, and those who were interested in serving on issue-oriented committees for approximately the next 10 months were invited to a second community meeting in early November.

Based on residents' comments at those two meetings, seven focus committees were formed. The committees have started meeting on their own to study the issues and to eventually offer solutions.

The Marketing and Image Committee, which held its first meeting Saturday, is working to determine what is wrong with Wheeling's image and what can be done to improve it.

Avi Poster, chairman of the Marketing and Image Committee and principal of Tarkington Elementary School, said he believes residents value their community, but are concerned about what outsiders who pass through think.

"Those of us who work and live in this community know its strengths," he said. Poster can easily identify the village's strong points, particularly in regards to its schools.

## Blue ribbons

In addition to Tarkington, Holmes Junior High School and Wheeling High School have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools,

Poster said.

He also cited the state-of-the-art Recreation and Aquatic centers as advantages in Wheeling, as well as Palwaukee Airport and Milwaukee Avenue's famed "Restaurant Row."

**'I think this community has so much to offer, and it's in our good stead to share what we know with others.'**

"And we don't celebrate our cultural diversity enough," Poster said. "There's so much here we can be happy for."

Poster's committee began its work Saturday with an initial meeting at Indian Trails Library to identify problems associated with Wheeling's image.

## Committee structure

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Seven focus committees have been formed out of the village's Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond project.

The committees and their chairmen are:

**Economic Development:** Divided into three smaller groups. The Milwaukee/Dundee commercial/retail group is chaired by Rich Goldberg; Minerva Solano is chairman of the group that will discuss large corporations; and David Kolsak will lead a group on attracting and keeping businesses in Wheeling. Chris Dolgopol is coordinating the three sub-groups of the Economic Development Committee.

**Marketing and Image:** will discuss the village's public relations, marketing and media relations, chaired by Avi Poster and co-chaired by Dave Cantwell.

**Education:** is chaired by Kelvin Lane and co-chaired by Virginia Isherwood. They plan to discuss education/community activities, adult education, lifelong learning, continuing education and how to meet the needs of changing

"We'll start setting a clear-cut mission for our committee and what we want to accomplish," Poster said.

Once the committee agrees on the problems, it can begin to research the solutions, he said. The committee expects to meet again in early January.

"I think this community has so much to offer, and it's in our good stead to share what we know with others," Poster said.

Even before The Denniston Group was hired, Village President Sheila Schultz said she wanted the improvement plan to be steered by residents and not led by trustees or village officials.

So far, Poster said, he feels the committee has been given the full support of the village and freedom to explore the image issue as it sees fit.

That lack of interference should help the committee generate creative, yet viable solutions to improve Wheeling's image, he added.

demographics in the village. They also will discuss the image, quality and marketing of the village's schools.

**Infrastructure:** Chaired by Dave Phillips and co-chaired by Tom Murray, will discuss Wheeling's technology/telecommunications, transportation, future needs and the relationship of infrastructure to other issue groups.

**Government:** chaired by Bill Paar and co-chaired by Pat Drewes, will discuss revenue sources, zoning, ordinances, communications (with residents, other Wheeling governments and other villages), land uses and cable television.

**Community Diversity/Cultural Integration:** chaired by Bill Maloney and co-chair Jackie Sanchez, will discuss religion, economics, age and culture.

**Community Services:** Chaired by Don Hammer and co-chaired by George Hernandez, will research public safety, health care services, religious organizations, recreation, youth activities, education and the Community Resource Center.

## LETTERS

could retain as much of the play area as possible for your children. As much as I could, I tried to intercede with the village and with the builder, who contrary to your opinion, I found to be quite receptive. After a lot of negotiations and restructuring, a consensus was reached. Success at last? No way.

As has happened many times before in my life, Murphy's Law kicked in. There isn't enough money in the till to swing it. Today, I finally pulled the plug. Here is our side of the story. Get the other and be the judge.

Last Friday morning, Mark Janeck, the village planner, obviously on orders from his superiors, informed me that his people would be unable to pay the owners any more than the sum agreed upon two years ago. This was not a ploy; it is absolutely, positively true. They cannot afford it — now.

It was then that I asked him to tell his people that I was withdrawing the former Minnich property, as a component in a friendly Eminent Domain transaction. I doubt that this shook them up because they were, by their own admission, financially out of the picture as a potential buyer.

How will this affect your community? No Freed development and no playground, unless a future buyer doesn't need or want the acreage you folks are interested in.

Immutable events, occurring on a day-to-day basis have been forcing periodic increases in our

asking price. Other circumstances, these within the TIF structure, are reducing the Village's potential source of funds that must be made available to repay the subsidy allocated to the developer.

First, about the price increases. Specifically, it pertains to real estate taxes and to loan interest. There are also expenses that would not have arisen had we sold and got paid in January 1994. Mr. Janeck, who has better sources than I, informs me that the real estate taxes on the entire parcel is running at \$65,000 a year. Taxes on the Minnich property, alone, at the time of purchase was \$52,000 a year. In every instance I have found Mark to be trustworthy, so I accept his numbers. Enter two years — \$130,000.

Be aware that, based on the premise that the deal was top priority and would be consummated at the end of 1993, my grandsons and I bought the Minnich property using for the most part borrowed money. We had to outbid our competitors to make this available to the village.

In computing the added expense, I am factoring in only the interest on just the money we borrowed, at the variable rate we paid (and only from Jan. 1, 1994 to Jan. 1, 1996). Adding in several additional expenses, and that of the other sellers, the total increase rises to just under \$266,000, as of year end.

Ironically this added payment, plus the interest that someone will have to pay on it in future years, will not put one extra penny in any seller's pocket. Conclusion Phase Two cannot take off as  
(Continued on page 14)

### Land owner tells his side of story

**Wheeling/** To the parents of children attending the Walt Whitman School: I've met and talked to many of you, receiving valuable insight as to your point of view, during the course of the Freed Zoning Board hearings. It led me to alter my opinion of your group — and to your agenda.

I promised several of you that I would do everything I

## Wheeling tightens restrictions on illegal underage smokers

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials hope to help snuff out underage smoking in the village.

Wheeling trustees this week approved new restrictions making it illegal for those under 18 to possess or purchase tobacco and other legal smoking herbs.

While state law already prohibits minors from purchasing tobacco, Wheeling officials thought local restrictions were needed to curb teen smoking.

The new restrictions in the ordinance also call for retailers who sell tobacco to minors to have their retail licenses suspended or revoked by the village.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she thought the new restrictions should specify a period of up to 30 days for such suspensions.

"In this ordinance we did not provide a maximum amount of time (for suspensions)," said Wheeling village attorney James A. Rhodes.

Rhodes said the village omitted specifying a length for suspensions because its other ordinances don't

provide such details and officials want Wheeling's code to be uniform.

The new restrictions also require that retailers display signs warning minors that using a false identification to purchase tobacco could result in a fine of up to \$500.

Village officials will distribute signs noting the restrictions to Wheeling's 64 tobacco retailers.

The restrictions are supported by local school officials.

The newly worded village measure also closed a loophole that previously allowed minors to purchase tobacco with written parental permission.

Wheeling Trustee Pat Horcher felt the new restrictions were too far reaching.

"It's playing mom and dad again, and I have a hard time with that," Horcher said.

Horcher voted "present" for the new restrictions, which go into effect Jan. 13. Four other trustees, with one absent, voted for the measure.

With the new restrictions, Wheeling joins Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove and other area communities that recently enacted similar rules covering minors' tobacco use.

## Letters

Continued from page 12

a residential project.

It now appears that you have won another round. I now accept your contention, the premise that switching to commercial, is the only viable alternative. Mounting expenses, no sale to TIF; there is no other choice.

I believe that a review of what might have led to this impasse is now in order. I suspect that this is not a prudent move and that I will, no doubt, pay dearly in reprisals for making the following comments, but here goes: How did TIF get into their current predicament? I'm not an insider, so I can only surmise. The following is my own interpretation on this subject.

(1) They didn't buy our land two years ago, when they had a chance to get all 7.74 acres for what the Minnich property (by itself) was worth. (2) This inactivity caused them to waste an additional two years of potential income to the district, obtainable only from a tax increase levied on newly erected buildings. (3) They concentrated on Phase One, a hostile takeover. It was time consuming and costly (legal fees) since the flower shop and the restaurant objected to being uprooted. It put the TIF program on hold; and like in our case, substantially reduced the number of years tax revenue would flow. (4) They ignored Phase Two (us) where the sellers were desperately eager to sell. Moral: do the easy one first, gain experience, and speed up the flow of income to sustain yourself.

The Village of Wheeling has progressed. I know. I have dealt with them for many years. It has progressed from dishonest public officials who had their hands in our pockets to honest public officials who have their hands on our jugular.

If I lived in Wheeling I would be insistent on having the various elements of my city government work as a team, to meet regularly, develop a long range program and to work together to make it a great place to live. What was, and still is missing, is coordination and foresight. This can be remedied, if you put your collective feet down.

I promised to do my best to see that your children got their play lot. Unless a miracle happens, it appears that I have failed. This much I promise you: to try to induce any future buyer to split off as much land as he can manage, east of the school, for your purposes.

I am genuinely sorry if any of you believe this let you down

## Bonds

Continued from page 5

cerns," Anderson said.

About four acres are needed for the depot, but Meyer Material is hoping the village will buy more, Anderson said.

Once the land is purchased, the village will demolish a building on the property, the old Meyer Material batch plant, to clear the site for construction, he added.

"We're confident we'll meet the schedule set by Metra," Anderson said of the comple-

tion of the depot. "Right now they're shooting for an opening day, with passengers, of Labor Day or shortly thereafter."

Anderson expects the village will use most of the \$5 million to cover costs associated with the Wheeling train stop including land acquisition, demolition, engineering and design costs, and construction of the depot.

## Village OKs train bonds

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees last week agreed to issue \$5 million of general obligation bonds to finance the construction of the village's commuter train station along the Wisconsin Central Railroad line.

Construction is expected to start in the spring and be finished by late next summer, in time for the now delayed opening of the new commuter line slated to run from Antioch to Chicago's Union Station.

Metra officials have pushed the target date for opening the new line back from July to September. Wheeling is expected to be one of the busiest stops along the route.

The station, including land acquisition, engineering and construction, will be funded by a bond issue that will be paid off during a 10 year period. The payments will come from property taxes, but since another bond issue is retiring, it is not expected to increase property owners' taxbills.

"Our timing is right," Anderson noted.

The depot is planned for the west side of the Wisconsin Central tracks, south of Dundee Road and accessible from Town Street.

Parking would be available along the Commonwealth Edison right of way and behind Wickes Furniture.

"We'll start building early next year, once the weather permits," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Negotiations are ongoing with Meyer Material Co. about how much of that property the village needs to purchase along the west side of the tracks for the train station, Anderson said.

"It's a long process. The negotiations have been good and very cordial. I think we understand each other's con-  
(Continued on page 15)



### Chilly sleigh ride

Sub-freezing temperatures did not stop Santa Claus and the Mrs. from taking their annual sleigh ride down Lollipop Lane Saturday. Santa has set up shop temporarily in Chamber Park. For hours, see the weekly digest on page 7.

Photo for Pioneer Press/Joe Shuman

## Wheeling town house project nixed

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees rejected a town house project proposed for the north end of town, saying the development is ill-suited for that location.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Pat Horcher absent, the Wheeling village board rejected a proposal by Larry P. Kanar to have east of 325 N. Milwaukee Avenue rezoned to permit the development of an unspecified number of town houses on the site.

"The classification he wanted to

rezone to requires three-acre lots and he has less than an acre. That requires a variance right off the bat," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Kanar wanted to rezone his .88-acre lot for town houses and said it would be difficult to market single-family houses built on that site because of its size.

Wheeling officials said the property does not conform to its standards for rezoning.

Anderson also said that village officials had questioned the suitability of building town houses on such a small site.

Currently, the property is zoned for single-family houses. The parcel is bordered by single-family houses on its north and east, while a multi-family development lies to its south and commercial development is on its west.

In October, the Wheeling plan commission backed denying the proposal for changing the property's zoning.

Kanar had told the plan commission he purchased the adjacent property for commercial development and had originally planned to develop an office building where he now proposed town houses.

Kanar had said the property was up for sale to be developed for single-family houses in 1990 and 1991.

Wheeling officials said no serious plans for development of any kind at the parcel have been submitted to them for five years.

Recently, some residents in the village have complained that too many town house developments were being proposed for Wheeling.

They have argued in favor of more upscale single-family houses being built in the village, saying that housing would keep their property values high.

## Trustees seek to add parks in 361-home development

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although questions remain about the project's open space, Wheeling trustees Monday came a step closer to approving a town house and single-family development for the village's southwest end.

The Wheeling Village Board agreed to vote Jan. 2 on a proposal by Palatine-based Concord Development Co. for 204 town houses and 157 single-family houses on a 121.6-acre parcel south of Palatine Road and northwest of Old Willow Road.

However, Wheeling officials were uncertain what to do with 38 acres of open space land the developer will donate. Because much of the land is in floodways and floodplains, village officials wanted to keep it mostly undeveloped.

Wheeling Trustee Robert J. Heer said the village and Wheeling Park District should work together so recreational activities could be held on the land.

"I don't feel the village is in the position of setting up parks. We should work hand-in-hand with the park district," he said.

Wheeling Park District officials said they were concerned about the village's need for the entire 38 acres. Park officials had developed plans for recreational amenities at the development that included ball fields, parking lots and play areas.

"I've got concerns as a taxpayer and citizen," park Commissioner Mark F. Parkinson said about the village's proposed use of the open space.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the two local governments would work together to determine how the open space is used.

"You can rest assure we will be working together on this," she said.

Concord also made other changes to please trustees, including eliminating the smallest town house unit.

With that change, the units would have a base price more than \$140,000.

Some trustees complained units priced at about \$120,000 weren't upscale enough for Wheeling.

Concord also added upgraded exterior materials to the top single-family house model. Those houses would cost up to \$300,000.

## High school students earn national honors

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz recently read a proclamation noting the scholastic achievements of eight Wheeling High School students.

Students Alison Whittington and James Fagerman were recognized for being National Merit semifinalists because their scores on the PSAT test place them within the top 1.5 percent of all high school seniors.

WHS seniors Amy Au, Roger Bremer, Kevin Cooper, Stephanie Kaplan and Toni Mueller were cited for being National Merit scholars and posting PSAT test scores that rank in the top 5 percent of high school seniors nationally.

WHS student Shanti Drake was recognized for being in the National Achievement program.

Schultz's proclamation said, in part, the students "are a great source of pride to the residents of Wheeling."

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## Keep door open

**W**heeling's 2000 & Beyond program resembles a door left open on a windy day. The door is wide open to start with, but eventually the steady pressure from atmospheric conditions blows it shut again.

At the start of the strategic planning workshop known as 2000 & Beyond, Wheeling leaders insisted that the average citizen would be the driving force behind the many committee meetings and reports. A Naperville firm, the Denniston Group, was hired to facilitate so that the president, trustees and paid administrative staff could sit on the sidelines and watch.

These were good goals. But recent developments have been troubling. Steps need to be taken to prop the door open and leave it open, insuring that all residents who desire to participate in the process will know when, where and how to do so.

A week ago, Pioneer Press contacted Village Hall to get a list of committee chairman of the seven focus committees that have been formed. Our intention was to gather as much information as possible to share with readers and to let residents know whom to contact to find out more about the individual committees.

Securing the information from village hall was not an easy task. After getting around some initial hesitancy to divulge the list of committee chairmen and women, we ran into a second obstacle, the lack of any sort of schedule of committee meetings. Meetings are being held informally at the call of the committee leader, and apparently village hall does not have a master schedule.

Both these occurrences are troubling and seem to defeat the purpose of getting the widest resident participation possible.

The village should be actively promoting participation in these committee meetings, publicizing the schedules and meeting dates. Residents should not have to search for the information, and if they do, they should be able to find it.

There is no reason to restrict membership to the handful who turned out for the first October meeting and later received committee assignments.

The door opened in October should be left open throughout the process.

The door opened in October should be left open throughout the process.

# Bank robbers beware

Police are using part of a grant from the federal Crime Bill to set up shop in local banks.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling police have initiated a cooperative program with local banks to discourage would-be bank robbers and increase the officers' visibility.

With bank robberies in the Chicago area already reaching an all-time high this year of 128, the Wheeling Police Department has started its first program funded by the federal grant it received in 1994 as part of the Crime Bill.

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the department is free to use the money as it wishes, as long as it involves a community/problem-oriented policing program.

"When we were coming up with the programs we were going to do (to use the grant money), one of our police officers mentioned the number of bank robberies in the area," Hermes said.

The officer then discussed the idea with local bank officials and eventually submitted a proposal.

As part of the program, which started Monday, a desk, phone and typewriter will be available for a beat officer's use at Cole Taylor Bank, 350 E. Dundee

Road; First National Bank of Wheeling, 125 McHenry Road; Hoyne Savings Bank, 699 W. Dundee Road; FirstStar Bank, 800 Wheeling Road; and Household Bank, 10 Huntington Lane.

Each desk will be in a highly visible location inside the bank.

Officers will use the desk for routine duties, such as typing reports, taking reports and making follow-up calls, instead of returning to the police station and leaving his beat.

The desk also will be used to display handout materials for the police, village and community events and services.

The officers will not have set hours at

(Continued on page 16)

the bank.

"At any given time during banking hours, there could be an officer in the bank," Hermes said.

Not only should this deter would-be bank robbers, but it should increase the officers' interaction with the public.

Bank officials have been extremely receptive to the idea, Hermes said.

"I think it's an excellent idea," said Erv Wiemann, senior vice president at Hoyne Savings Bank. "We've been able to furnish them with everything they wanted, a desk, phone, filing cabinet."

Wiemann believes the bank-related community-oriented policing program will be beneficial for Wheeling banks.

"We think it'll be a good program," Wiemann said. "We never know when they'll be here, and that's the good part of it."

As of late Monday morning, Wiemann said, no police officer had stopped in to use the desk at Hoyne Savings, but he expects his customers will be pleasantly surprised when they do see an officer inside the bank.

Hopefully, it will be that uncertainty of when a police officer might be in the bank that will deter would-be bank robbers, Wiemann added.

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

*Concordia 12-22-95*  
**in Chelsea Cove subdivision**  
Yield signs to help traffic

The Wheeling Village board

agreed to have yield signs placed

at locations along Denoyer Trail

in the Chelsea Cove subdivision.

Yield signs will be placed along

Denoyer Trails where it inter-

sects with Dover Place, Brighton

Place, Portsmouth Place and

Bridgeport Place. Under the

ordinance, the village's opera-

tions and maintenance depart-

ment is responsible for erecting

the signs at those locations.

Wheeling Police said the signs

were needed because traffic

through those streets had tripled

according to their traffic counts.

Infrastructure extends

north of Strong Ave.

Wheeling trustees tentatively

accepted a water main and sani-

tary sewer placed by area resi-

dents at Tenth Street north of

Strong Avenue. The installation

of those infrastructure extends

the village's water main system

north of Strong Avenue.

Trustees OK work

in Ashford Heights

Wheeling trustees also tenta-

ments will divide the \$13,604 cost

for the services.

The Wheeling village board

agreed to retain the Northbrook-

based Gevalt Hamilton Assoc-

ates, Inc., firm for architectural

and engineering services for the

joint fire training facility in Butta-

lo Grove. The facility, in Buffalo

Grove, will serve the Wheeling,

Buffalo Grove and Long Grove

Fire Protection District fire

departments. The three depart-

ments will divide the \$13,604 cost

for the services.

Wheeling trustees tentatively

accepted a water main and sani-

tary sewer placed by area resi-

dents at Tenth Street north of

Strong Avenue. The installation

of those infrastructure extends

the village's water main system

north of Strong Avenue.



The stories that  
affected your  
community  
the most.

# Top Ten Stories

of  
1995

## All eyes focus on Union Hotel site

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

**1** 1995 was a year of change and controversy in Wheeling, but most of the debate revolved around which decisions would be best for the community as a whole.

Perhaps the most heated debate concerned the ongoing saga of the former Billy & Co. restaurant property on Milwaukee Avenue south of Dundee Road. The 7.8-acre site in the village's tax increment financing district was targeted for a townhome development by village officials.

Trustees in the spring named local developer Joseph Freed & Associates the developer of record, which meant that trustees would not consider plans from other developers during a 120-day period.

Because nearby residents felt that the townhomes would take play area away from Whitman School, they sought to involve the Park District and School District 21 in purchasing some of the property.

Both boards entertained the idea of purchasing some of the property, but neither felt it was a wise use of taxpayers' money.

The village is still working toward consolidating and purchasing the properties from their three owners and offering them together for development.

Freed's 120 days as developer of record have expired, but village officials say the firm is still interested in building a townhome development on the site.

Meanwhile, residents have banded together in a group called SPACE. The group hopes to save Whitman's play area and preserve some of the trees on the property.

Their latest push is selling souvenir, fund-raising bricks from the former Union Hotel that was demolished this summer.

The residents hope the proceeds will be used toward purchasing part of the property for parkland.

### Consulting firm helps village plan

**2** In an effort to include residents in the village's decision making, trustees hired The Denniston Group of Naperville to develop Wheeling's strategic improvement plan.

Trustees agreed to pay a minimum



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

**Workers demolish Billy & Company, a landmark building on Milwaukee Road in Wheeling. Village trustees were hoping to give their downtown TIF a boost by buying the land and having it developed as townhomes.**

of \$22,000 to The Denniston Group to facilitate the planning process.

Residents were invited to the first informational meeting in October, and invited back in November for their committee assignments.

Based on residents' comments, seven focus groups were formed to investigate issues in Wheeling that need improvement to make the village a better place in which to live.

Those groups are Economic Development; Marketing and Image; Education; Infrastructure; Government; Community Diversity/Cultural Integration; and Community Services.

These committees are now meeting and are to guide The Denniston Group on what will be included in the final report to trustees. That report is expected within a year.

### Two newcomers elected trustee

**3** Convincing residents that a change is needed in village government, independent political newcomers Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher were elected to the Village Board in April, along with incumbent Trustee Judy Abruscato, who also is known as an independent on the board.

The election of Horcher and Heer pushed incumbents Lois Gaffke and Anthony Altieri Jr. off the board.

Gaffke and Altieri teamed up with Village Clerk Jeanne Selander to run

for the three trustee seats as the Wheeling United Party loyal to Village President Sheila Schultz.

Horcher and Heer promised residents they could bring fresh opinions to the board and prompt more discussion at board meetings.

Though residents mandated a change on the Village Board, they seemed satisfied with the Park Board and returned incumbents Cheri Klumpp, Dennis Drake and Bill Mattes over two challengers.

### Chevy Chase fate hangs in balance

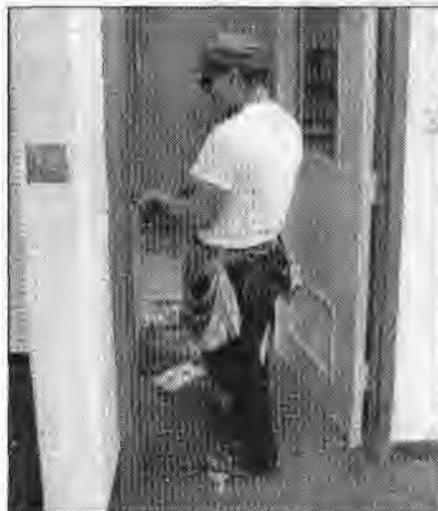
**4** The Wheeling Park Board gave residents an opportunity to speak out about the future of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse last summer.

An architectural study completed in 1994 estimated it would cost \$2.76 million to renovate the clubhouse and bring it up to code.

The Park Board is still debating what it should do.

Other options are for the Park Board to raze the building but keep the Gable Room to serve golfers, or raze the building and construct a new 15,000-square-foot banquet facility, expected to cost about \$3 million.

Many of the people who attended a meeting at the clubhouse wanted the landmark building to be saved, but most of those were not Wheeling residents. And ultimately, it will be the



Tim J. Tuilly/Pioneer Press

**Carpenter Juan Ochoa installs a striker plate in a door frame at London Middle School shortly before the school opened. Construction continued for a few months after.**

residents who end up paying for whichever option the Park Board chooses.

The board expects to schedule another public hearing in the spring before a final decision is made.

Recently, the clubhouse has become the destination for country line dancers and ballroom dancers throughout the Chicago area.

Some of those who spoke at the hearing said the Park Board has an obligation to save one of the last, public wooden dance floors in the area.

### Time runs out for local Pub

**5** Hein's Pub & Restaurant patrons attended Village Board meetings this spring to show their support for Joseph Adornetto, owner of the tavern on Milwaukee Avenue.

Adornetto's business was located in a strip mall at 141-149 S. Milwaukee Ave., which the village said did not have adequate parking for the number of seats in the restaurant.

Since 1987, trustees had given Adornetto four extensions during which to find sufficient parking and allow him to continue operating his business.

Adornetto, however, said parking was never a problem because most of his customers parked in the lot when the other stores in the mall were closed.

### Wheeling tax levy lower than last year

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees approved a \$5.3 million 1995 property tax levy that asks homeowners to pay less than last year.

The Wheeling village board last week approved the new measure that's 13.1 percent lower than the 1994 \$6.1 million levy.

With the new levy, Wheeling officials are projecting the village's tax rate of \$1.01 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation could drop below a dollar.

Wheeling Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said that the village doesn't yet know how much of a tax rate reduction it will have.

The reduction will probably result from Cook County's triennial reassessment of the village's tax base, Fialkowski had said.

That is expected to result in properties being assessed at a higher value.

The owner of a house in Wheeling with a \$100,000 market value under the current property tax rate paid \$297 annually in village taxes.

Fialkowski also said the village could have a second consecutive levy slashing property taxes because it has adequate reserves to meet expenses and is retiring some bond debt.

With abatements and the reduction in interest payments for some individual bond issues the levy for bonds could be \$26,806, which is a 53.1 percent reduction from the \$1.7 million levied for bonds this past fiscal year.

Those bonds are used to finance capital development projects.

Wheeling officials have said that with the village's 0.25 percent retail sales tax they don't have to rely on property taxes as much to generate revenue for the village.

Wheeling officials also said the village's levy could be reduced further because they asked the county to reduce the amount it adds to the measure to compensate for uncollected taxes.

The village asked county officials to add 2 percent of the total levy instead of its traditional 5 percent.

Fialkowski said that by requesting a lower county assessment the village's levy could be reduced 14.4 percent.

The stories that affected your community the most.

# Top Ten Stories

## 1995



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

At left, construction worker Fred Froehlich of Gensis Construction Co. prepares rebar for pouring concrete on the pedestrian walkway over Lake-Cook Road. A ramp over Milwaukee Avenue opened in November. Above, Effie Myrick, left, and Jean Graf work on a stencil for a lawn sign during a drive to save a field near Whitman as a play area for the school.

In April, trustees gave Adornetto and the mall owner, Howard Kagay, until Aug. 1 to either solve the parking situation or close the business.

Trustees chastised Kagay for not working with Adornetto to solve the problem. Rather than accept the village's three-month extension, Adornetto decided to close Hein's Pub.

Financially, he said, it was not feasible to stay open until August without any guarantee from the village for another extension. Kagay said he would find other uses for the mall that fit in with the current parking.

### London opens amid construction flap

**6** Many parents in School District 21 were not happy when they sent their students to London Middle School this fall and found that construction crews had not completed the renovations.

Among the items unfinished were students' lockers, the parking lot and the school's air-conditioning system.

Although construction was not 100 percent finished, the building was deemed acceptable for students after safety checks were completed and the building opened on time for the start of the school year.

School officials said they never intended the building to be completed by the start of the school year.

However, some parents questioned the ability of the not-yet-completed building to provide an adequate education and the safety of their children as construction workers were allowed unlimited access to the building.

Despite parents' concerns, school officials said the students readily adapted to their changing environment.

The benefits of the newly designed middle school outweighed any discomfort for students, Principal Wendy Billington said.

The school features tinted windows, large open spaces, carpeting throughout and a state-of-the-art media center/library, she said.

### Majority shifts on District 21 board

**7** Controversy over the ongoing construction at London School and the junior high schools in District 21 prompted a change on the School Board.

In November, voters elected newcomers Ellen Clark and Norman Kurtz to the board. Both campaigned on a platform to increase communication between the board, administrators, teachers and parents.

That increased communication, they said, could have smoothed over parents' feelings about the continuing construction.

Incumbent Cari Beecher retained her board seat, but fellow incumbent Susan Jackson was defeated.

With two new faces on the board, Arlen Gould was elected board president at their first meeting, with a narrow 4-3 vote.

Incumbents Beecher, Phil Pritzker and Lori Ratajczak voted against Gould's nomination, possibly following advice given by board member William Rice in his resignation speech just minutes earlier.

Rice said the board should be wary of fellow members who are only looking out for their own political interests, rather than the interests of the schoolchildren in District 21.

Though Rice never mentioned names in his good-bye speech, Gould said, he felt they were directed at him.

However, Gould said he is interested in the students' education and believes a change of leadership will be beneficial to the district.

### Airport safety work closes Drive-In

**8** An era ended this fall when the Twin Drive-In theater near Palwaukee Airport closed its doors for good.

No longer will carloads of families head down Milwaukee Avenue to watch the latest movie while planes from Palwaukee cross the sky.

Twenty-three acres of the theater property were purchased by the villages of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own and operate Palwaukee Airport. The land will be used to relocate the Wheeling drainage ditch away from runways.

Relocating the ditch is part of a safety-improvement project recommended by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Twin Drive-in opened in Wheeling in 1966. The theater had been operating on a week-to-week basis last summer, waiting for the airport to decide when to begin construction.

The last movies were shown at the Twin in October, and the three screens are expected to be torn down soon to make way for construction which is expected to begin in the spring.

Also part of the improvement project, the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads this year was moved farther away from the airport's main runway.

The opening of the intersection was recently marked with a celebration of village officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights and representatives from Palwaukee and the FAA.

### Third time a charm for Indian Trails

**9** After defeating a referendum in March 1994 to build a 30,000-square-foot addition to Indian Trails Library on Schoenbeck Road, voters in November approved a \$3.8 million bond issue to build a 14,000-square-foot ad-

dition.

Approval of the referendum raised the library's tax rate from 28.5 cents per \$100 equalized assessed valuation to 31.1 cents.

The library, built in 1979, serves more than 60,000 residents in Wheeling, most of Buffalo Grove and part of Prospect Heights near Palwaukee Airport.

Plans call for building a 14,000-square-foot addition, renovating the library to make it handicapped-accessible, increasing the amount of library materials and upgrading computer technology.

Library officials hope to start construction in the spring, and estimate that it would take 18 months to two years to complete.

The newly expanded library should be open by fall 1997.

### Lake Cook Road gets an overpass

**10** After a year of detours and lane changes, traveling to Wheeling and Buffalo Grove got a little easier this year.

Drivers were wise to have avoided the intersection of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue while construction crews moved earth and poured concrete, but now the overpass is open, allowing traffic to flow uninterrupted over Milwaukee Avenue.

Construction crews in December were finishing the entrance and exit ramps to and from Milwaukee and Lake-Cook soon. Landscaping is expected to begin in the spring.

It is estimated that 70,000 cars drive through the intersection of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue each day, making it one of the busiest in the area.

Construction on Milwaukee Avenue isn't over yet, though. The Illinois Department of Transportation has plans to widen the street through Wheeling.

# Community Resource Center hopes to build trust, then help

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For Shari A. Matthews Huizar, the Wheeling Community Resource Center is where people go to help themselves.

"When a person comes we can help them," Huizar said. "In some ways we're a one-stop (agency), but I don't want people to depend on the resource center, but to come here and find out information."

Established in 1993 from a partnership of Omni Youth Services and the village of Wheeling, the center at 54 N. Wolf Road serves low-income and minority residents with myriad social services.

Those services include U.S. citizenship preparation classes, summer programs for small children, a job bank, a clothing closet, tutoring in a variety of subjects and even help for its clients to get utility payments in emergencies.

And while the center served 2,000 clients in 1995, most of whom are Latinos, each person is a different story, said Huizar, 27, site coordinator for the center.

"What happens is they come

with a need. For food, a job, whatever. Through talking with them you find out what their problems are," she said.

For Wheeling Police Department social worker Shantil Clesen, the center is a resource she can use to get closer to residents she otherwise would have difficulty reaching.

"Basically, it's pretty much my link to the Hispanic community since I'm not bilingual," Clesen said.

Clesen said she uses the center's personnel to translate for her domestic violence clients. In 1995, Clesen said that she worked with the center on 75 cases.

Huizar and Clesen have started a women's support group at the center, where the issue of domestic violence would be discussed.

Huizar said involvement in the center by the Wheeling police is helping to reduce the mistrust Latino residents have traditionally harbored against the village's law enforcement officials.

The center enjoys the support of such diverse organizations as St. Joseph The Worker Church in Wheeling, the Salvation Army,

Northwest Suburban High School District 214, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 and the Cook County Department of Public Health as well as the area business community.

The center also receives federal funding, too. However, Huizar said the center is trying to secure more private funding.

The CCDPH representative provides information to center clients on its various programs and registers them for Access to Care, a low-cost medical care plan for those who don't qualify for Medicaid, said officials.

The center is modeled after the Police Neighborhood Resource Center that opened several years ago in Rolling Meadow's East Park Apartments.

The Rolling Meadows facility provides services similar to Wheeling's center and also serves mostly Latino clients.

The latest service the PNRC offers is a free health clinic for East Park residents.

At the Wheeling center, only residents from the village are served.



Shari A. Matthews Huizar of the Wheeling Community Resource Center prepares gift baskets for poor clients of the center.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

Those from other towns are referred to other agencies.

Noting the success of Wheeling center, Omni and the city of Prospect Heights opened a community resource center in that

town earlier this year.

At the Wheeling center, in a nondescript strip mall storefront between a Mexican restaurant and a liquor store, Huizar said the biggest hurdles to its success are

the address and inattention from prospective clients.

"Just getting the message out we're here, that's a process that takes awhile. And that they can trust us," Huizar said.

In the waning days of each year, tradition compels many individuals to sit down and write out a few resolutions.

1996 and Beyond  
1996-1997  
In the waning days of each year, tradition compels many individuals to sit down and write out a few resolutions. Some they will keep; others they will not.

In the spirit of the season, therefore, the Wheeling Countryside traditionally reserves its last editorial of the year to suggest some resolutions for village leaders for the coming year. Some they may keep; others they may not.

Owing to the lack of movement on key issues, Wheeling's resolution list this year bears strong resemblance to last year's and could be titled Wheeling: 1996 and Beyond after the planning process with similar name.

☒ Downtown redevelopment again tops the list. Planning and communication are needed. The TIF district is begging for pro-active long-range planning. If village leaders could sit down around a table, invite school and park district representatives and draw up a vision for the entire area encompassed by the TIF, they would be years ahead of where they are now. Then everyone would know what to expect, and the village planning department could actively seek developers that fit in the bigger picture.

☒ Seeking citizen participation in the 2000 and Beyond strategic planning experiment is No. 2. The process got off to a good start, but now meetings of committees should be publicized and kept open. Elected officials and paid administrators should remain on the sidelines, dedicating themselves to making sure the report doesn't become \$22,000 file fodder.

☒ Building a train station along the proposed Wisconsin Central line ranks as big No. 3. Villager leaders just approved bonds for the station. They should keep the pressure up to get the station operational by Metra's new target date of Labor Day. And there they are. With luck, there will be new ones to write next year.

## Wheeling takes look at Concord

Wheeling village trustees Jan. 2 took another look at the Concord development proposed for over 120 acres south of Hintz Road and west of the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said trustees have some concerns about future uses of the open space on the site. He said the village will work with Park District staff to determine how the park could be developed.

"For the moment, we're just saying it will be open space and it remains to see how it is ultimately developed," Anderson said. "I think we have some time to make that decision."

Executive Editor : Peter Neill  
Deputy Executive Editor : Alan P. Henry  
Editor/Bureau Chief : Carol Goddard  
Managing Editor : Arnold R. Grahl

# Wheeling OKs plans for 361-unit development

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees paved the way Tuesday for a 361-unit housing development to be built on the southwest end of town.

In a series of 4-1 votes, with Trustee Judy Abruscato absent and Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman dissenting, the Wheeling village board approved plans by Palatine-based Concord Development Co. for 204 town houses and 157 single-family houses on 121.6 acres south of Palatine Road and northwest of Old Willow Road.

Wheeling officials backed the project after details in the plan were clarified.

"Let them (developers) get on their way and do what they need to do," said Karop T. Bavougian, director of parks and recreation for the Wheeling Park District, who attended the meeting.

Concord officials said they would work with the village and park district to develop recreational amenities on 38 acres of open space planned for the site.

Village and park officials had questioned which local government would be responsible for placing such amenities at the development.

Concord officials did not specify what recreational amenities would be included, saying that could be determined at a future date.

The development will include town houses with a base price of \$140,000 and single-family houses with top selling prices of \$300,000.

Bill Rotolo, vice president of government relations and land acquisition for Concord, said the first units from the development should be completed sometime this summer.

Company officials have said they will develop the project in phases.

Concord will return to village officials to have landscaping and other plan details approved.

As part of its approval, the village board specified some appearance conditions for the development.

But Hartman, the only trustee to oppose the project, expressed concern about the appearance of the units, calling for, among other things, more exterior brick.

## LOCAL REPORT

# Village will pay more to replace water controls

Wheeling trustees approved a \$31,562 change order for Autocon Industries for replacement of controls for the village's water system. The trustees approved the change that increased the cost of the entire project from \$257,000 to \$286,147, an 11.1 percent increase. Wheeling officials said the additional expense was mainly caused by Ameritech's delay in providing digital computer phone lines for the project, which was a factor beyond Autocon's control said village officials.

## Fire department gets 1996 Jeep Cherokee

Wheeling trustees also agreed to purchase a 1996 Jeep Cherokee for the fire department for \$22,106.60 through the Illinois Joint Purchasing Program. Wheeling officials said that \$25,300 was allocated under the 1995-96 budget for purchase of the four-wheel-drive vehicle that replaces another one.

## Board commits \$5,500 to buy land strip

The Wheeling village board

## WHEELING BOARD NOTES

committed \$5,500 to purchase a 15-foot strip of land at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road for its redevelopment project.

The property lies in the heart of the village's redevelopment district and is being condemned by Wheeling officials.

Village officials hope to see a retail center developed at the intersection.

## Financing to study driveways approved

The Wheeling village board approved spending \$8,370 for a study of the driveway alignment at the Municipal Complex at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Wheeling officials plan to have Barton-Aschman of Evanston conduct the study. Village officials complain that the alignment of the driveways at the complex makes it difficult for them to travel westbound on West Dundee Road because they have to cross on-coming traffic.

# Wheeling Township fire board to pursue merger, dissolution

porated areas near Wheeling but not the community itself, does not have its own firefighters or equipment and instead contracts with outside departments.

The Prospect Heights rural department is a separate and independent agency from the city of Prospect Heights.

The merger would give Prospect Heights one main fire department. It now is served by four departments.

Wheeling Township fire officials said they are uncertain when they would attempt the merger or how it would affect property tax rates.

To merge, residents from both districts would have to petition the court, a court hearing would be held on the matter and, eventually, a merger referendum in both districts would be required, officials said.

Wheeling officials are trying to have a Cook County judge reconsider a request for an injunction he dismissed that sought to bar the Wheeling Township district from dropping the use of village firefighters to serve most of its area.

Wheeling Township fire district officials said Tuesday they will seek a merger with the Prospect Heights rural fire district.

Anthony Carlin, president of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board, said the proposed merger is necessary because of planned housing developments that will need fire protection.

"It just makes sense," Carlin said.

Under the proposal, the Wheeling Township fire district would be dissolved. The district's former coverage area would be turned over to the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District.

Prospect Heights rural district Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. said his board has not yet discussed the proposal.

Gould's department now provides fire protection to most of Prospect Heights that's in the Wheeling Township district. The Wheeling Township fire district, which includes unincor-

# Public works department could take a hike

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are considering moving the public works department from the village's overcrowded Municipal Complex.

Based upon the recommendations of last year's \$23,000 space study of the complex at 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling officials are considering moving the operations and maintenance department.

"We probably have to move something off-site somewhere and that's probably public works," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The study, conducted by RUST Environment & Infrastructure of Schaumburg, concluded the complex is over-

crowded.

Sitting on about 4 acres, the complex now houses the fire department, the police department, the village community development department and other offices in addition to the operations and maintenance department.

Anderson said the OPM department has about 40 employees and 30 vehicles plus other equipment at the complex.

It also stores materials such as road salt and concrete block there.

Anderson said the department needs about 4 acres of its own for such storage and its employees. Such a facility, he said, could cost "several million."

The village is now reviewing

sites for the facility, Anderson said.

And while he couldn't discuss the details, he said one of those sites could become available if an agreement is made soon between Meyer Material Co. and the village for a site for the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station just west of the complex near Wickes Furniture Co. and Northgate Parkway immediately south of West Dundee Road.

The village is now negotiating with the company to acquire several acres for its commuter station.

Wheeling trustees have said they favor moving a village department to ease overcrowding at the complex.

If such a move is approved it probably would be done next year, Anderson said.

## NEW YEAR

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz peers over a pile of folders containing "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond," one of her resolutions for the new year.

PAGE 5

*Countrywide  
1-4-96*



### Resident honored by village

Wheeling resident Bernard Nathan last week was honored by the Village Board with a certificate of appreciation for serving 17 years on the Wheeling Senior Citizen Commission.

*Countrywide 1-11-96*

## Cost prohibits Wheeling from burying power lines

*1-9-96*

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Saying it's not worth the trouble, Wheeling officials opted not to have power lines buried along Milwaukee Avenue when the road is widened.

The Wheeling village board Monday decided against having the utility lines buried along a stretch of the road being widened saying the underground project would be too expensive.

"The logistics of laying this out is becoming a nightmare. This opens a Pandora's box," said Trustee Robert J. Heer, recommending against burying the lines.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said officials decided to ask Commonwealth Edison to see if its power lines could be buried in the course of the widening of Milwaukee Avenue.

In the summer of 1997, the Illinois Department of Transportation will widen a three-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue within Wheeling's boundaries.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that having the electrical lines buried would be "a

major aesthetic improvement" along Milwaukee Avenue.

Village officials said they were considering having the electrical lines buried from Manchester Drive to Wolf Road along Milwaukee Avenue.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that having the electrical lines buried would be "a major aesthetic improvement" along Milwaukee Avenue.

Village officials said they were considering having the electrical lines buried from Manchester Drive to Wolf Road along Milwaukee Avenue.

However, Michael Klitzke, the village's community development director, said such a burial project would cost \$3 million. He also said that ComEd could pass the cost of the burial to its Wheeling customers on their electric bills based on their kilowatt usage.

Wheeling officials also said the burial project would present other technical difficulties such as the fact that underground electrical lines would have to be placed on both the east and west sides of Milwaukee Avenue.

# 2000 and Beyond tops wish list

1-4-96 Countryside

The start of a new year is a time for reflection and a time of hope. Many of us make new year's resolutions that promise a change, whether it is to exercise more or spend more time with family.

Apart from their personal resolutions, local officials tend to make goals with hopes of improving their villages for the residents who live there.

Wheeling Village President **Sheila Schultz** and Village Manager **Craig Anderson** both look forward to implementing the suggestions that will arise from the Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond strategic improvement plan project.

"My wish for the village is that together we celebrate all that is best about our village, that we appreciate how far we've come and that we energetically pursue our common vision of Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond," Schultz said.



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz talks about "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" with Assistant Village Manager Ingrid Velkme, project manager for the plan.

## Planning

The Denniston Group of Naperville has been hired by trustees to compile a strategic improvement plan for the village of Wheeling, which is expected by the end of the year.

Residents began meeting

as a group in October and are now serving on committees addressing the residents' chief concerns that could be changed to improve life in Wheeling.

"Right now, I would hope we can bring the Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond project to a successful conclusion and come away with some goals and objectives that would be accepted by the community," Anderson said of his goals for 1996.

Anderson said he hopes the village continues its sound financial status, but his overriding concern is that noticeable improvements are accomplished because of the results of the Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond project.

## Seniors

**Nancy Janssen**, coordinator of the Wheeling Senior Pavilion, said her goal for the new year is improving the senior center's outreach programs that benefit the senior community at large.

"The senior commissioners and myself are working on identifying those seniors who are turning 65 years old. And when a senior turns 65, we'd like to make an appointment to talk to the senior on a one-to-one basis," Janssen said.

During the talk, Janssen said, she or a senior commissioner would discuss the many governmental programs that have been created to help senior citizens.

"We want to make sure the seniors are using the resources dedicated to them and we want to make contact with them," she said.

One challenge will be identifying when Wheeling seniors turn 65. Morton Grove, which started a similar program in the '70s, gives those 65 and older a discount on their water bills and village vehicle stickers.

## Gatekeepers

"But we don't give water discounts

and we don't have vehicle stickers," Janssen said. "I'm not sure how we're going to do it. We'll have to come up with some good ideas for identifying. It'll be difficult."

Janssen also hopes to expand the village's Gatekeeper Program, a program that trains service professionals, such as gas-meter readers and electrical linemen, to call the Senior Pavilion or Police Department social worker if they see a senior citizen who is disabled or confused.

"We've trained all of the paramedics, all of the police officers and some of the pharmacists at Wal-Mart," Janssen said, hoping to encourage area utility companies to come for training this year.

"It really does work well. All they have to do is make one phone call and we'll follow-up on it," Janssen said.

**Jackie Pollack**, executive director of the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber's goal for the new year is "to

build a positive business climate which will stimulate growth and pride in our businesses and community."

## Buffalo Grove

In neighboring Buffalo Grove, the Town Center and train station top the list of village resolutions.

"Now that the movie theater (in Town Center) is open, my first goal is to see that it's well attended by the residents and a success in the community," said Buffalo Grove Village President **Sid Mathias**.

He also hopes that developer Simon Properties Group can find other anchor-type tenants to attract more customers to the mall.

"Our second priority is to ride on the first commuter railroad to open in the country in about 50 years, right here in Buffalo Grove," Mathias said of the Wisconsin Central commuter line scheduled to open in late summer 1996.

## Blowing the whistle

1-11-96 Countryside

In November, a federal law will take effect requiring trains to blow their horns any time they approach any street-level crossing, gated or ungated.

The law was formulated with safety in mind. But it will wipe out the power now enjoyed by local communities to ban whistle blowing at gated crossings in their towns.

Plenty of suburbanites living close to tracks are dreading the new law, anticipating the all-night symphony of whistle blowing from passing freight trains. As a result, the Northwest Municipal Conference has formed a taskforce to urge Congress for a repeal.

Local congressmen should listen to the petitions of local officials, like Buffalo Grove Mayor **Sid Mathias**, and scrap the law. It is a heavy-handed mandate which robs villages of local control, preempting their ability to strike a balance between safety and the rights of property owners near crossings.

Whistle-blowing is justifiable in rural areas where crossings are typically ungated and have less markings. But at highly-marked gated crossings in heavily populated suburban areas, the late-night whistles are many times more a nuisance than a needed safety precaution.

Gates and sounding alarms provide all the warning any reasonable driver should need that a train is approaching. Drivers who maneuver around a lowered gate arm have already decided to take their lives into their hands.

Some communities, like Wheeling, favor the whistle-blowing. And that is fine. But each community should have the right to weigh the merits, and decide whether to silence train horns at crossings already protected by gates.

Gates and sounding alarms provide all the warning any reasonable driver should need that a train is approaching.



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

A construction barricade and a special sign now mark the entrance to the Plum Creek and Hunt Club complexes, after the realignment of Wolf and Hintz Roads.

# Road work obscures Plum Creek entrance

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
The recent relocation of Wolf Road farther away from Palwaukee Airport may have been needed to improve safety for pilots, but nearby residents say it has created some new problems.

This summer, construction crews moved the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads farther from the airport's main runway as part of the Federal Aviation Administration's safety-improvement project at Palwaukee.

Wolf Road is now farther west than it was previously and has a slightly raised median, said Steve Heuberger, property manager for the Plum Creek condominium development on Plum Creek Drive just east of Wolf Road.

Those changes have prompted complaints from residents and may be frustrating to other drivers using Wolf Road who could be unaware that cars may be turning in to and out of the complex.

According to officials at the Illinois Department of Transportation, which has jurisdiction over the roadway, construction was undertaken by the department's aeronautics division because of the relation to Palwaukee.

Hank Priester, chief of construction for the Aeronautics Division, said he has received a letter of complaints from the company which manages Plum Creek.

"He wanted us to address what things we could do to improve visibility. As a result, we did stripe the roadway and entranceway and are presently working on lighting and sign-

from Plum Creek residents who say it is difficult for them, and their visitors, to find the entrance to the development at night.

There is a sign showing the entrance as cars approach on Wolf Road from the south, which Priester said is temporary until a more permanent sign can be approved by IDOT.

"It's extremely difficult to see your way in at night because of the way it's designed," Heuberger said, noting that the entrance is similar to an expressway ramp. "It's a problem, but it's being addressed."

Although Heuberger is very familiar with the complex, he said, he only enters the development from the south in the night, instead of crossing the median and searching for the entrance.

"I go to Milwaukee, take a right on Hintz then go up (north) on Wolf. It's a lot safer," Heuberger said.

Plum Creek residents have been requesting and will soon receive street lights.

The poles were installed in front of the complex's entrance as part of the road construction project, and are to be connected to electricity soon, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"The village of Wheeling has agreed to pay

age," Priester said. All of these items were not part of the original construction plan, he added.

One problem Heuberger cited is the height of the new median.

"Cars can over it if they want to," Heuberger said. "It's not impossible to drive over."

Priester said he was not sure what type of median the designers recommended for Wolf Road, but said he believes it is low enough to drive over.

"It's hard to envision, in the design stage, problems like that," Priester said. "We're obviously sorry about the situation and hope we address it."

However, Dolores Jacobson, president of the Plum Creek Condominium Association, said she has fielded several complaints from residents who say the median is too tall to drive over.

"People are very frustrated," Jacobson said. The taller median and lack of left-turn lanes also affects nearby developments such as Foxboro, Hunt Club and Harmony Village, she said.

The raised median and reconfigured roadway combine to create a more pressing problem — trying to find the entrance to the condominium development once the sun sets.

Prior to construction, residents entered the development at a typical T-intersection at Wolf and Plum Creek Drive.

Since construction was completed, Heuberger said, he has received many complaints (Continued on page 12)

for the electricity," Anderson said, noting that the village had received a few complaints from residents in Plum Creek, which is in unincorporated Cook County. "We're just waiting for ComEd to hook them up, and I expect they'd do that shortly."

The lights would help condominium owners and their guests find their way into the development and maneuver the sharp turns.

"At nighttime especially, to find the entrance is a problem," Anderson conceded. "I've tried it myself on a bright, sunny day. The street lights certainly would help."

Jacobson said the condominium association also had requested that guardrails be installed along the new entrance, but the state denied that request.

"If you don't go slow you could end up in the ditch," Jacobson said. "We've had several accidents already."

Once the street lights are operational, the next question is whether a sign can be erected on the pole to highlight the entrance to the complex.

Jacobson said the condominium association would prefer a double-faced sign erected on the lamppost that could be seen by drivers heading south or north on Wolf Road.

## LOCAL REPORT



Rhonda and Ehan Ratnarajah of Wheeling shop at C.K. Finer Foods on its opening day. For many, the Wheeling grocery store is a source of local pride.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

# New grocery stores boost civic pride in Wheeling

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

There's a little more excitement along Dundee Road in Wheeling these days.

For the first time in about two years the village is back to full strength retail-wise with two new grocery stores that have opened in spaces where others had closed.

Earlier in 1995, the Fresh Farms grocery opened at the Wheeling Shopping Center at 291 E. Dundee Road. The store opened in space formerly occupied by the Franklin's Finer Foods store that was gutted in a 1994 Christmas Eve fire.

Recently, C.K. Finer Foods opened at 550 W. Dundee Road in the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center in the space Dominick's Finer Foods left last February after 22 years there.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato says C.K. Finer Foods represents more than convenience to the village.

"It does bring a sense of belonging, it's something that we have," Abruscato said.

"It's a sense of pride and people are excited," she said.

Abruscato said the workers who work at night in the nearby industrial park will find the 24-hour store convenient as well.

And while there are other groceries in the village, when the Dominick's chain announced the Wheeling closing many residents felt it was a deep loss.

Some residents mounted a petition drive to gather 30,000 signatures to convince Dominick's to keep the store open. The store's closing was also a campaign issue in the spring 1995 Wheeling village

board race.

Now, however, people are feeling differently in Wheeling.

"We were unhappy when Dominick's left. We feed about 100 kids at our daycare center. It's (C.K. Finer Foods) convenient," said Marvin Kozlov.

Chuck Kazmer, general manager of C.K. Finer Foods, said that he opened the store in Wheeling for a variety of reasons.

"We came to Wheeling because of the business opportunity, the location, the size of the store and the warmth of the community," Kazmer said.

"They're glad we're here, number one, and they're tired of traveling for a full-service grocery store," Kazmer said about his shoppers.

The independent, family-owned, grocery store offers shoppers a variety of meat, produce and dry goods.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said besides the benefits the stores give the village, such as tax revenue and jobs, the groceries are also a boost for local pride.

"I think it's nice and important for the residents to have a choice of groceries...It's nice you can shop in your town," he said.

Until Kazmer announced his plans to open a Wheeling store, the lack of a grocer in Lynn Plaza was one of the economic concerns residents raised about the village.

"It's (C.K. Finer Foods) laid out like the old store. Things are easy to find," said Wheeling resident and shopper Janet Hutchings.

"It's good to have a store in our town again," she said.

# Study probes Dundee Road traffic snag

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Any driver who has tried to turn left into or out of the Wheeling municipal complex on Dundee Road knows how challenging it can be.

To determine whether driveway configurations can be changed to improve traffic safety, trustees last week hired Barton-Aschman of Evanston for \$8,370 to complete an engineering study.

"We hope this (study) will tell us what could be done," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We look at this as a starting point."

Depending on the amount of traffic and time of day, Anderson said, ease of entering or leaving the municipal complex on Dundee Road greatly varies.

However, he said, "It seems to always be difficult to make a left turn from either of our drives."

Currently, drivers headed east or west on Dundee share a left-turn lane down the center of the five-lane thoroughfare.

At times the turn lane can be congested with cars lined up to enter Village Hall or the Post Office across the street. And some drivers sit in the turn lane waiting for a chance to merge into traffic after leaving either the Post Office or Village Hall.

"It's an ongoing problem," Anderson said.

Trustee Patrick Horcher asked whether the village has someone on staff who could study the driveway configurations and report back to the board, eliminating the cost of hiring an outside engineering firm.

"We do not have a traffic engineer on staff," Anderson replied, though he said it is an issue that has been raised occasionally.

"To do this type of study,

If the village decides a traffic signal is the answer to prevent future accidents in front of Village Hall and the Post Office, Cardwell said, he would submit a request to the U.S. Postal Service for funds to help pay for it.

"It would be helpful," Card-

we don't have the expertise and we may not have the appropriate equipment," he said.

About the only traffic study village staff is able to do is a basic traffic count, he added.

Village President Sheila Schultz agreed that expertise in traffic engineering also may be needed to analyze the study and make recommendations to the board.

Because nearby facilities such as St. Joseph's Church and the Post Office would benefit with an improved traffic flow, Trustee Bob Heer asked whether they have been asked to share the cost of the study.

Anderson said the village is willing to pick up the tab for the cost of the engineering study.

However, if the study recommends installing a traffic signal at one of the driveways, Anderson said, it may be worth requesting financial help from the Wheeling Park District, the Postal Service, St. Joseph's Church, the Suburban Library System and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"We can't just make it better for us without making it better for the Post Office," he said.

Wheeling Postmaster Terry Cardwell said he regularly hears complaints from both customers and postal workers about the dangerous traffic on Dundee Road.

"We have accidents here all the time," Cardwell said. "It's Dundee Road, though. I don't know what can be done."

Cardwell said he expects traffic to back up even more on Dundee once the Wisconsin Central commuter train begins operating late this summer.

"Unfortunately, it's a situation that's not going to improve," he said.

(Continued on page 12)

well added. "It's tough to get out of here at about 4 in the afternoon. I've been here three years now, and it's very difficult."

Anderson said he has talked to IDOT officials, and without directly asking them for financial support, they indicated

# Trustees send Childerley back to plan commission

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

The elimination of a perimeter path and a curb cut on Old McHenry Road have sent the development plan for Childerley Park back to the village's Plan Commission.

These two changes were discovered when the Wheeling Park District recently submitted its plan to apply for building permits from the village.

The plan approved by the Plan Commission and Village Board in fall 1994 included a 10-foot perimeter path to be used for police patrols and a driveway with two curb cuts on Old McHenry Road.

Since receiving village approval, the Park Board pared down the plan to reduce its costs. Two sand volleyball courts and a shelter also were deleted and another picnic shelter was changed slightly.

## Changes

The question before trustees last week was whether those changes were enough to warrant a return to the Plan Commission and another public hearing, at the risk of stopping construction.

"The new plan is substantially in conformance with the original," Parks Director Karop Bavougian told trustees. Arguing that, he said, the plan did not need to be reviewed again by the Plan Commission.

Bavougian said he had spoken to Police Chief Michael Haeger who indicated the revised path, one that allows direct access to the rear of the park, is sufficient for patrolling.

The decision to allow only one curb cut for a combined entrance/exit to Old McHenry Road was made by the Illinois Department of Transportation which has jurisdiction over the state road.

## Red flag

"The vehicle ingress and egress were taken out of our hand, and yours, by IDOT," Bavougian said.

Village Attorney James Rhodes and Community Development Director Michael Klitzke, however, disagreed with Bavougian that the changes were minor. Rhodes suggested that plan be further reviewed and subjected to public comment during a hearing.

**'The new plan is substantially in conformance with the original.'**

**Parks Director Karop Bavougian**

"The real red flag was the perimeter walk," Klitzke said, because it was included for police access. "There are elements in (the plan) still in substantial conformance (to the original). We could issue permits for those items in conformance while the (approval) process continues."

Trustees verbally accepted Klitzke's suggestion to allow staff to review the plan and issue building permits for the unchanged items.

"I think the Park District has to be aware it would continue construction at their own risk," Rhodes said, noting that the Plan Commission or trustees could request changes.

The altered items will be reviewed by the Plan Commission, and then by trustees. The hearing process is expected to be hurried so the plan could be before trustees for final approval at the Feb. 5 board meeting.

"We certainly want to expedite this as much as possible," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling to review previously shelved development plans

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials Monday said they'll review once again a local developer's proposal for the Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment district.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village will take another look at plans from Joseph Freed and Associates Inc. previously rejected for a mixed development on 13.5 acres of the village's 125-acre redevelopment district at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Officials for Joseph Freed and Associates were not present Monday during the village's discussion of the redevelopment district.

They could not be reached for comment late Monday.

In 1994, the Wheeling-based developer had proposed a development that included condominiums, professional office space and 30,000 square feet of retail space for the corner.

Wheeling officials instead opted to have Chicago-based Hiffman Shaffer Associates develop a 125,900 square-foot shopping center in the district.

However, HSA's development agreement with the village expired late last year and the company has not been in touch with Wheeling officials lately.

Anderson said Freed officials are still interested in the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road project.

Wheeling officials, though, are uncertain if Freed is still interested in developing a second project, a 40-unit town house development planned for 124-194 South Milwaukee Avenue.

Some neighbors of the project raised objections to the town houses, saying they would take away land near Whitman School used as a children's play area.

Freed's agreement with the village to develop the town houses expired late last year and the company has not indicated to Wheeling officials if it is still interested in that particular project.

Anderson said there is no schedule set for when Freed's proposal for Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road could be formally reviewed by village officials.

# Strong Ave. may get special tax

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

1-18-96  
is the big issue."

Village President Sheila Schultz said creating the special service area may be one means of allowing those who would benefit most from the improvements to pay for them.

"It's something we need to look at," Schultz said. "The area is somewhat unique in that the improvements really run the gamut. Certainly, the road needs improvement and it makes sense to do all the improvements at once."

"When we get closer to making our decision we want a lot of input from the residents," she added. The village hopes to request bids on the Strong Avenue project this fall, but Anderson admitted that may be optimistic.

Residents don't want to participate. No complete estimates have been compiled yet for the Strong Avenue project, he said. Once it is determined how much more tax those in the proposed special service district would pay, the property owners would have to decide if the improvements are worth it, he said.

Anderson said the improvements, such as curbs and gutters, could increase property values, but he understands that cost is an overriding concern.

"We'll put together more information for the board then schedule an informational meeting with the property owners and go from there," Anderson said. "Cost

Wheeler trustees are considering the creation of a special service district to pay for the cost of improving West Strong Avenue from 12th Street to Wolf Road.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said \$1 property owners would be assessed a special tax if trustees approve a special service area to repave and lower the roadway, relocate utilities, and add curbs, gutters and new sidewalks.

"We're going to come up with some solid figures for the board," Anderson said. "We could do a lesser project, maybe just the roadway. We need to decide what the vil-

# Wheeling TIF is alive and well

1-11-96  
Countryside  
Wheeling/ The recent "Countryside" article on the Union Hotel property quoted owner Arch Goldin's fanciful conjectures regarding Wheeling's Tax Increment Finance Fund. I want to reassure your readers that he was seriously mistaken in his comments.

The Wheeling Tax Increment Financing Fund is healthy, and functioning as it should. TIF funds also have been used to acquire, clear, and consolidate properties for redevelopment. The Village has no need nor intention to refinance the TIF, as the revenues received are more than enough to pay the principle and interest due on the bonds. Furthermore, there are surplus funds available for future uses, such as new street lighting and sidewalks, burying utility lines, landscaping, and other improvements within the Milwaukee/Dundee area, in conjunction with Milwaukee Avenue improvements by the State of Illinois.

Mr. Goldin made equally misleading statements regarding the proposed town home development on the Union Hotel site, then repeated and elaborated on his errors in a letter to the editor. Mr. Goldin was never misled regarding the Village's interest in his property. The Village never agreed to purchase the property, but did express an interest in its redevelopment, and its willingness to negotiate the necessary

# LETTERS

agreements. Although the TIF fund is healthy, the amount the Village can pay to owners must be reasonable and fair, and depends on the amount which a developer is willing and able to pay to the Village.

Mr. Goldin has speculated in a real estate investment, and has raised his price to cover his interest and taxes. The purchase price of the property should reflect the actual value of the land only. It would be irresponsible for the Village to use taxpayers money to take his property off his hands at whatever price he presumes to demand. He is under no obligation to sell to the Village, and has been free to sell his property for any price at any time to anyone willing to pay.

I, too, am disappointed that the repeated efforts of the Village and the developer to satisfy the demands of a group of residents and the Park District have been unsuccessful. The village put forward an economically feasible plan that would provide an attractive residential development, and additional play area for Whitman School and the Wheeling Park District. It is unfortunate that the owners have not sold their property, the Village is not benefiting from new development being added to the tax rolls, and the Whitman children do not have their playground, all because of delays caused by objectors.

We have not closed

consideration of a townhome/playground plan that meets our objectives and is within our financial limits. We also remain open to any other firm and appropriate proposal that is brought forward, although none has been presented in several years. Meanwhile, we continue to work toward the improvement of the entire TIF district.

Sheila H. Schultz  
Village President

## Manager defends 2000 and Beyond

Wheeling/ I would like to respond to the Countryside editorial (12/14/95) which questioned the openness of the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" project. It is hard to understand how the unprecedented decision to extend an invitation to every member of the community to join in this planning effort could be regarded as a closed process, even by the most skeptical.

Although I cannot respond to the specific situation in which a representative of the Wheeling Countryside attempted to obtain committee information, I understand there was some initial misunderstanding as committees and processes were being finalized. As a reminder, there are now nine new committees whose members, minutes, and schedules need to be coordinated by staff.

Committee chairs recently received correspondence (Continued on page 11)

## Letters Continued from page 10

reminding them of the need to keep minutes of each meeting and the appropriate format. Once approved, the minutes for each committee will be placed at the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" resource center at Indian Trails Library. To accommodate the busy schedules of the over 100 residents participating in the process, committee chairs have been flexible in setting meeting times and dates. This meeting information is provided to staff a week in advance so that the required notices can be posted. The meetings are then added to a master calendar which is available to anyone upon request.

It is also my understanding that at the request of a representative of the Wheeling Countryside, specific information has been provided about the Marketing and Image Committee so its process and progress can be tracked.

Just as the Nov./Dec. issue of the Village newsletter listed the members of the Executive Committee, the committee chairs are going to be listed in the upcoming issue of the newsletter. Economic Development - Chris Dolgopol, Coordinator (Attracting/Retaining - David Kolssak; Large Corporations - Minerva Solano; Commercial/Retail - Rich Goldberg); Marketing and Image - Avi Poster; Education - Kelvin Lane; Infrastructure - Dave Phillips; Government - Bill Paar; Community Diversity/Cultural Integration - Bill Maloney; Community Services - Don Hammer.

Information which any residents or businesses wish to send to any or all of these committees may be mailed or brought to the Village Hall and it will be forwarded to the appropriate party.

We recognize that this process will only be successful with widespread support and participation of residents. This is particularly true of the next and perhaps most crucial stage: implementation of the committee recommendations. The Denniston Consulting Group was hired, in part, to allow the elected officials and appointed staff to step back from the process in order to optimize resident and business participation, not to sit on the sidelines and watch, as the editorial suggests. This somewhat unique process may occasionally encounter a glitch or two, but never with the intent of keeping information from residents.

The editorial suggestion that committee membership

was restricted to a 'handful' present at the first meeting is incorrect. Though I do not consider approximately 120 residents attending a three-hour meeting on a Saturday morning a 'handful', I would like to point out that the committees have continued to add members.

I appreciate the opportunity to present the Village's version of recent events. Anyone requesting further information about the long-range strategic plan process, "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond", should contact the Assistant Village Manager's Office, 459-2605.

Craig G. Anderson,  
Village Manager

## Reader gets message but doesn't agree

Wheeling/ I'm sorry to see the editor of the Countryside join in the hand-wringing over the state of the Village of Wheeling and its future. The latest negative editorial again belittled the efforts of citizens who are proud of Wheeling, and are working to make it even better.

Your mockery of the name "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" shows you just don't get it. This is more than a trite recitation of good intentions. Early in 1995, Wheeling's elected officials and staff recognized the value of a long range plan for the village, and had enough confidence in the residents to offer them the opportunity to determine its direction. I am one of those residents.

Maybe the Countryside editor should make a few resolutions of his own.

1.) Cover and print articles about the positive events in the village, then read them so you will know what's going on before making snide comments.

2.) Give credit where credit is due. You fill up a lot of space telling the village what to do, but very little telling others what has been accomplished here.

3.) Stop repeating yourself. Though I don't agree with you, I do get your message: you don't like "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond"; you don't think it will work; and you have repeated your message of doom in three separate editorials.

4.) Lighten up! Don't worry about Wheeling. Any community that has over a hundred residents excited about creating a vision of the future, and willing to work toward reaching it, is going to succeed.

Janet M. D'Argo

# Suburban officials fight whistle blowing law

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Some suburban officials have banded together to fight a federal law that would require all trains to sound their whistles at street-level crossings 24 hours a day, but others say whistle blowing is a matter of public safety.

SEE EDITORIAL

Page 10

Mandating the blowing of train whistles at all hours of the night is an effort to improve safety at these grade crossings, but it could be disruptive for nearby residents.

The law, part of the Swift Rail Development Act of 1994, is to go into effect Nov. 1. Meanwhile, some municipalities, including Buffalo Grove, are scrambling to become exempt from the law by convincing the federal government that their grade crossings are generally safe.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sid Mathias is chairing a task force of the Northwest Municipal Conference to ask the federal government for a reprieve from the law.

Currently, municipalities can enact whistle bans if the railroad crossings have warning gates. The new federal law would pre-empt those local bans and require whistle blowing regardless of whether the crossing is gated.

"I certainly can understand (whistle blowing) at an ungated intersection in a rural area," Mathias said. "It doesn't make sense at a gated intersection. The gates are down, so you know a train is coming."

The only grade crossing in Buffalo Grove is the Wisconsin Central tracks on Busch Road, a crossing which is currently ungated. Before the commuter railway opens this fall, Mathias said, the crossing will be upgraded with crossing gates.

"Right now we get complaints," he said from nearby residents who hear the whistles blow as trains approach the ungated crossing.

Mathias said his task force is searching for statistical information to show that accidents are not occurring as often at gated crossings as they do at ungated crossings.

"Our main goal is to ask Congress to amend the law so it wouldn't have to apply to

urban areas," Mathias said. "Our second goal is to allow us to put in other measures" such as audible warnings at the crossings.

It hardly seems fair, Mathias said, that residents have to listen to whistles 24 hours a day because some scofflaw may try to drive around lowered gates.

"The innocent residents who are trying to get a good night's sleep are suffering for people who are grossly negligent," he said. "It's wanton misconduct and it's a criminal act."

Mathias noted that his position to allow whistle bans may not be too popular in light of the school bus/train accident that killed seven high school students last fall in Fox River Grove. But requiring a whistle to be blown would not have prevented the accident, he said.

"I'm sure that train did blow its horn," Mathias said. "Fox River Grove isn't the issue. We have the exact same situation nearby on Route 22. It's a technical problem that needs to be addressed."

Recently, the Executive Committee of the Council of Mayors of Northeast Illinois which represents 268 municipalities passed a resolution asking the federal government to reconsider the whistle-blowing law. Buffalo Grove is part of that organization.

Though train whistles can be annoying to residents who live near the tracks, Wheeling officials believe the public safety issue outweighs the inconvenience of whistle blowing.

"It's been our position that it's dangerous to ban whistles," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson. The village has gated grade crossings along the Wisconsin Central tracks at Dundee and Hintz roads.

Wheeling is not working with Mathias' task force of the Northwest Municipal Conference to find a way to circumvent the federal law, Anderson said.

"We occasionally have received complaints about train whistles," he said. "From my point of view, I see it as a safety issue."

A couple of years ago, Anderson said, he did review the requirements necessary for a municipality to ban whistle blowing.

Anderson and his staff decided it would be difficult for the village to comply with the lengthy list of regulations and the village would have "a lot of liability should an accident occur."

# Trustees plan for widening Milwaukee Ave.

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

For years, Wheeling officials have been told Milwaukee Avenue will be widened. Now trustees are making arrangements for that long-awaited construction to begin.

Plans from the Illinois Department of Transportation call for widening Milwaukee to five lanes throughout the village and straightening out some of its curves.

IDOT has asked trustees to decide whether they would prefer existing overhead utilities to be moved to another overhead location or be buried before construction begins.

"Ideally, we'd like them to be underground," Anderson said.

The utility companies are responsible for paying the cost of relocating the lines to another overhead location, he said.

However, "the village would pay the difference of

The village already has easements parallel to Milwaukee Avenue but may need easements perpendicular to the roadway to run the utility lines into the various buildings," he said.

"We don't want this to impede the project," Anderson added.

Trustees also discussed street lighting for the new roadway.

IDOT would provide standard highway lighting at the intersections with Dundee

relocating them (overhead) and burying them" if that is the decision trustees make, Anderson said.

That difference, though, is substantial, with one estimate to bury the phone and electrical lines close to \$3 million, Anderson said.

"I would definitely like them underground and I think we all agree that would look best," said Schultz. "How practical that is needs to be looked at."

Schultz said the village has been talking to IDOT, ComEd and the phone company about relocating the utilities. It may be possible to relocate some underground then finish the project later, she added.

"Those decisions will be made pretty quickly," Schultz said. "We're anxious to get the project done, it's long-awaited."

Recently, ComEd notified the village that additional easement property may be needed to move the power lines, Anderson said.

(Continued on page 80)

and Hintz roads, Anderson said.

Trustees are to decide if there are street lights available for the length of the roadway that would provide adequate lighting, but be aesthetic as well, he said.

Once completed, Anderson said, drivers should notice more lighting along Milwaukee Avenue.

IDOT expects to have all utilities relocated this year, and begin road construction in 1997.

# Police encourage watch group to help keep crime on decline

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials Monday called for residents of a multifamily housing subdivision to form a neighborhood watch group to patrol their area.

Speaking to residents of the Lakeside Villas town house subdivision, Wheeling officials said the residents should form a watch group to monitor suspicious activities in their neighborhood.

"We need the support and participation of the community," said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief John Popadowski.

Residents raised concerns to village officials about such activities as auto burglaries, illegal parking and teens who gather in the parking

lot of the subdivision's clubhouse and other areas in Lakeside Villas.

"We tried to have a neighborhood watch ... I can't say we've had a lot of group spirit in this community," said Harriet Gail, president of the homeowners' association.

Gail said the association would again try to organize such a group.

Police noted other Wheeling neighborhoods, including Tahoe Village, Cedar Run and Whipple Tree Village, have watch groups.

And while Lakeside Villas residents raised concerns, Wheeling Police said the subdivision is a fairly safe area.

Police recorded 60 criminal incidents occurring in the subdivision in 1994, compared to 37 for 11 months of 1995. Police said they don't yet have statistics on Decem-

ber's activity.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz added that a neighborhood watch group also could ease communications with those residents in the 242-unit subdivision who speak limited English.

Popadowski said the police conduct activities in conjunction with watch groups, such as neighborhood bicycle registrations, to help establish their presence in the subdivisions.

Police said those interested in forming such watch groups should contact them at 847-459-2632 and ask for crime prevention officer John Teevans.

"It's a group of people getting together to watch over each other," Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

# IEPA reimburses sewer repair costs

Wheeling: The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has approved a \$642,565 grant to the village, which will pay for about 70 percent of the improvements to the town's sewer system.

Wheeling spent about \$1 million from 1988 to 1993 to upgrade sewers.

To qualify for the grant, Wheeling's sewer projects needed to meet updated water pollution control standards implemented under the Environmental Protection Act. Specifically, the project was cited for its "elimination of excessive inflow" of storm water into the sewer system by replacing 1,202 manhole covers and 393 manhole frames; sealing 1,559 manhole frames; pressure grouting of 168 manholes; and the complete replacement of several sections of the system, said IEPA director Mary A. Gade in a letter to village manager Craig Anderson.

Patrick O'Toole

## Proposed fire district merger would affect property tax bills

1-19-96  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

If the Wheeling Township and Prospect Heights rural fire districts merge, some residents could see an increase in taxes while others could see their taxes go down.

Homeowners in the new district created by a proposed merger of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District and the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District would have a property tax rate of up to 67 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation, said Wheeling Township fire board attorney Karl R. Ottosen.

With the 67-cent rate, the owner of a house with a \$150,000 market value would pay \$309 in yearly fire protection taxes.

The owner of the \$150,000 house in the Wheeling Township district pays a \$184 yearly fire tax bill, while in the Prospect Heights district that homeowner pays \$425 annually.

Currently, the Wheeling Township district has a 40 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation property tax rate, while the Prospect Heights rural district has a 92-cent rate.

Recently, Ottosen's panel decided it will seek merger with the Prospect Heights rural district.

Under that merger, the Wheeling Township district would dissolve and the Prospect Heights district would take over responsibility for protecting the area.

Wheeling Township fire officials said the merger is needed to give Prospect Heights one main fire department and to better serve the area.

Prospect Heights is now served by four fire departments. The Wheeling Township district includes most of Prospect Heights and unincorporated areas near Wheeling, but excludes Wheeling.

The Prospect Heights rural fire department is an agency separate and independent of the city.

The Wheeling Township district has no firefighters of its own and contracts with outside departments for that service.

Wheeling officials are now trying to get a Cook County judge to reconsider their request for an injunction to bar the Wheeling Township district from having the Prospect Heights district fire department protect most of the Wheeling Township district.

## Trustees OK sewer work completed near temple

1-19-96  
Herald-1-19-96  
Wheeling trustees accepted public improvements made at the Swaminarayan Temple at 397 Northgate Parkway.

The Wheeling village board accepted public improvements put in place by the International Swaminarayan Satsung Organization at the building that includes installation of sanitary and storm sewers.

The ISSO also made a donation for construction of a bike path and a sidewalk near the temple.

The ISSO made the improvements as a part of the conditions of its village approval to build the temple.

## Zoning changes OK'd for industrial buildings

The Wheeling village board approved zoning variations for two buildings that were constructed before the zoning code was in place.

The trustees approved zoning variations for a building at 301

### WHEELING BOARD NOTES

Alice Street and an adjacent building at 301 Hintz Road.

Both buildings, that are in Wheeling's industrial park, are scheduled to be purchased by A. Scott McGregor.

Zoning variations granted gave the owners permission to increase the number of parking spaces at the buildings and allowed other exceptions such as front yards that are smaller than the village normally requires.

The buildings were built before 1964 when the village's zoning code was adopted, which makes them legal, non-conforming structures in Wheeling.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said that the owners sought the zoning variances so if the buildings were ever destroyed by fire they could legally be rebuilt under the village code.

## Wheeling police chief contends suspension of officers a message

1-26-96  
By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's a common enough sight in the Northwest suburbs — two police squad cars parked side by side with officers talking through the open windows.

But the conversation that took place between two Wheeling police officers had an uncommon consequence when their chief recently suspended the two after observing their routine afternoon chat.

Patrol officers Hugh VerSteegh and James McCarrick did not know their 25-minute conversation at a shopping center on Dundee and Elmhurst roads was being watched by the police chief, who suspended them for two and five days, respectively, to make an example out of their violation of department policy.

Wheeling police Chief Michael F. Haeger happened to drive past the officers, saw them talking and apparently timed how long they were parked at the shopping center.

Haeger then approached the officers, when, according to the department's account, he saw McCarrick pull a newspaper down from the top of his steering wheel.

"I don't consider it to be routine (police) behavior, that's why it was an example," Haeger said, explaining their punishment.

Haeger also said one officer was outside his assigned patrol area during the chat.

After the officers' two appeals before the village's Fire and Police Commission, Haeger gave McCarrick a five-day suspension without pay.

VerSteegh received a two-day suspension without pay.

Wheeling police cited the officers under the neglect of duty and loitering sections of the department's rules and regulations.

Activities prohibited in the neglect of duty section include officers reading, watching television or doing anything else that would prevent them from carrying out their duties.

The department also outlaws loitering in restaurants and other public places while on duty.

Dale L. Gulbrantson, executive secretary and treasurer of the Illinois Police Association, a

police fraternal organization, said it was unusual for loitering to be a part of a police department's conduct code.

"That's the first time I've ever heard of loitering stipulated in the rules and regulations of a department. Neglect of duty I've heard of," he said.

Gulbrantson added, "How are they supposed to pass information to each other? In roll call before shift assignment?"

VerSteegh and McCarrick could not be reached for comment.

Noel T. Wroblewski, an attorney for the Combined Counties Police Association police union, disputed the charges against the officers.

"It became a question of how long they were there and were they discussing business," said Wroblewski, who defended the men before the commission.

"If they were loitering or being lackadaisical why would they sit in a public mall. We felt it (the charges) was kind of ridiculous," he said.

Haeger, who declined to review his testimony in the case, said he decided to press the matter himself instead of having the officers' immediate superior officer handle disciplining them.

"Each individual disciplinary matter is handled individually. It has to do with the officers being disciplined," Haeger said.

Rallying around VerSteegh and McCarrick, 41 of the department's 43 sworn officers signed a petition submitted to village officials seeking to lessen their punishment.

"The petition was signed by the officers to express that the discipline that was handed out by the chief to the officers was excessive," said Officer William Stutzman who is also union president for the department.

Stutzman declined comment about how the suspensions affect how the other officers will operate or the department's morale.

The petition said that the officers' actions "were no different from what any other police officer in this country who works a beat has done or will continue to do."

VerSteegh surrendered some of his vacation days to satisfy the penalty. McCarrick opted to serve his suspension recently.

## Police overtime busts the budget

2-8-96  
Friburne  
■ Wheeling: Staffing shortages due to illness and injury at the Wheeling Police Department have created the need for more money to pay for overtime.

Monday, village trustees approved \$160,000 in extra funds for the police department to go toward paying overtime between now and the end of the fiscal year in April.

Through the first 18 pay periods of the current fiscal year, the police department used all of the regularly budgeted amount of \$242,320 and a number of trustees expressed dissatisfaction with the added expense.

"To me it doesn't really make sense," said Trustee Robert J. Heer. "We really need to take a look at this. For this amount of money, it seems like [the police officers] would be in there [working overtime] every day of the week."

Village Manager Craig Anderson said it was hoped that all of the \$160,000 would not be used, but the amount was an outside estimate "to avoid having to come back to the board."

Police Chief Michael Haeger said that a number of his officers had been injured while on the job, including one who was seriously injured in an automobile accident. Of the 1,888 hours of time off taken by police officers this year, 808 have come from this one injured officer, he said.

The illness and injury overtime is the largest expenditure among a number of categories where extra pay is necessary, officials said.

Another staffing difficulty has involved a shortage of trained dispatchers. Although two new dispatchers are now being trained, Haeger said, it will be a number of weeks before they are ready to do the job on their own.

Patrick O'Toole

## Sportmart to close Wheeling, River North locations

By MARK LE BIEN  
Daily Herald Business Writer

Wheeling-based sporting goods retailer Sportmart Inc. said Thursday it will close its stores in Wheeling and Chicago's River North area.

The company also said it will close its four "No Contest" footwear and sports clothing stores, located in St. Louis and Minneapolis, in order to focus on its full-line sporting goods stores.

Sportmart said the store closings will result in about 150 layoffs. The company will take a charge of \$4.8 million to \$5.4 million to pay for the restructuring.

Part of that money will be used to cover severance funds for company co-founder and Vice Chairman Sanford Cantor, who is retiring after 26 years. Sportmart did not provide details of his severance package.

The company warned it will show a net loss for the fourth quarter. Sportmart said it will report quarterly sales in the range of \$152 million.

That would put the company's total 1995 revenues at about \$500 million compared with \$424 million the prior year. In 1994, Sportmart had earnings of about \$8.9 million.

The company's official results for the latest fourth quarter and year won't be released until March.

"We think we can execute over

the long haul," said Larry Hochberg, chairman and chief executive officer. "That's why we're making these structural changes."

He acknowledged that Sportmart is facing brutal competition in its markets from other sporting goods giants such as Sports Authority and MC Sports Co. Sportmart's financial troubles and its weak stock price have contributed to speculation that the company is a ripe takeover target, but Hochberg said "the company's not for sale."

After the decisions announced

## Wheeling approves new restrictions for door-to-door peddlers

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved an ordinance that places new limitations on door-to-door solicitors in the village.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved a measure that immediately limits the hours door-to-door peddlers can operate and requires them to display their solicitation permit when asked.

"Thank you for reviewing this. I think we need to have it," said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

Abruscato had pressed village officials to draft such an ordinance.

Under the new measure, door-to-door peddlers cannot approach residences between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. The ordinance also prohibits them from entering property where a sign barring solicitors is displayed.

The ordinance also specifies that solicitors must register with the village, providing detailed information about his or her organization and whether he or she has been

convicted of a crime.

While the village has previously required registration, it did not ask solicitors to provide detailed information about their organizations.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the license information will give officials a better idea of door-to-door solicitation activity occurring in town.

Abruscato noted the ordinance gives residents a chance to ask those who approach their doors whether they're registered with the village. And if they're not, she said, the residents can call the police.

The solicitors must also purchase a permit to work in Wheeling, though the \$15 fee could be waived by village officials for non-profit groups.

The new measure also gives the village guidelines for revoking an applicant's solicitation license.

The licenses can be revoked for peddlers who violate the ordinance or are convicted of a crime, for example.

Those violating the village's new ordinance can receive fines of up to \$1,000.

## Nearby stores hurt Wheeling outlet

Thursday, Sportmart will have 66 stores, including more than a dozen in the Chicago area.

Sportmart said it's closing its Wheeling and River North stores because they've been cannibalized by other Sportmarts nearby.

The Wheeling locations has been hurt by Sportmarts in Vernon Hills, Mount Prospect and the Deerfield-Northbrook area; business at the River North store, at 440 N. Orleans St., has slumped due to the company's new flagship LaSalle Street store located six blocks away.

The River North store will be closed immediately and the Wheel-

ing location, which has functioned as a clearance store, will close within a few months, the company said.

Sportmart's corporate headquarters will remain at a separate site in Wheeling.

The company said it will report lower-than-expected sales for the fourth quarter due to a 1.5 percent drop in comparable store sales and slow business at the nine Canadian Sportmarts opened last year.

Hochberg said the company still is committed to opening another five to 10 stores this year, including two in Vancouver and two in Milwaukee.



Heavy smoke pours out of Wings Machinery Inc. on Wolf Road in Wheeling Sunday.  
Daily Herald Photo/Paul Valade

## Firefighters battle blaze, cold in attempt to save business

By MARK SPENCER  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A tear ran down Leslie Thielman's cheek Sunday as he watched firefighters extinguish flames that destroyed the Wheeling business he founded 28 years ago.

"We just paid the building off a month ago," said Thielman, 59, of Prospect Heights. "There's nothing left."

In bitter cold temperatures that left many firefighters coated with ice, a dozen area departments fought the blaze at Wings Machinery Inc., 465 N. Wolf Road.

People from a neighboring business first noticed the fire at Wings, which buys, refurbishes and resells industrial machines. The Wheeling Fire Department received the call at 12:10 p.m. No one was in the building at the time.

Thielman estimated the damage at about \$1 million.

"I think there are a few machines we might be able to salvage," said Scott Thielman, 33, who spent much of his childhood helping out at his father's business.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said their goal was to contain the fire because the building already was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

The Illinois State Fire Marshal's officer was called in to assist in

"We just paid the building off a month ago. There's nothing left."

- Leslie Thielman,  
founder of Wings Machinery

finding the cause of the fire. But investigators were not expected to return to the scene until Tuesday, when milder temperatures are expected.

Crews brought in salt to combat ice that formed around the building from water sprayed on the fire.

MacIsaac said he called a second alarm on the blaze so firefighters could be rotated while temperatures hovered around zero.

Buffalo Grove firefighter John Peables, his gear coated in ice as he walked from the scene, said: "The ice gets on your clothes and it gets so you can hardly move your gloves."

Nonetheless, Peables said he preferred fighting fires in harsh winter weather to a fighting blazes in the scorching heat of summer.

"At least in this weather you can go inside and get away from it," Peables said.

## Group seeks rent controls on spaces for mobile homes

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are considering a precedent-setting ordinance that would establish rent controls for mobile-home parks in the village.

Officials are nearing the end of researching a mobile-home rent-control ordinance that would be the first of its kind in the area.

Wheeling officials are considering such an ordinance after residents of the Whippletree Village Mobile Home Park asked them to adopt rent-control measures in November 1994.

"Most of the people in mobile-home parks are senior citizens or low-income people. ... Some of these people are still paying on their homes," Elaine Hettinger, a Whippletree resident, said Thursday.

Hettinger said the ordinance is needed because tenants often are saddled with loan payments on their mobile-home units in addition to the rent for park space.

She said that last year it cost \$45 a month for park space. This year, Hettinger said, the rent was raised to \$70 a month.

Hettinger said the tenants want an ordinance forcing landlords to justify rent hikes for the unimproved land the mobile homes sit upon.

Hettinger, several other residents and some former residents of Whippletree have filed a class-action lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court against Lake Forest-based Capital Development Corp., the park's owner, and its president, Richard J. Klarckek.

The residents have accused Klarckek of making it difficult for them to sell their units.

Klarckek could not be reached for comment.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the research has consisted mainly of reviewing rent-control ordinances from other states.

"In the collar counties, I don't know of any town that has looked at a rent-control ordinance for mobile-home parks," Rhodes said.

He said the closest town with such an ordinance is Park City in Lake County.

Rhodes said it is too early to determine what the ordinance might include.

## Wheeling tax revenue to suffer with Sportmart out of game

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a few months it will close its doors at 240 E. Dundee Road. "If they go out we'll lose the sales tax it generated, but on the other hand it isn't a surprise," Anderson said.

Wheeling officials are disappointed but not surprised by the news that the Sportmart store in town will soon close.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said a "For Sale" sign had been posted in front of the store long before last week's announcement by the Wheeling-based sporting goods retailer that

Wheeling officials are uncertain exactly how much in sales taxes they received from the Sportmart, which is a clearance store at that location because the state does not itemize how much is collected from individual businesses.

The store is the last business in a 13-acre area at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road that village officials have targeted for redevelopment.

Late last year, an agreement expired between the Chicago-based developer Hittman, Shafter Associates Inc. and the village to develop a retail center at the corner. The company has not formally approached

Wheeling officials are now reviewing plans they originally rejected from locally-based Joseph Freed and Associates to build a mix of condominiums, professional offices and retail development at the corner.

Denise Kennedy, chairwoman of the economic development committee for the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, said she hopes the store's closing spurs the redevelopment

Yet, she said, "Any store that closes is not good for the community. ... It's another loss for (Wheeling's) economic development." Company officials announced they were closing the Wheeling store and another one in the River North area of Chicago, along with four apparel stores outside Illinois. About 150 people will be unemployed as a result of the closings, company officials said.

## Wheeling board approves police overtime allocation

BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After warning that it shouldn't happen again, the Wheeling village board approved an additional \$160,000 allocation for police overtime payments.

In a 6-0 vote, the trustees approved another \$160,000 for police overtime.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the additional allocation was needed because the department has had officers filling in as radio operators until the village hired people for those two posts.

Additionally, he said the extra overtime funds were needed because a number of officers were absent from work due to job-related injuries.

Wheeling trustees, however, questioned the amount saying they couldn't imagine the department spending the entire amount from February to the end of the village's fiscal year on April 30.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the department will probably not spend the entire

allocation, but it was proposed so village administrators wouldn't have to return to the board later seeking more overtime funding.

Under the village's current budget, \$242,320 was allocated for police overtime payments.

With the additional money, the police will have more than \$400,000 for overtime payments.

Trustee Robert J. Heer, who is also a Buffalo Grove patrol officer, said perhaps lower paid community service officers could have been used as temporary radio operators to reduce the department's overtime expenditures.

Haeger said those community service officers are needed on the streets.

And Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said Heer's suggestions were "micro-managing."

"If we can save the village some money I don't think it's micro-managing," Heer said.

Haeger said the village has since hired two emergency radio operators for the vacant jobs and those operators are now being trained, he said.

## Board gives village manager 4 percent raise

2/10/96

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

The Wheeling village board without comment awarded Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson a 4 percent pay raise increasing his salary to \$88,190. Anderson, who has been with the village for about eight years, received \$84,770 last year.

Anderson is the highest paid village employee.

### Prospect Heights honored for 20th year

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz read a proclamation to honor the city of Prospect Heights for its 20th anniversary. The proclamation said, in part, that the city has a rich history and has made the Northwest suburbs a desirable place to live.

### Senior Celebration Day scheduled for May 1

Schultz proclaimed May 1 to be

Senior Celebration Day in the village. The proclamation says that seniors are untapped resources. The village wants to recognize the bonds seniors have formed and the sense of community they have strengthened through community education programs.

### Village buys new street sweeper

Wheeling trustees approved the purchase of a street sweeper from Bruce Municipal Equipment Inc. of Glenview for \$96,663. Wheeling officials backed the purchase over several others proposed to the village because they said the 1996 Elgin Crosswind Regenerative Air Street Sweeper was the best one for the town's needs.

Wheeling officials had allocated \$105,000 for purchasing such equip-

ment in the current village budget.

### Trustees give center more than expected

Wheeling trustees agreed to allocate \$21,500 to support the continued operation of the Wheeling Community Resource Center.

The center, formed from a partnership between Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services and the village, serves Wheeling's low-income and minority residents with a variety of services.

Dennis F. Depcik, associate director for Omni, said the center needed more than the \$20,000 the village had planned to allocate. He said Cook County officials trimmed their funding for the upcoming fiscal year for the center by \$10,000, awarding it \$60,000 instead of the \$70,000 it previously received.

## Fence Post 2/10/96 Wheeling needs more

Re: Wheeling! Oh! Wheeling! 2000 or never.

While public tax hearings were held, no one came. Another round of taxes were imposed by the Wheeling Park District, township district, school district and library district and all raised taxes for 1996.

Which reminds me as a Wheeling taxpayer, that we will have a \$5 million railroad station, but no major chain grocery store.

We will have a \$5 million Wheeling Library District, but don't have a "downtown" district.

We have an unused \$5 million aquatic center but don't have an ecological park along the river.

We have a \$5 million fountain but don't have plans to keep Milwaukee Avenue commercial.

We have a \$5 million recreation center but not a \$5 million mall.

We also have a \$5 million tax liability called T.I.F., but don't have "common sense" trustees.

We have a \$5 million London School but don't have funds for a play lot for Whitman School.

We have a \$5 million runway — intersection of Hintz and Wolf rejuvenation project — but Milwaukee Avenue is a disgrace.

And, oh yes, we have the Chevy Chase Country Club where the privileged few can gamble — but put a dollar down at the V.F.W. Center, and Chief Haeger is looking over your shoulder.

And now our esteemed Village President Sheila Schultz has decided to pass the "buck" and "duck" all the above issues and formed "Wheeling 2000" chaired by the Dennison "Plan Group."

But for this group to succeed we first must abolish the present bumbling, inefficient Wheeling Plan Commission.

While Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove and Lincolnshire grow, the only thing that grows with the Wheeling Plan Commission is their pocketbooks.

Steven Telow  
Wheeling

# Restrictions knocking for door-to-door sales

**Wheeling:** Village officials have toughened the rules that govern door-to-door selling.

Village trustees last week approved a peddling ordinance that requires potential solicitors to apply for a permit and makes it easier for residents to say no.

Violators will face daily fines \$100 to \$1,000. The ordinance allows residents to simply post a sign that says "no solicitors" if they want to be left alone. It also makes outlaws selling door to door after 9 p.m. and before 9 a.m.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she would have preferred that the time constraint was 7:30 or 8 p.m., and she expressed hope that village residents would ask to see a solicitor's permit when one shows up at the door.

The toughest part of enforcing the ordinance will be the permit process. Organizations and individuals will be required to provide detailed information, including the nature of their product and documentation that shows the whether the business operates for profit.

Patrick O'Toole



Richard Bagalieh/Pioneer Press

Firefighters from several departments use ladder trucks to fight a fire in an industrial building at 465 Wolf Road. Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills and Deerfield units assisted.

# Fire guts small plant causing \$250,000 loss

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

\$250,000.

The Fire Department is investigating the origin of the fire, but do not believe it was caused by arson.

"There is nothing suspicious (about the start of fire) at this time," he added.

The business employed six workers who were not present at the time of the fire, he said. No injuries were reported.

After days of sub-zero temperatures in the Chicago area, the mercury climbed to about 5 degrees above zero Sunday.

Despite the cold weather, firefighters had no additional problems fighting the blaze, except the usual physical toll they endure battling any fire, Barden said.

"We were pretty lucky. We didn't have any frozen hydrants," Barden added.

The Wheeling Fire Department continues to investigate a blaze that destroyed a small manufacturing plant early Sunday afternoon.

Firefighters were called to a fire at Wings Machinery Corp., 465 N. Wolf Road, at 12:10 p.m. Sunday, said Fire Inspector Mike Barden.

With the help of departments from Buffalo Grove, Libertyville, Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Libertyville, Northbrook and Glenview, the fire was under control in about 40 minutes, he said.

"The actual extinguishment of the fire, before we left, was about three hours," Barden said.

Calling the 8,000-square-foot building "a total loss," Barden estimated the damage at

*Countryside 2-8-96*

# Wheeling considers hiring PR firm

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2/13/96

The Wheeling village board is considering hiring a politically connected public relations firm to improve the town's image. Wheeling trustees will review a proposal by the Arlington Heights-based Siles and Walsh public relations firm to work with local newspapers and broadcast outlets to receive press coverage of items they said are often neglected. Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the firm would help get coverage for "things that

are noteworthy in this community," such as the number of fine restaurants in town. The firm, headed by Diane Siles and Julia F. Walsh, both former Arlington Heights village trustees, has clients that include the city of Prospect Heights, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, the Wheeling Township Republican Organization. Walsh is also an Illinois State Board of Education board member. The firm is proposing it be retained for \$2,000 a month for which it would issue press releases,

place articles in publications and, perhaps, create a brochure for the village. "We'll let the residents know the good things happening in the village and the changes that are taking place," said Walsh, one of the partners in the firm. In 1994 the village hired outside contractor Debbie Santy for public relations assignments. However, she resigned shortly after being hired for personal reasons and later moved out-of-state. The firm solicited business from Wheeling two years ago and was recently contacted by village officials, Walsh said.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato wondered if the firm could help with the village's economic development efforts. Anderson said that the firm wouldn't become directly involved in those matters but the enhanced image of the village from the public relations effort would help. Trustee Robert J. Heer wanted the firm's presentation to the village board to be tailored specifically to Wheeling. Representatives from the firm are scheduled to make a presentation to the trustees Feb. 20.

# New commuter line ready to make tracks

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

2/10/96

After years of planning, construction of the Wisconsin Central Railroad is finally ready to roll.

Metra could start work on the rail line by mid-March, said Mark Fowler, transportation director for the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of 40 North and Northwest suburban communities working with Metra on the project.

"We finally have all the agreements (for purchasing commuter station sites) signed and out of the way," Fowler said.

"So now we can start when the weather breaks," he said.

The commuter line will be 53 miles long and have 12 stops from Antioch at the Wisconsin/Illinois border to downtown Chicago.

Metra, the commuter rail system, could complete construction of the \$100 million rail line later this summer around Labor Day, Fowler said.

Construction on the line is ready to proceed now that land acquisition and Metra's environmental



impact studies are complete, officials said.

State and federal funds to pay for the work are in place as well, Fowler said.

Daily Herald Map

# Liquor board hears claim tavern hired teen waitress

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2/13/96

Wheeling officials Monday heard testimony that the owners of a local bar knew a waitress they hired to serve alcohol was under 21 and they encouraged her to provide false identification for police.

The Wheeling liquor commission Monday heard testimony from Leora Geppert, 17, that the owners of Matty's Place, 1750 Hintz Road, knew she was under 21 when she was hired and allowed her to serve alcohol at the establishment anyway.

"She (an owner) knew I was a junior (in high school) when I applied," Geppert said.

Wheeling police charged that on July 16 the bar employed Geppert as a waitress who served alcoholic drinks to customers. Village ordinance requires anyone serving liquor to be at least 21.

The owners admitted they hired Geppert to work in the bar.

Kathleen M. Mark, a co-owner of the bar, said Geppert falsified a part of her job application saying she was over 18. Mark also said she believed it violated anti-discrimination laws to ask Geppert her age.

"It's kind of a funny thing to say someone is going to break the law to get a job," said Mark.

Geppert said she left sections of her job application blank and that Mark said she would complete the form.

Wheeling village prosecutor Steven J. Handler indicated Geppert's job application may have been altered, asking Mark if part of the form had "white out" correction fluid applied to it.

Mark said it would not be a benefit to her business to knowingly hire someone who is under age to serve liquor in the bar.

Mark denied she altered Geppert's job application.

Wheeling officials heard testimony from several witnesses, including Geppert's mother, Rose, who said she frequented the bar and told Mark her daughter needed a job.

In 1993, Matty's Place was fined \$275 for serving liquor after 2 a.m. and preventing police from entering the bar to investigate.

Wheeling officials late Monday were still hearing testimony in the case and had not yet concluded the hearing. A date for when the panel would announce its decision was not announced.



Wheeling firefighters battle recent blaza at Wings Machinery Co., 465 N. Wolf Rd., Wheeling. The fire occurred on Feb. 4. (Journal Photo by Mark Dillman)

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

# Bar ordered to close for hiring underage girl to serve alcohol

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2/14/96

Wheeling officials have fined the owners of a local bar \$500 and are closing it for three days for hiring a minor to serve liquor in the establishment.

Early Tuesday, the Wheeling liquor commission voted 5-0, with one abstention, to give the owners of Matty's Place, 1750 Hintz Road, the penalty for hiring Leora Geppert, 17, as a waitress at the bar to serve alcohol.

"This is a very important issue in this community. ... The point is to let people know what the expectations are," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

David W. Borenstein, attorney for the bar's owners, said his clients would appeal the panel's decision in Cook County Circuit Court.

"We're going to appeal. They (the owners) didn't have the knowledge the crime was being committed," Borenstein said.

Borenstein also said the panel's penalty of closing the bar from March 1 to March 3 would cost the owners \$10,000 in lost revenue.

Kathleen M. Mark and Matthew J. Wilestein, owners of the

business, admitted they hired Geppert, but said they were unaware of her age.

Geppert said the owners knew she was under 18 when she was hired as a waitress. Geppert also said Mark falsified Geppert's job application and had her furnish a false identification for Wheeling police saying she was of age.

Wheeling police July 16 charged the owners with violating a village ordinance by hiring someone under 18 to serve alcohol.

Mark testified there would be no advantage for the business to hire Geppert. She denied falsifying Geppert's job application and said she didn't ask for Geppert's age because she believed that would have violated anti-discrimination laws.

Wheeling village prosecutor Steven J. Handler said that outside of "total closure" of the bar, he couldn't guarantee another violation wouldn't occur there.

"To say, 'We are a victim of Leora Geppert who deceived us,' is ill-founded," Handler said.

In 1993, Matty's Place was fined \$275 for serving liquor after 2 a.m. and preventing police from entering to investigate the matter.

# Volunteers thanked for raising \$4,000 for needy

Daily Herald 2/15/96

The Wheeling Jaycees reports that its Tree Lot project was a success again this year!

A profit of over \$4,000 will help support Jaycee community projects such as holiday family baskets and needy kids shopping sprees.

It's a lot of volunteer time and effort that make projects like these possible. Thanks go out to all of the volunteers who worked at the Tree Lot this year.

The most hours were put in by: Wheeling High School, 93 hours; Chuck McFarlin, 89 hours; John Iverson, 69 hours; Karen Helms, 22½ hours; Evelyn Strauss, 20 hours; Bill Steckling, 19½ hours; and Linda Herman, 14¼ hours.

Iverson was the Jaycees in charge of this year's lot, and the post "Tree Lot Social." Attending the post-party were McFarlin, Helms, Russ and Trish Robbins, Tami Trudeau, Iverson, Ben Kutschied, Lorraine Spencer and Dick Carr and his fiancée, Joy.

For information on on-going Jaycee projects or membership, call (847) 680-1478.

## Tax help

Tax time is coming around the bend!

Trained volunteers will help senior citizens fill out and un-

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



derstand tax forms through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program, co-sponsored by the Wheeling Senior Pavilion and the American Association of Retired Persons.

The program is under the direction of Ben Donahue. To make an appointment or for information, call (847) 459-2670.

## Thanks!

The Wheeling Senior Pavilion would like to thank David G. Schroeder of American Enterprise Bank for sponsoring the entertainment for their Valentine Luncheon Party.

## Register to vote

The village of Wheeling reminds residents that the last day for voter registration for the March 19 general primary election is Monday. For information, call village hall at (847) 459-2600.

Send you Wheeling community news items to: Lisa Schab, Wheeling Neighbor, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, 60006.

# Commuter station land buy gets OK

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently approved the purchase of several acres of land near village hall that will be used for the Wisconsin Central Railroad commuter station.

In a 6-0 vote, the Wheeling village board approved a \$2.4 million acquisition of 8 acres from Meyer Material Co. located just south of W. Dundee Road and west of Northgate Parkway.

With that purchase, all 12 commuter station sites for the 53-mile Wisconsin Central Railroad com-

muter line are now in place.

The Wheeling stop on the line is projected to be its busiest, handling 750 riders a day. Wheeling's station will include 626 parking spaces and a bus turnaround area.

Metra, the commuter rail system, could start work on the line next month. Officials for the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of 40 North and Northwest suburban communities, that is working with Metra on the project, said the line could be completed by Labor Day.

When it's completed, the \$100 million rail line will run from Anti-

och near the Illinois/Wisconsin border to downtown Chicago.

Metra officials have said the rail line will serve 5,400 riders a day and 1.7 million commuters annually.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the rail line would result in more people taking the train to work and reduce air pollution from motor vehicles in the area.

In December, Wheeling trustees approved a \$5 million bond issue for the land purchase and development of the station.

The village will be reimbursed

from state and federal funds for its expenditures on the depot, officials have said.

It took Wheeling several months to negotiate with the company that has a concrete processing plant now on the property.

Under the terms of the agreement, the village will help the company find another site in town where it can relocate its operations.

The village also approved supporting the company's request before the Cook County board to be assessed at a lower property tax rate for an unspecified period.

# Village helps resource center

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling will toss an extra \$1,500 to the Community Resource Center this year.

But maybe even more important to the center, the village is accompanying the extra money with a full endorsement of the agency, which may help it squeeze more grant money from county and federal sources. The only cost is a requirement that the center give trustees a more detailed report of day to day operations.

"The village's contribution is certainly a leverage tool to get funding from other sources," said Linda Mitry, spokeswoman for OMNI Youth Services. "It also provides stability for the Resource Center."

The 3-year-old Resource Center offers Wheeling residents housing assistance, help with family crises, children's programs, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, employment readiness and a job bank, English and continuing education classes, food and clothing assistance, naturalization and immigration rights information, and Spanish/English trans-

lations.

The center is a joint project of the village of Wheeling, which contributed \$20,000 last year, and OMNI Youth Services, which secured \$70,000 of federal funds through the Cook County Block Grant program last year.

But grant money is drying up, which prompted Resource Center backers this year to look not only for some extra dollars, but some extra clout in the grant securing department.

OMNI Associate Executive Director Dennis Depcik said the center received \$10,000 less in grants last year than in its first two years, and expects even less this year.

"We're now applying for funds for the next year, and what we're hearing from the county, is that federal funding is expected to decrease anywhere from 5 (percent) to 25 percent," he said. "We can see that decrease anywhere from \$3,000 to \$15,000."

"Part of the way to get county money is to show that the local village supports your efforts," Depcik said. OMNI also is seeking funds for the Resource Center from the Buffalo Grove/Wheeling United Way and area corporations, he added.

As a co-backer, the village has supported the project from the start, but the latest move was seen as a way for the village to lend additional support.

"They expect their funding to go down and I'm sure some of their costs have gone up," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "It's certainly a good service."

Last year, Depcik said, the Resource Center served between 12,000 and 15,000 Wheeling residents.

"We work with the multicultural population, mainly the Hispanic population, which is the fastest growing ethnic group in Wheeling," said Depcik. "The Resource Center tries to help the multicultural families get better acclimated to the Wheeling area."

"In the beginning, we had to go door to door to let them know we were there and we spoke their language," Depcik said.

Because trustees increased the village's contribution, they now want to receive regular updates about the center's services to Wheeling residents.

"It might be a little more helpful for us to know what they're doing day to day," Anderson said.

# Wheeling corner's fate up for debate

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road in Wheeling is better for a housing development than a shopping center.

That's what the Wheeling village board heard Tuesday from Michael S. Weaver, real estate director for locally based sporting good retailer SportMart.

Weaver, whose company is closing its store at 240 E. Dundee Road, said SportMart has received inquiries about its 4.2-acre site from developers who consider it a prime location for a residential development.

"The highest and best use of the property is not perceived as retail space," said Weaver.

Weaver appeared before the panel seeking permission for the store to display a sign noting it's now an outlet center.

The store is planning to sell its remaining merchandise, and then close its doors.

The store lies in the heart of the redevelopment district village officials had targeted for a retail shopping center.

Weaver said that while the site is located near well-traveled roads, it has limited parking space and visibility. The site is located across the street from the Cook County Forest Preserve.

Previously, at least one other developer has made similar observations about the corner to village officials.

Weaver said his company is closing its Wheeling store within six months, partially because its other units better serve the area. He also said that the site could not accommodate the 40,000-square-foot to 50,000-square-foot store size the company now favors.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz noted that village officials had agreed that the company could expand the store.

Late last year, a Chicago-based developer let its agreement lapse with the village to develop a retail center at the corner.

Currently, village officials are reviewing a proposal by Wheeling-based Joseph Freed and Associates to develop a mixed condominium, professional office and retail space development at the corner.

That plan had originally been rejected by the Wheeling village board.

SportMart is not closing its corporate headquarters in Wheeling, Weaver said.

# Wheeling church calls off Familyfest

2-16-96

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Rising costs and competition from other festivals has proven too much for Wheeling's Familyfest — one of the Northwest suburbs' most popular summer events.

St. Joseph the Worker Church in Wheeling will not hold its annual weeklong Fourth of July Familyfest celebration this summer, church officials said Thursday.

The church cited rising costs and competition from other similar events held in neighboring communities at the same time, such as Frontier Days in Arlington Heights, as reasons why the fest won't see its 14th year.

"It became cost prohibitive, it became extremely competitive (with other fests)," said Joan J. Fichera, who served as publicity director for the event.

"Everybody was raising costs for us: the village, for security; the entertainment," she said.

At its height, the fest drew about 150,000 people, organizers said, over its five-day run.

"There were a number of fests that copied us and we weren't the event we were 10 years ago," said George E. Gaffke, one of the head volunteer organizers for the

event.

"The last couple of years, we probably didn't hit 100,000," he said, noting the church could bring the event back someday.

Familyfest visitors sampled food from Wheeling's renowned restaurants, enjoyed diversions for children and were entertained by acts such as Chubby Checker and Rare Earth.

The event grew from a family picnic with a few rides to a large scale event for the area, said Tina Dean, a St. Joseph's parishioner.

"There are mixed emotions in the parish where Familyfest is concerned. I think the overwhelming emotion is surprise we're not having Familyfest," she said.

The event served as a fundraiser for St. Joseph the Worker School, serving pre-school through eighth-grade students.

However, rising costs and dwindling enrollment forced the church to close the school. Its last day is June 7.

"It was break even. We expected to show a profit for all the work we put in. It was ridiculous, we put in thousands of man-hours. We might have made \$100," said Dave Vogel one of the heads of fest organizing committee.

Vogel said after the event grossed about \$500,000, revenue-

sharing with the restaurant and other expenses reduced its net income.

Fichera noted that the event was held each year with help from "hundreds and hundreds" of volunteers.

Father Fred Brandstrader, who heads the church, said that the costs and time demand took its toll on the volunteers.

"It was a huge gross and the net was lower than they expected. But that was one factor," Brandstrader said. "The people who are leading it are tiring out."

The church is planning to hold a much smaller event for its families this summer, the volunteers said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that because of the yearlong lead time required for holding an event the size of Familyfest, the village would not take on hosting the gala.

Dean said at its core Familyfest was a way the church encouraged community and a giving spirit in Wheeling through volunteerism.

"People who had no involvement in the school they're coming to together to work and give for the benefit of everyone. You have to be able to feel that spirit — That's how Familyfest started," she said.

# Plane-animal collisions reduced at Palwaukee

■ **Palwaukee Airport:** Improved techniques in wildlife control have significantly reduced collisions between airplanes and animals over the past few years, an airport official told members of the Palwaukee Airport Commission on Wednesday night.

"We're doing different things to keep the wildlife off the runways and maintain safety for the [human] flying population, which is our paramount concern," said Dennis G. Rouleau, assistant manager for operations and maintenance at the airport, located in Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Rouleau said letting grass grow longer and using improved harassment techniques have decreased the Canada goose population, which he said was the most dangerous animal to pilots. Geese are uncomfortable near long grass because it conceals predators, according to Rouleau.

He also said airport workers drive around the grounds shooting noise-making, fireworks-like devices into flocks of geese, a method he said was effective but harmless to the geese.

Cal McAllister

# Solicitors face new measure

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Springtime brings with it warmer temperatures, longer days and inevitably, more solicitors knocking on Wheeling homes.

With warmer weather only a couple of months away, village trustees have taken a few steps to further regulate solicitors and peddlers who walk door to door asking for money or selling merchandise.

Solicitors will now be required to produce a village-issued permit upon request.

"If they can't produce a permit issued by the village, the resident should call the police," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We encourage residents to ask for the permit."

"This will be primarily enforced through people calling the police if there is a problem with a solicitor, Anderson said.

The village's previous solicitor ordinance did not specify who needed to apply for a permit or what the requirements were to obtain a permit, Anderson said.

Among the information now requested from solicitors wanting to obtain a permit is a home and business address, phone number, Social Security number, driver's license number and brief description of the activity being conducted.

The application also asks whether the solicitor has been convicted of any felonies.

A memo to trustees from Village Attorney James Rhodes said the permitting process allows the village to better monitor solicitors' activities and gives the village more information about the solicitors.

"This pulls everything together. It was a 'tightening up' of what we already had on the books," Anderson said.

Trustees also set 9 a.m. to 9 (Continued on page 14)

## Solicitors

Continued from page 5

p.m. as the hours solicitors may knock on doors.

"We realize some people would like the hours cut off even earlier, but case law shows us that can't be done," Anderson said. "You have to allow people the opportunity to go out and solicit at night."

Those violating the new ordinance, either by soliciting without a permit or going beyond the specified hours, now face a maximum \$1,000 fine. The previous fine was \$500, Anderson said.

**¶ If they can't produce a permit issued by the village, the resident should call the police. We encourage residents to ask for the permit. ¶**

### Village Manager Craig Anderson

To help villagers protect their privacy, Village Hall hopes to soon stock "No solicitors" stickers for residents to post on their doors.

"(Solicitors) are suppose to heed that warning. If they don't you can call the police," Anderson said. It has not yet been determined whether the stickers will be free to residents or whether there will be a charge, he added.

"What really causes concern, I think, is the late night solicitations," Anderson said.

Organizations that regularly solicit residents, such as the Girl Scouts, will be made aware of the changes in the ordinance, Anderson said.

Wheeling police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said complaints about solicitors have decreased in the last year — a decrease he attributes to more residents posting "No solicitors" signs.

"Most of our calls are from apartment buildings where someone gets in and starts knocking on every door," Hermes said.

Under the new ordinance, he said, an apartment building can post a sign in the main entrance to prohibit solicitors from entering the building.

"The sign doesn't have to be posted on every door" in an apartment building, he added.

Police do receive and respond to residents' calls about solicitors.

"Usually, if someone (who has a sign) calls us about someone knocking on their door, we go out, remind them (solicitors) of the sign and check their permits," Hermes said.

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling considers public relations firm to enhance image

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's image would be enhanced if it promoted itself as a good place to live and own a business, representatives from a public relations firm have told village officials.

Siles and Walsh Ltd., of Arlington Heights, presented a plan to the Wheeling village board this week that representatives said would result in "positive" stories about the village in local publications.

"The goal is to show what a wonderful place Wheeling is to live and own a business," Julia F. Walsh, a principle in the firm and former Arlington Heights village trustee, said.

The firm's plan includes issuing news releases with local media about noteworthy village events, getting residents to discuss Wheeling on a local radio program and persuading a nationally known magazine to write a story highlighting the town's growth.

The firm is seeking a six-month contract at \$2,000 a month with the village. Wheeling trustees will review the contract

further March 4.

Wheeling Trustee Robert J. Heer said the village should have sought bids from other firms for public relations. Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said it would be easier for officials to reach Siles and Walsh than firms based in Chicago and elsewhere.

Other trustees felt the firm could help the village quickly change its image.

"I'd like to see us get something started quickly," Trustee Robert G. Todd said in support of the firm.

The firm has a client list that includes the village of Arlington Heights, the city of Prospect Heights, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and the Wheeling Township Republican Organization.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the firm would help the village enhance its image faster than the Goals 2000 project could.

Under that project, resident committees guided by a consulting firm are working to develop a village improvement plan.

"We can't sit back and wait," Schultz said.

### New development plans offered

Wheeling: The village Plan Commission is seeking board approval of major changes to Wheeling's comprehensive plan, the map that guides future development decisions.

Through the board tabled the measure pending further discussions, trustees seemed to support the measure and its use of new light industrial and planned unit development designations. Under the proposed changes, several areas would be converted to planned unit development status, giving developers more flexibility within a given predetermined land use and certain minimum requirements.

"For the most part we are, in effect, already doing this through the site-plan approval process," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Among the changes being considered are switching the designation of the area southeast of the Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road intersection from office to a mixed residential planned unit development as well as reclassifying the area west of Milwaukee Avenue and between Wolf Road and Mayer Avenue from retail commercial to light industrial.

Patrick O'Toole

# Village to buy land for station

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees have taken another step toward bringing commuter rail service to residents.

Last week, trustees agreed to spend up to \$2.4 million to purchase the Meyer Material Co. property at 129 Railroad Ave., which will be the future site of the train depot and commuter parking.

The Wisconsin Central commuter line, expected to open late this summer, will carry passengers from Antioch to Franklin Park, where it will connect them with trains going into Chicago.

Wheeling is expected to be one of the largest stops along the route.

The purchase price may be slightly less if the company that owns the land does not relocate its business.

The \$2.4 million purchase price includes the plant where the company currently makes concrete, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"They would like to relocate (in Wheeling), and are looking at a site on Northgate Parkway. If that happens, we'll pay them the full amount. If not, we'll pay them less," Anderson said.

"Either way, it's a good price and the good news is we get the property we need now to begin construction," he added.

Later this month, the village expects to open bids on the depot construction project and award a bid, he said.

"We hope to start construction as soon as weather permits, hoping we get some good bids," Anderson said.

# Street design keeps Wheeling from backing town house plan

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials indicated they'll support town houses proposed for the northeast part of town if concerns about street layout can be straightened out.

Wheeling officials on Monday indicated they may back developer Larry P. Kanar's proposal to develop a seven-unit town house building on a 0.88-acre site at Krause Lane.

Kanar said that because of physical, market and village code restrictions, he could not place single-family houses or an office building there. Kanar also noted that under the village's current zoning for the parcel, he could build an eight-unit apartment building instead.

"It's not one of the typically in-fill sites for single-family housing in the village," said Kanar, who is president of Wheeling-based developer Coral Enterprises Inc.

The undeveloped property is just east of Milwaukee Avenue and south of Edgewood Drive. Kanar said his company hopes to develop town houses on the property that will be up to 2,000 square feet each and will cost from

\$140,000 to \$160,000.

Wheeling officials said they opposed putting apartments on the property. They also were concerned about the site because it is not wide enough for a street that meets village requirements.

"It seems that whatever you're going to do there will need to be some deviations from our requirements," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Wheeling officials were concerned that since the street wouldn't meet village requirements, they couldn't write a maintenance agreement for a privately owned thoroughfare.

Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said the village does not accept substandard streets from developers.

Kanar and Michael Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development, agreed to investigate a street maintenance agreement. Wheeling trustees previously had rejected Kanar's plan for town houses on the property over zoning concerns.

Klitzke's department will review Kanar's plans and report back to the board at an unspecified date.

## Wheeling receives praise for work on tobacco ban

2-23-96  
Wheeling officials received a certificate of commendation from the Cook County Department of Health for enacting an ordinance that bans minors from buying or possessing tobacco.

Wheeling officials were lauded by the county for enacting an ordinance that bans those under 18 from purchasing or possessing tobacco or smoking herbs.

The ordinance, that Wheeling trustees approved last month, also makes it illegal for retailers to sell tobacco to minors. Businesses caught selling tobacco to minors face penalties that include suspension or revocation of their village retail licenses.

The law also calls for minors caught using false identification to purchase tobacco to receive fines of up to \$500.

With the recently enacted restrictions, Wheeling joins other area towns such as Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights that also have such ordinances on their books.

### Trustees give OK to park plan changes

Wheeling trustees approved changes to the Wheeling Park District's plans for developing Childerley Park that include allowing a delay in construction of a path around the facility.

The village board backed a plan commission recommendation for modifications to the park district's original plans for the park

### WHEELING BOARD NOTES

at 506 N. McHenry Road.

Village officials had called for another review of the park district's plans when park officials opted not to construct a 10-foot-wide perimeter path around the 13-acre park.

Park officials had said installation of a path that wide would cost more than the 8-foot wide path they proposed.

Village officials sought the wider path so a police car could patrol the park.

Under the development conditions the trustees approved for Childerley the park district can omit the path for now, but if they install one it must have a 10-foot width.

Park officials plan to eventually install such amenities as sand volleyball courts, a picnic shelter and play equipment area at the park.

### Leukemia group cleared for tag day

Wheeling trustees approved a request by the Leukemia Research Foundation to hold a tag day fund raising drive in the village on May 18.

The Lincolnwood-based group will have its volunteers seeking donations at intersections throughout the village.

## Wheeling studies new ambulance fee, telephone service tax

2-28-96  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are considering a telecommunications tax and ambulance fee to increase village revenues in the 1996-97 budget.

Wheeling officials, who say spending requests now exceed projected revenues by \$600,000, are considering alternative sources of revenue for the proposed \$33.1 million village budget.

"The objective is to decrease reliance on the property tax," Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said this week.

Wheeling officials are still studying the telecommunications tax and ambulance fee proposals and haven't hammered out details of either measure yet.

The village currently does not charge a fee for ambulance service or tax telephone service.

"We're looking into something that doesn't hurt people scrimping by on their savings," Trustee Patrick Horcher said.

Wheeling trustees rejected raising the village's property tax

rate to make up the difference.

Wheeling officials are also considering raising the water and sewer rates in response to rising costs for water services.

New spending requests for the next fiscal year include hiring a police officer, three firefighters and two workers for the operations and maintenance department.

The village is faced with a sharp reduction in the revenue after the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District changed its contract with Wheeling last summer and opted instead for protection from the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District Fire Department. A circuit court judge upheld the district's decision.

Previously, the district paid Wheeling more than \$500,000 annually for fire protection.

Wheeling officials are now seeking to have a Cook County Circuit Court judge reconsider its request for an injunction against the district.

The Wheeling village board will review the budget further March 11.

They're expected to vote on the document April 15.

## Developer found for town-house plan

2-27-96  
BY DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have found another developer to develop a proposed town-house project near Walt Whitman School.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said recently that Realen Homes Inc. will develop a 40-unit town-house development on 7.8 acres at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The company, based in Philadelphia with an Inverness office, replaces locally based Joseph Freed and Associates, which let its agreement with the village to develop the property expire. "It's basically the same plan," Anderson said, comparing Realen's proposal to Freed's prior plans. Anderson added Realen's proposal could be reviewed by the plan commission later this spring.

Village officials have targeted the parcel, which lies in Wheeling's redevelopment district, for town houses. Wheeling officials have pledged to use village funds to purchase the land from its owners and then resell it to the developer. Some residents living near the site had objected to Freed's plans saying the development would take away a play area for students near the school.

"I'm very committed to building a development that everyone can be proud of and people won't mind being neighbors to," said Larry D. Johannessen, vice president and Chicago division manager for Realen. Anderson said the village would also sell 1.9 acres of the property to Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 for use as a recreational area. When Freed proposed setting aside 1.9 acres for recreational use some neighbors said the company didn't allocate enough land for such purposes.

"It's a rehash of a plan that wasn't satisfactory before," said Gary Hittleman, a neighbor and member of S.P.A.C.E., Save Precious Acreage for Children's Employment, residents' group. Hittleman said S.P.A.C.E. is actively campaigning against the town houses in that area. Recently, the District 21 board agreed to work with the village to acquire the recreational land. District 21 officials said the entire 7.8 acre costs \$1.5 million.

Countryside 2/29/96

### Milwaukee Road work begins

The Illinois Department of Transportation will begin work March 11 on Milwaukee Avenue from Hintz Road to Industrial Lane near Wheeling.

The work will involve reconstruction of the roadway and construction of a new bridge. There will be temporary daytime closures only with one lane open in each direction until after April 1 when there will be permanent closures with one lane closed in each direction. The project is expected to be completed by November.

Kustom Construction of Lombard is the contractor for the \$3.6 million project.

### Liquor commission fines store

The Wheeling Liquor Commission has fined Matty's Place, 1750 Hintz Road, \$500 and will suspend its liquor license for three days in response to charges that someone under 18 years old was hired as a waitperson last summer and allowed to serve alcohol.

In Illinois, one must be at least 18 years old to serve alcohol.

Matty's Place will be closed March 1-3 because of the license suspension, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

# Village to spend \$12,000 to promote image

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER  
CountrySide 2/29/96

Wheeling officials believe their community has a lot to offer its residents, and trustees on Monday are expected to vote whether to temporarily hire a public relations firm to spread that sentiment.

Siles and Walsh Ltd. of Arlington Heights has submitted a \$12,000 proposal for six months of public relations work for the village.

Public relations is one of the issues being investigated by the Marketing and Image Committee of the Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond strategic improvement plan project. The various committees were formed in November by citizen volunteers.

Diane Siles of Siles and Walsh is

listed as a member of that Marketing and Image Committee. The committee's report on how to make Wheeling a better place to live is not expected until late this year.

"What we're really looking for is help with feature type articles" that highlight positive news within Wheeling, such as the recent opening of C.K. Finer Foods in Lynn Plaza, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The firm, if hired, would be expected to meet weekly with village staff to determine which issues need to be publicized, most often through local newspapers and radio stations, he said.

Wheeling's vacant stores were a leading issue in last year's trustees' election but, Anderson said, the village has been able to maintain its

strong industrial base, and the reasons for that should be promoted to other businesses.

"We have attracted a lot of industry, and probably for good reasons. Maybe one idea (for a feature article) would be why they come to the village and what they do," he said. "There are industries in Wheeling that make things we use everyday that people aren't aware of."

Trustees Patrick Horcher and Bob Heer, who were both elected as independents in April 1995 partially on a platform of improving Wheeling's image, have similar thoughts on the proposal.

Horcher said he would be willing to hire the firm on a temporary basis. Heer declined to say how he plans to vote, but "if we can convince people

to think of Wheeling as a viable place to live and work, maybe it would be worth it," he said.

However, neither feels comfortable voting when only one bid is presented.

"I would have liked to see prices from other companies, and I'll push for it," Horcher said. "I don't see anything wrong with hiring a company for six months and seeing how they do. We need to get out some positive things that are going on in the village, and there are positive things going on, but there must be someone on staff who could do it."

"I will vote for it because we need to get out the information and apparently the village hasn't been able to do it on its own," Horcher said, adding.

(Continued on page 82)

## LOCAL REPORT

### Firefighting training center moves step closer to reality

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove planning officials next month will review a proposal to build a facility where firefighters from the village, Long Grove and Wheeling can train in how to save lives.

And for Buffalo Grove Fire Chief Thomas C. Allenspach, it's been a long time coming — four years since planning began.

"It means that we are finally getting started with this project," Allenspach said.

The training facility is a joint project between the fire departments of Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and the Long Grove Rural Fire Protection District.

A four-level training tower designed to simulate a burning building will be the main feature of the center. The structure will include rooms and an elevator shaft where firefighters will extinguish blazes.

The 4.6 acre center, which will be located on the southeast corner of Deerfield Parkway and Krause Drive in Buffalo Grove, also will eventually include areas where firefighters can train

in how to extinguish flammable liquid fires and blazes in tanker trucks and train cars.

Departments now conduct drills on a sporadic basis and often have to travel throughout the area, Allenspach said.

The new center will enable the departments to train more frequently, which is vital, he added.

"Training is everything in the fire service. We don't have the opportunity to train on the job," Allenspach said. "When your house catches on fire that is not the time to train. This will enable us to do that training."

Buffalo Grove's village board recently unanimously forwarded the proposal to the plan commission, which is expected to review it next month, said Village Planner Robert Pfeil. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 20 at the village hall, 50 Raupp Blvd., Buffalo Grove.

The facility is expected to cost \$540,000, with the expense shared equally by the three departments.

Allenspach said that construction on the facility could begin as early as this summer and conclude later this year.

ing that perhaps the firm could show village staff members how to handle public relations on their own.

Heer said the village may be overlooking its greatest resource in deciding what to do about public relations — the Marketing and Image Committee of the Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond project.

"I'd like to address individuals on the committee, they're the ones donating their time to work this through," Heer said. "What better source than to talk to the committee members? They're the people who live here."

Heer, too, thinks the board should have a choice of more bids and proposals before hiring Siles and Walsh.

"I'd like to see different people brought in," Heer said. "I'm not attacking the credentials of Siles and Walsh, I'm sure they would do a fine job, but I'd like to hear others say, 'This is what we can do for you.'"

In addition to touting the village's industrial areas and restaurant row, Anderson said, the public relations firm also would be helpful this summer

when construction crews bury phone and cable lines along Milwaukee Avenue from Manchester Drive to Strong Avenue.

"It appears there will be a lot of work this summer with the cable burial," he said.

**'We have attracted a lot of industry, and probably for good reasons. Maybe one idea (for a feature article) would be why they come to the village and what they do.'**

Though this TIF-funded project is not expected to affect traffic, he said, "businesses need to be made aware of it. Perhaps there will be times when the electricity will need to be shut off."

Simply eliminating these overhead wires at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road will

do much to improve the village's image, Anderson said.

If the public relations firm is still working with the village by next summer when the Milwaukee Avenue road construction is slated to begin, it could make residents aware of possible traffic pattern changes, he said.

Siles and her partner, Julia Walsh, have done public relations work for Arlington International Racecourse, the city of Prospect Heights, Township High School District 214 Education Foundation, Laidlaw Waste Systems and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

In the proposal submitted to Wheeling, they plan to set up radio interviews, create public service announcements, run newspaper columns, publish reports from Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond, seek news articles and features about Wheeling businesses and activities, and apply for appropriate awards and recognition.

Their goal is "to inform the public of the village's history, progress and future plans, promoting Wheeling as a desirable place to live and own a business," the proposal states.

### Palwaukee Airport may add flights if Chicago airfield closes

By JILL JANOV  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Thousands more flights could land at suburban airports if Meigs Field closes and the tiny lakefront airfield becomes a public beach, state officials said.

State transportation spokesman Dick Adorjan predicted that downtown business owners would abandon Chicago if the airfield becomes a park. He said these companies would seek suburban spots where they could land corporate jets at small airports in Wheeling and West Chicago.

"Palwaukee and DuPage are very large reliever airports and could handle it," Adorjan said. "But the problem is taking those flights

from downtown and just further creating an incentive for businesses to leave the city for the suburbs. That creates additional job erosion within the city."

The state, along with the Friends of Meigs Field and several aircraft groups who are opposing the move, say the airport boosts the local economy by as much as \$57 million a year and serves Loop businesses.

The groups are fighting Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's decision to close Meigs and turn it into a park, garden and sailing beach. Daley is expected to detail his plans early next week.

Those defending the airport are wondering where Meigs' 51,058

See MEIGS on Page 9

### Median choice remains for Highway 83 neighbors

Wheeling: By 1998 at the latest, the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to reconstruct Illinois Highway 83 between Palatine Road and Dundee Road to make it wider and possibly more attractive.

The only question for village residents is whether to support the installation of a grassy, tree-lined median strip to improve the appearance of the major artery or to retain easy turning access with mountable concrete medians.

"It will probably be some combination of the two," says Village President Sheila Schultz.

Monday, IDOT held a public hearing in Wheeling, where about 30 residents expressed varying opinions about the medians. Those who live in subdivisions near the road fear that a reduced number of turning lanes in the green median plan would force them to drive well out of their way to enter and exit their neighborhoods.

In any event, the matter must be decided by the Village Board in a matter of weeks as IDOT's planning group moves into final drafting stage of the reconstruction, which is set to begin in the fall of 1998 but could be moved up to 1997, said IDOT engineer Patrick Pechnick.

Aside from maintenance of the "green" median, the cost of the two types of median is the same, Pechnick noted.

Patrick O'Toole

# Village, park flap doesn't delay park

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside* 2/24/96

Despite a setback in receiving village approval, renovations under way at Childerley Park still are expected to be completed this summer.

Plans call for the 13-acre park at 506 N. McHenry Road to be developed for passive recreation, including two sand volleyball courts, a playground, a picnic shelter and restrooms. An 84-space parking lot also will be built with one full access from McHenry Road.

An original plan included two more sand volleyball courts, four small picnic shelters, two curb cuts on McHenry Road, and a perimeter path to provide access for police patrol cars.

Because of high cost estimates, the Park Board scaled back that plan which the village approved in October 1994. However, it was the Illinois Department of Transportation that has jurisdiction over McHenry Road which decided to limit the project to one curb cut.

The new plan is expected to cost between \$650,000 and \$675,000, according to Parks Director Karop Bavougian.

It wasn't until park officials came into Village Hall to apply for construction per-



Tim J. Puffy/Pioneer Press

**John Cederlund, president of Reil Construction, and Wheeling Superintendent of Parks and Planning Mark Harrison look over plans last week at Childerley Park.**

mits last fall that the village learned of the altered plan.

In light of the new plan, the proposal in January was sent back to the Plan Commission and Village Board for approval, although Bavougian argued that the changes were not significant enough

to warrant a full review.

Because the Park District was anxious to begin construction, trustees requested that the approval process be expedited.

"We may be delayed a little bit, but nothing to write home about," said Bavou-

gian. The park was, and still is, expected to be completed sometime this summer.

While the Park District was awaiting village approval, construction at Childerley has been limited.

At the January meeting, Village Attorney James

Rhodes said any construction undertaken without village approval would be done at the Park District's own risk. That warning did not do much to impede construction.

"We've done a lot of excavation, poured some curbs and gutters, removed trees and are putting in some playground equipment," Bavougian said. A house on the property has been removed, though the chapel will stay.

Last week, trustees granted approval of the revised plan, with the conditions that when the perimeter path is constructed it will be 10 feet wide and that the Park District will plant trees along McHenry Road or contribute \$3,000 to the village's street tree program.

Bavougian said planting the trees and other landscaping may not be completed until the fall.

The perimeter path, requested by the Wheeling Police Department so patrols could circle the park, has been eliminated from the current plan because of cost.

Bavougian said the Park District still intends to build the path when it finds the money to do so.

"That's something we would look at. We'd like to build it," he said.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

## Questions surround proposal to widen Rte. 83 in Wheeling

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

number of turn lanes into residential areas.

"There are some access issues," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. IDOT has not yet determined if it will use the landscaped road barrier, which is more aesthetically pleasing, or a mountable barrier that motorists can drive over, Anderson said.

Wheeling Park District officials would like a left-turn access from Route 83 immediately east into Childerley Park at 506 McHenry Road, said Mark Harrison, the park district's superintendent of parks and planning.

Work on Route 83 is expected to take a year to complete, Pechnick said.

Michael Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development, said his office would review IDOT's plans and make a recommendation about them to the village board.

Some Wheeling residents are raising concerns about a state proposal to expand a section of Route 83 in the village.

Wheeling officials this week said they are studying plans by the Illinois Department of Transportation to widen a portion of Route 83 through the village from Palatine to Dundee roads.

The state is planning to expand the road to four lanes, adding one lane in each direction. Turn lanes would be built in 1998, said Patrick J. Pechnick, project and environmental studies section chief for IDOT.

Some Wheeling residents who viewed the proposal at a recent village board meeting raised concerns about the possibility a landscaped concrete barrier would be used to divide the road, which would limit the

## Wheeling, Prospect Heights seek Palwaukee airport funding

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

are seeking help from the senator to secure funding from the Federal Aviation Administration. A spokesman for Moseley-Braun's office said the senator would lend a sympathetic ear to Palwaukee funding appeals because the airport is the third busiest in Illinois, it relieves traffic at O'Hare International Airport and lures businesses to the area.

"When you have a U.S. senator on your side, it's helpful," the spokesman said.

Airport officials are seeking at least \$3.5 million to free up some airport land by relocating a dangerous drainage ditch that cuts through Palwaukee.

Airport officials have previously raised concerns that a delay in federal funding could indefinitely postpone the drainage ditch project.

The Wheeling-based airport follows O'Hare and Midway in number of flights.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials will meet with U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun and other lawmakers Friday to seek federal funding for improvements at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

A group that includes Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford, managers from both towns and Palwaukee Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. will meet with the senator Friday at her Washington, D.C. office.

"We haven't done this before. There are things that need to be done at Palwaukee and they need federal funding," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"We want to keep things rolling." Officials from the two towns, which jointly operate Palwaukee,

# Bad years spell death of Familyfest

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside* 3-7-96

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Wheeling has pulled the plug on the parish's annual five-day Familyfest.

The festival, held over the Fourth of July each summer, has suffered through years of uncooperative weather and dwindling proceeds, said George Gaffke, co-chairman of last year's Familyfest.

"The costs to put Familyfest on have steadily grown and proceeds have steadily decreased," Gaffke said. "Also, weather has been a factor."

Last year, rains forced the cancellation of the festival on July Fourth and washed out the village's fireworks display, Gaffke said.

"The Fourth is always our biggest producing day. To lose that was devastating," he said. In 1994, heavy winds knocked over several tents on the Fourth of July, again scaring away patrons.

"It seems we're prone to weather conditions that

we have no control over," he added.

When St. Joseph's parish started Familyfest 14 years ago, Gaffke said, it was unique to the area, attracting between 75,000 and 100,000 visitors during the five-day event.

Now, the festival competes heavily with Arlington Heights Frontier Days, Taste of Chicago and a Fourth of July festival in Mundelein. More recent years have seen attendance totals drop to about 50,000.

"This past year we did not do extremely well (financially)," Gaffke said. With that in mind, he said, "We brought together the parish, all those who work for Familyfest, and the decision (to cancel) was a collective one."

"We struggled with it. We thought it was time to do something else," he said, adding that there is possibility Familyfest could be reinstated in future years.

Though raising admission prices could have helped the festival bring in more money, doing so

would have taken away from the goal of Familyfest, he said.

"Initially, the whole intention was to bring families together in a parish-type atmosphere that was fun, that was affordable, and raise money for the church," he said. Therefore, drastically increasing prices was not a viable option, he added.

Likewise, hiring fewer bands or offering fewer rides would have made it even more difficult to compete with nearby festivals.

No plans are definite, but parish leaders are discussing a family picnic as one alternative, he said. The parish has several fund-raisers among its members throughout the year, and is investigating other fund-raisers to replace Familyfest, he said.

With the recent announcement that St. Joseph's Elementary School will close at the end of the school year and now hearing that Familyfest has been canceled, Gaffke said, "All of this has put everything on the back burner" regarding alternate fund-raisers.

# Metra has yet to decide rail line's new schedule

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

3-7-96

The opening of the Wisconsin Central commuter line is not expected for at least another six months, but rumors already are circulating as potential riders speculate about a train schedule.

Residents have contacted both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling village halls to inquire about the Wisconsin Central train schedule, but neither village has any information to offer.

In Buffalo Grove, Assistant Village Manager Lee Szymborzski said Metra has not yet mentioned any scheduling possibilities to village staff, he said.

"I would think we would be the first to hear," Szymborzski said.

Likewise Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village has no information to give the few people who have asked about schedules.

"I'm kind of curious myself," Anderson said. "We haven't heard anything from Metra about the commuter schedule."

Though commuters seem to grow more anxious by the day, Metra says it is not keeping the schedule secret. There is no tentative schedule.

"The schedule hasn't been ascertained yet," said Metra spokesman Chris Knapton. "We're not close enough yet."

The new commuter line is not expected to open until Labor Day, give or take 30 days, Knapton said.

Wisconsin Central commuters will ride from Antioch to Franklin Park, where the train will switch tracks and continue into Chicago's Union Station.

Tentatively, Metra expects to run three trains into Chicago in the morning hours, at

30-minute intervals, then three trains out of Chicago during the evening rush, again at 30-minute intervals, Knapton said.

One midday round trip also is expected, he said. But plans can change at any time, he noted.

Computer simulation models, which show the train stopping at all 11 depots, estimate travel time from Antioch into Chicago's Union Station to be a little over an hour, Knapton said.

For the 50-mile trip, that amount of time seems comparable to other means of transportation, he said.

"That's subject to change as well. We can't change our route too easily in railroading, but we can change the schedule" if certain stops are not successful, he said.

If any stops are eliminated, the travel time would be shortened, he added.

"We won't run any trains until the stations and parking lots are done," Knapton said, noting that 11 municipalities are building depots for the new commuter line.

Both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are building depots for the commuter line.

"So far everyone seems to be going at a satisfactory pace. We'll have to see how the summer construction season goes," he added.

Construction is under way at Buffalo Grove's train station, being built near Busch Road and Commerce Court.

In Wheeling, trustees recently approved final agreements to clear the way for construction to begin on the former Meyer Materials property near Dundee Road and the tracks. Bids from firms vying to build the depot were opened last week.

"As soon as they can start, the better," Anderson said, anticipating that trustees will approve a bid this month. "I think we're fine as far as timing goes."

## Northwest notes/Government

### ROLLING MEADOWS 3-6-96

The City Council recently agreed to annex 2.2 acres of land of unincorporated Palatine Township property into the city for an 8-lot single-family development on Emerson Avenue.

The council recently approved a \$46,255 bid with Albin Carlson Co. of Melrose Park to rehabilitate the Three Fountains Bridge over Salt Creek because of deterioration to the bridge deck beams.

The council recently agreed to spend \$250,000 of Motor Fuel Tax funds to repair and resurface streets during 1996.

### Streamwood

The official results of a special census showed the village gained 2,500 residents since the last census to a new population of 33,705. At \$87 per capita, the village expects to gain \$217,500 more this year, said village finance director David Richardson.

The Village Board recently approved spending \$990,000 of the Motor Fuel Tax funds to reconstruct five roads. The streets to be repaired include portions of McCabe Drive, Hillside Drive, Stowell Avenue, Bussey Court and Genualdi Avenue.

The board recently approved buying an eight-passenger 1996 Ford Club Wagon for \$18,019 from Landmark Ford of Springfield. The van, which will replace a 1988 van, is used by the Streamwood Fire Department as the command vehicle on fire and rescue incidents.

### West Dundee

The village has recently been accepted into the Illinois Main Street Program, which helps villages to enhance and maintain their downtown areas.

The village has entered into negotiations with Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc. to renew its refuse and recycling contract.

### Wheeling

The city has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the sixth year.

# Other activities may fill the void

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

3-7-96  
Country Club

Even though St. Joseph's Familyfest has been canceled this year, Wheeling residents still will be able to enjoy traditional Fourth of July activities without leaving the village.

The village has moved its annual parade back to the Fourth of July.

For the last two years, the parade has been held on Wheeling's Founders Day in late June. The parade was initially moved in 1994 to coincide with the village's yearlong centennial celebration.

Last year, village officials decided to keep the parade in June to avoid conflicts of marching groups with other Fourth of July parades.

The recent decision to return the parade to the Fourth was made independently of St. Joseph's and was not influenced by the church's decision to cancel Familyfest, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"That was the day more people seemed to prefer," Anderson said, noting that it is more acceptable to residents to close streets for the parade

on a national holiday when most are not working.

Fireworks also will be part of the village's celebration this year, Anderson said.

"I'm not sure we have plans to do anything on a grander scale," Anderson said. "I'm sure the (village's) Special Events Committee will be discussing it."

**'I'm not sure we have plans to do anything on a grander scale.'**

To fill the gap left by the cancellation of Familyfest, the Wheeling Park District is toying with several ideas of what activities could be planned for July Fourth.

"Right now we're in the process of planning something for the Fourth of July," said Park District spokeswoman Trudy Wakeman.

Suggestions range from a simple family picnic to a larger festival with a band performance, she said.

Wakeman met last week with the village's Special Events Committee to discuss how much money we'll have to spend, but we are planning to do something," Wakeman said.

Bob Heer, village trustee and liaison to the Special Events Committee, said he will be approaching the Village Board to ask for money so the committee can hire entertainment prior to the fireworks.

The cost of entertainment is expected to be shared between the village and Park District, he added.

Events Committee to discuss plans. "We don't know how much we're going to be able to do,

# Board's action clears way for addition

## WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

The Wheeling village board approved zoning variations that will allow the Andreas Company at 661 Glenn Ave. to expand its business.

In a unanimous 6-0 vote, Wheeling trustees approved zoning variations that will allow the electronics company to construct a 7,585 square-foot addition to its building.

The addition will be used for warehouse space, company officials said.

## Fund-raisers approved for two organizations

Wheeling trustees granted

requests from Misericordia and Catholic Charities organizations to hold fund-raising tag day efforts in the village.

Wheeling trustees are allowing the Misericordia organization, a residential facility for physically and developmentally challenged children and adults, to conduct their fund-raising efforts on April 26 and April 27 at various locations.

Catholic Charities, a not-for-profit group representing the Chicago

Catholic Archdiocese, will hold its fund-raising efforts at various locations in Wheeling on Sept. 13 and Sept. 14.

## Village to purchase six modular workstations

Wheeling trustees approved the purchase of six modular work stations for \$17,865.21 for the operations and maintenance department.

In a 6-0 vote, the trustees approved purchasing the work stations from Business Office Systems, Inc. of Itasca. The company was the

low bidder of the six vying for the village's business.

## President names March Red Cross month

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz proclaimed March to be American Red Cross Month in the village. The proclamation reads in part that the American Red Cross is "the largest social service agency in the world". In the proclamation Schultz urges residents to become involved with Mid-American Chapter of the volunteer organization.

# Social agencies ask Wheeling trustees to increase funds

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Several social service agencies Monday requested \$120,935 in funding from Wheeling trustees, which is 10.8 percent more than the \$109,075 they received this year.

As a part of their efforts to set the upcoming 1996-97 fiscal year budget, Wheeling trustees heard requests from the social service agencies for a slice of the village's new spending plan.

The largest funding request came from Buffalo Grove-based Omni Youth Services, which is seeking \$77,500 from the village. Last year, Omni received \$75,000 from Wheeling.

Trustee Robert J. Heer questioned whether the village was paying for duplicate counseling services by referring cases to Omni and having a social worker on the Wheeling Police Department.

"I'm concerned that we're duplicating and tripling services," Heer said.

Omni's Executive Director J. Harry Wells said his agency concentrates on services for adolescents while the village's

social worker handles adults cases.

"This is not a duplication of social services," Wells said. Wells reported that his agency served 782 Wheeling residents in the last year. The agency offers counseling, a variety of youth programs and outpatient substance abuse treatment.

Agencies that deal with the needs of youths made up the majority of the funding requests to the Wheeling village board again this year.

Those organizations seeking Wheeling's funds includes the locally-based Horizon's Children Center, the Children's Advocacy Center from Hoffman Estates, Arlington Heights based-Resource Center for the Elderly, Shelter, Inc. from Palatine and the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army has a counseling office in Arlington Heights. All the agencies noted they serve Wheeling residents.

Wheeling trustees will approve the new budget and set social service allocations by April 15. Under the proposed new budget, Wheeling officials are projecting \$33.1 million in overall spending.

# Palwaukee airport seeks help of senator to get federal funds

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun is supporting efforts by Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials to expedite federal funding for improvements at the airport.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford and managers from the two towns met with the senator Friday at her Washington, D.C., office to discuss airport funding.

"The senator agreed to raise the issue" with Transportation Secretary Federico Pena, said Matt Weisman, Moseley-Braun's assistant press secretary. Moseley-Braun met with Pena on Friday.

Palwaukee officials sought the senator's help to get the Federal Aviation Administration to move

up on its funding priority list the \$3.5 million project for relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch that cuts through the airport.

Both towns operate the airport under an intergovernmental agreement.

Palwaukee officials have said relocating the ditch would reduce a safety hazard at Palwaukee and make more land available for development.

Airport officials previously have said uncertainty over federal funding could postpone indefinitely the drainage ditch relocation project.

"We just want to complete a couple of these major things like the relocation of the ditch. A lot of things hinge on that. ... It's going to make it extremely difficult if the federal share isn't there," said Anthony Altieri, chairman of the airport commission.

# Wheeling offers community scholarship

The village of Wheeling is accepting applications for the community's third annual scholarship program, which is co-sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Private Industry Council of Northern Cook County.

Applicants must be residents of Wheeling, demonstrate financial need, be a first-time, continuing or returning student, and demonstrate academic ability.

For information, contact Joni Beaudry at Village Hall, 459-2605, or public relations coordinator Jacki Kelley at 699-9040, Ext. 158. Applications are due to Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, by 3 p.m. April 8.

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are seeking residents to serve on a human rights panel to mediate disputes between individuals in the village.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said recently that the village wants five residents to serve on the ad hoc panel which was created under the town's human rights ordinance.

"There's no special background needed. You have to be a resident," Anderson said about requirements for serving on the panel.

The ordinance is designed to mediate disputes residents may have over housing, credit transactions, real estate transactions, public accommodations, contracts or employment issues.

The measure is largely advisory and the village does not have disciplinary authority in those areas. If the panel cannot resolve a dispute between residents, the ordinance specifies the complainants should be given the proper information to take the matter to court, state or federal authorities.

Under the ordinance, the panel has 120 days to help complainants resolve their conflict before they are referred to other agencies.

Wheeling officials said the ordinance was needed to put all the different measures covering human rights in one section in the village code.

The village started work on the ordinance, approved by the trustees last June.

The measure is modeled after a similar one used by Cook County. Wheeling's human rights ordinance excludes such areas as banking because village officials said other government agencies regulate those areas more effectively than the municipality can.

Village officials have said the ordinance would promote mutual understanding and respect among different groups in Wheeling.

Those interested in serving on the panel can call the village at 459-2600.

Anderson said that the panel will start hearing complaints once all its seats are filled with residents.

# Residents sought for mediation panel

## Subdivision tries to halt Northbrook annexation

Wheeling: Seeking to avert involuntary annexation into Northbrook, homeowners in an unincorporated Cook County subdivision asked Wheeling to accept their petition of voluntary annexation.

Wheeling trustees accepted their petition Monday, hearing by one day a scheduled vote by Northbrook's Village Board to annex the 24 homes in the Forest View subdivision, which is next to a Cook County Forest Preserve. A final decision could be made by its residents at a later date.

Longtime Forest View resident Phillip Pryby said most neighbors would have been happy to remain

unincorporated, but Northbrook officials had planned to use their right to annex contiguous unincorporated properties at its meeting Tuesday.

"It hurt most of us because nobody [from Northbrook] came to us and said 'Hey, this is what we're planning to do,'" Pryby said. Instead, a stranger sent a letter tipping them off to public notice of the annexation plans, which was published March 7 in a community newspaper.

A deal likely will be struck with Northbrook or Wheeling in the coming weeks.

Patrick O'Toole

# Airport funds may be drying up

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Many improvements at Palwaukee Municipal Airport hinge on the relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch.

The uncertainty that funds will be available for that project now has airport commissioners concerned.

Tony Altieri, who recently was elected chairman of the Airport Commission, said the government's attitude toward airports has changed dramatically since Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased Palwaukee 10 years ago.

"When we got into this, the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and the Aviation Division (of the Illinois Department of Transportation) were funding a lot of the things we needed," said Altieri, who has served on the commission since its inception in 1986.

"Finally, we've spent a lot of effort acquiring land (the former Twin Drive-in Theater property) and doing studies. The relocation of Hintz and Wolf (roads) is complete. The next project is moving the

drainage ditch to make unbuildable land available to us," Altieri said.

Some construction is ongoing at Palwaukee — a new control tower is being built, as are some hangars. But unless funding comes through for the ditch to be moved away from the main runway, Altieri said, building more hangars and a new taxiway could be postponed indefinitely.

"Hopefully, we'll put our best efforts into it so the funding comes through and we can go through with our plans," he said.

The airport has purchased the drive-in property, but the drainage ditch cannot be moved without more money. Airport commissioners remain hopeful they will receive the necessary funding. Altieri wants proof.

"Until we really see the grant appropriation, I'm still a little concerned," he said. Moving the ditch is "the key to opening up these lands" where more hangars could be built, he said.

Building more covered storage, or T-hangars, was

one of the suggestions made by pilots in a users survey last year.

Hangars could become an even greater concern if Chicago proceeds with plans to close Meigs Field on the lakefront.

"If it's gone, those people would need some other place to go," Altieri said, noting that some would probably move to Midway or Waukegan airports. "I'm sure we could pick up some additional corporate customers, but I don't know what their time frame is."

"If that does happen and there are more corporate uses looking for hangar space, we'll be in a real crunch," Altieri added.

Altieri and his fellow commissioners also want to make the airport more friendly to residents. The commission hosted its first open house at the airport last year and plan to make that an annual event.

As Palwaukee celebrates its 10th anniversary as a municipal airport, Altieri said, the commission may plan something more elaborate this year.

# Aesthetics or access at stake for Route 83

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees have a couple of weeks to decide what kind of median they would prefer when Route 83 is widened, keeping in mind that a landscaped median may be more aesthetically pleasing, but would limit access to the roadway.

The Illinois Department of Transportation held an open house last week at Wheeling Village Hall to give residents the opportunity to comment on the agency's plans.

For now, IDOT is concentrating on widening Route 83 from Palatine to Dundee roads to add a left-turn lane. Route 83 from Dundee to Lake-Cook is expected to be widened as well, but not for at least five years, IDOT officials said.

Trustees will decide whether IDOT should design the plans with a landscaped barrier median or a raised mountable median.

"The village had requested IDOT to look at a landscaped barrier median, if possible," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "The thought there is to make it look nicer."

"The downside, unless you put in a lot of breaks, (is that) people won't be able to use their traditional entrances and exits to their homes and businesses," he added.

Anderson noted that with a landscaped median, many breaks may not be possible, which IDOT officials confirmed. IDOT is widening Route 83 to improve traffic flow and capacity, eliminate accidents and limit access.

"With a barrier median, drivers would have to change their daily traffic patterns," said IDOT's Patrick Pechnick, noting that some side streets would have right-in, right-out only access to and from Route 83. "It is inconvenient, we do recognize that."

Plans of the landscaped barrier median show this limited access at Kristy, Vera, Edward, Jenkins and Dennis streets on the portion from Hintz to Dundee roads.

Of the 22 residents who attended the open house, Pechnick said, 12 made comments, 11 of which were against a landscaped barrier median. Most of these residents, however, live north of Dundee Road on the portion of Route 83 which is not in IDOT's immediate plans, he noted.

To achieve consistency, Pechnick said, the median trustees choose for the road from Hintz to Dundee also will be used when IDOT widens Route 83 from Dundee to Lake-Cook.

A mountable raised median would allow residents full access to Route 83, as they now have. Pechnick said the two types of medians are similar in cost, adding that the village would pay for trees and grass planted in the median, if trustees choose the landscaped median.

Pechnick said Prospect Heights already has chosen the raised mountable median for Route 83 from Palatine to Hintz roads.

"We have our designers on hold for the time being," Pechnick told trustees. "Within the next couple of weeks to a month, we need a decision."

The widening is slated for fiscal year 1999, with construction beginning in fall 1998 and completed by fall 1999.

If plans can be completed this fall, he said, and priorities change, construction could start sooner. All construction is subject to the availability of funds, he added.

Wheeling's Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said he will compile residents' comments for the board to review.

# Wheeling planning for access, aesthetic appeal on Route 83

By **DWAYNE T. WONG**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees will ask the state to include a median that provides motorists access to homes and businesses and has some landscaping when it widens Route 83.

Wheeling officials Monday said they'll recommend to the Illinois Department of Transportation that expansion of Route 83 include a variety of medians depending on the stretch of road.

"Let's ask for everything. Let's ask for the barrier median, but spaced out," said Trustee Robert G. Todd.

IDOT is planning to expand Route 83 to four lanes, adding one lane in each direction, in the village between Palatine and Dundee roads in 1998.

As a part of those plans, the state proposed placing a median motorists can drive on along the road.

The village asked IDOT if, for aesthetic reasons, it would consider placing a landscaped median motorists cannot drive over

along some sections of Route 83.

Wheeling officials are proposing sections of landscaped medians for areas between South Dennis Road/South Fletcher Drive and North Norman Lane and between Addolorata Drive and Lexington Drive.

However, residents and business owners who are located on other sections of Route 83 raised concerns about possible installation of a median they cannot drive over.

Wheeling officials said Prospect Heights officials raised objections to a non-mountable median on Route 83 through that city because it would restrict motorists' access to residences.

"I'm impressed that Prospect Heights took into account the residents who live along 83," said Wheeling resident Jim Wood.

Wheeling's Director of Community Development Michael J. Klitzke will present the village's suggestions to IDOT, but he was uncertain if the agency would agree to them. IDOT officials have said that expansion of the road would take a year.

## Site plan advances for subdivision

**Wheeling:** Trustees have granted preliminary site-plan approval to a 361-unit residential development on 122 acres previously zoned for industrial use.

Running north from Old Willow Road to Palatine Road just west of the Commonwealth Edison power line right of way, the parcel is bisected into northern and southern sections by a swath of wetlands that surrounds McDonald Creek.

On either side of the creek, Concord Development Corp. will build 204 single-family houses and 157 townhouses in what will be called the Avalon-Sienna subdivision.

With the normally larger issues of size and nature of the development agreed to in principal by the village, the more contentious issue of what to do with remaining open areas is a source of disagreement between the village and the Park District. By ordinance, the Wheeling Park Board is compensated in either land or money to relieve the impact of added users from new developments.

In this case, the board would prefer to use much of the land as an active regional park, but the village would rather leave the area in a passive natural state. In the middle is the developer, who is proposing two neighborhood parks on either side of the creek and its flood areas.

Construction on the northeast phase of the plan is expected to begin in a matter of weeks, a Concord official said.

Patrick O'Toole

## Little hope left for plan to landscape Illinois 83

**Wheeling:** A proposal to put landscaped median strips on Elmhurst Road in the village is all but dead because it would severely limit the number of left-turn points, officials say.

In considering its final recommendation to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Wheeling trustees this week acquiesced to complaints from people who live in the area.

Instead of maximizing the green area as was originally conceived, they decided to ask for landscaped barriers "wherever possible." But that would leave the road with small spots of green that IDOT likely will not agree with, said Michael Klitzke, director of community development.

Though the added strips of green from Hintz Road north to Weiland Road would improve the look of the artery, a memo prepared by Klitzke shows that almost all commercial and residential driveways and access roads would be restricted to turns from a single direction.

In addition, turns onto eight of 13 intersecting public streets would be restricted.

In 1987 IDOT declared Elmhurst Road, or Illinois Highway 83, a Strategic Regional Artery. A long-planned upgrade to the road associated with that designation will increase it from two to four lanes.

Though construction is not expected to begin until 1998, final plans for the upgrade must be completed by this fall, an IDOT spokesman said.

Patrick O'Toole

## Wheeling offers scholarships

The village of Wheeling is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Private Industry Council of Northern Cook County.

Applicants must be residents of Wheeling, demonstrate financial need, be a first-time, continuing or returning student, and demonstrate academic ability.

For information, contact Joni Beaudry at Village Hall, 459-2605, or public relations coordinator Jacki Kelley at 699-9040, Ext. 158. Applications are due at 3 p.m. April 8 at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

## Support seen for beverage firm's tax exemption

The Wheeling village board is indicating it will support the application Skokie Valley Beverage Co. will make to the Cook County board for a property tax exemption.

### WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

The company is seeking the county property tax exemption so it can add 29,000 square feet to its warehouse at 199 Shepard Avenue in Wheeling.

With the county property tax exemption, the company is assessed at a lower property tax rate for several years. In return for the lower assessment, the company agrees to reinvest its savings on taxes into the business that creates more jobs and more tax revenue for the area.

To receive the county tax exemption the company must first have the backing of the village.

The village supports company's applications for such exemptions to keep businesses from moving from the village to Lake County and other locations with lower commercial property taxes.

The Wheeling village board is expected to vote on formally endorsing the company's tax exemption request April 2.

### Letter Carrier group gets tag day approval

Wheeling trustees approved a request by the Letter Carrier Union/Muscular Dystrophy Association to conduct a tag day in the village on Aug. 30.

The Wheeling branch of the charity will conduct its fund-raising on that day at the intersections of Hintz and Elmhurst roads, Dundee and Elmhurst roads and Old McHenry and Lake-Cook roads.

### Firm gets funds for water tank recoating

The Wheeling village board awarded \$412,000 to George Kountoupes Painting Co. for exterior and interior recoating of two village water tanks.

The Lincoln Park, Michigan-based company won the bid over one other company seeking the village's business. The village board also approved a \$105,120 contract with Norman Noe Co., Inc. of Nineveh, Ind. to supervise renovation work of the tanks and towers where the tanks are located. Overall, the village will spend \$517,120 on refurbishing the two water tanks. The amount is less than the \$536,500 the village allocated for the work in its 1996-97 budget.

## Wheeling offers annexation to 24 Forest View residents

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Noting the final decision rests with the residents, Wheeling trustees Monday agreed to allow homeowners living on Forest View Road to annex to the village.

In a 5-0 vote, with Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski absent, the Wheeling village board allowed 24 homeowners living on that road to become a part of Wheeling.

"Vote on it and take us into Wheeling," said Phillip L. Pryby, the homeowner who headed the annexation effort.

The neighborhood is between the Cook County Forest Preserve and just west of Northbrook.

The homeowners sought to annex to Wheeling to prevent forcible annexation by Northbrook.

The homeowners feared that Northbrook would bring new taxes to the neighborhood.

The neighborhood lies within Wheeling Township, the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and the Indian Trails Public Library District.

The residents also were concerned that Northbrook officials would try to place street lights and sewer and water systems in the semi-rural area.

Wheeling officials said the forest preserve prevents them from extending utilities there.

Now that Wheeling trustees approved the annexation, the move will be reviewed by the Cook County Circuit Court. If it's approved, the court will set a date when homeowners could formally vote on the annexation.

"Any action we would take tonight would keep your options open," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz told the homeowners.

Pryby said some homeowners are mulling a deal from Northbrook where that village agrees not to improve the area for 20 years in return for Forest View Road residents complying with its zoning codes.

Northbrook officials sought the annexation to prevent development they don't permit in their village, such as cellular telephone towers, from being built near its limits.

If homeowners approve annexing to Wheeling they would receive its police and fire protection.

## Battle brewing over Wheeling town house plan

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Wheeling residents Monday are expected to restate their objections to a proposal for town houses to be built near Whiteman Elementary School.

The Wheeling village board is expected to review a proposal by Realen Homes Inc. to develop a 40-unit town house development on 7.6 acres at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. on the former site of the Union Hotel.

Some neighbors of the proposed town house project said a storm water detention basin proposed for the development that would temporarily hold water presents a safety hazard for the school children.

"We're very concerned about what they're doing with the detention basin... They don't plan to put a fence around it," said Mary Mozal, a neighbor and president of the group SPACE, Save Precious Acreage for Children.

"We're very concerned about what they're doing with the detention basin."

—neighbor and community activist Mary Mozal

Wheeling officials have said they would purchase the land in the village's redevelopment district from its different owners and resell it to Realen as a part of the village's redevelopment program.

Once Wheeling acquires the land, the village will sell 1.9 acres near the school to Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 for a recreation area.

The neighbors have also complained that not enough land was allocated for recreational use.

Larry D. Johannesen, vice president and Chicago division manager for Realen, was out of town and unavailable for comment this week.

# Local police get special detail at Olympics

3-25-96  
 BY RUSSELL LISSAU  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the 1996 Summer Olympics only a few months away, Steven Casstevens and Chris Parr are gearing up for the work ahead of them in Atlanta.

But Casstevens and Parr won't be in the international spotlight this summer — not if they do their jobs right, that is.

Casstevens, a lieutenant with the Hoffman Estates Police Department, and Parr, a Wheeling police officer, were chosen to be members of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games security team, the first international volunteer security force in the history of the Games.

They are among the dozen or so police officers from Illinois who will be protecting the athletes, their families and the spectators at this summer's Games, which is being billed as the largest peaceful gathering of nations in history.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Parr said. "I've always been a fan of the Olympics. As long as I can remember, I always watched them on TV."

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games received about 8,600 applications for the security team. The force will consist of more than 2,000 active and retired law enforcement officers from 48 countries, said Jerry Cogan, the manager for the security team program.

Seventy percent of the officers will be coming from other nations. The remaining 30 percent will be Americans from every state in the union.

"We tried to make it fair," Cogan said.

In past years, the host nation



Wheeling Officer Chris Parr applied for Olympic detail almost as a lark, but was delighted when the word came back she had been accepted.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

usually had their national police force or army handle security for the Games, Cogan said. When Los Angeles hosted the Summer Games in 1984, the Olympic committee hired security guards to watch over the activities.

But the committee opted for the new team makeup because of the community relations and leader-

ship skills that police officers possess, Cogan said.

"They have the experience for what we need," he said.

In exchange for their hard work, the members of the team get meals and accommodations, specialized training, a commemorative badge and their very own Olympic security uniform, which is theirs to keep.

The officers will not be carrying handguns and will not have law enforcement powers in Georgia. In fact, local police officers will be present at all venues to work with the security team.

Both Parr and Casstevens will be working in Atlanta for the full duration of the Games, from July 3 to Aug. 5. Casstevens, 37, said his experience as a military police officer and as a member of the Hoffman Estates Police Department's emergency response team probably helped his application.

He also is used to working on high-profile security details: He helped coordinate George Bush's and Dan Quayle's visits to Hoffman Estates when each man was vice president.

"I feel pretty proud that I was chosen," Casstevens said of his upcoming assignment. "I think we're going to work our butts off, but I'm looking forward to it. It's a

chance in a lifetime."

Although Casstevens previously didn't know any of the other Illinois officers on the team, he will be joined in Atlanta by a longtime friend who is a police officer in Lake Charles, La.

Casstevens learned his friend also had applied for the job only after both men were chosen.

"I spoke to Jerry Cogan, and we're going to room together," Casstevens said.

Parr, a Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer in Wheeling, said she applied for the position 2½ years ago almost as a lark after hearing about it through the Illinois DARE Officers Association.

"I thought it sounded interesting, and I figured it was worth 32 cents for a stamp," said Parr, 33. "I never imagined I'd get that (acceptance) letter. When I opened the letter and saw 'Congratulations,' I thought, 'You can't be serious!' I just about fell over."

The elementary, middle and high school students Parr works with are just as excited about her trip.

"Some have asked me, 'Can you take pictures? Can you get autographs from the athletes?'" she said. "But since I don't know my assignments yet, I haven't promised them anything."



Hoffman Estates Lt. Steven Casstevens is used to high-profile security details. He helped coordinate George Bush's and Dan Quayle's visits to Hoffman Estates when they were vice presidents.

Daily Herald Photo/Paul Valade

## Despite the concerns of residents, Wheeling backs town house plan

4-2-96  
 BY BOB MCKEE  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday backed a plan to build town houses on land that once housed some businesses and a hotel before they were razed.

But the fact the 40-unit development will occupy wanted open space where children play and is adjacent to Whitman Elementary School left some residents frustrated, as they have been for nearly a year as the village has reviewed the proposal.

In a series of votes on five measures, all passing in 4-2 decisions, the village board supported a preliminary plan to build town houses on a majority of 7.6 acres at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., the former site of the Union Hotel.

The board's action authorized the

village to purchase the property that now has four owners, so it can sell it to Realen Homes Inc., which will develop the majority of the land. The Philadelphia-based developer intends to sell 1.9 acres of the property to Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 so it can be used for recreation space. The village has not released the purchase cost, saying the deal is still pending.

Monday's action was a big hurdle for the developer.

Most trustees thought the town houses would be a beneficial use of the land, which the village has targeted for economic redevelopment.

"We need to do something so we can upgrade," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "You can please some of the people, but you won't please all the people. ... We need to move for-

ward."

But Trustee Robert J. Heer thought the village should have explored more possibilities for the site, such as businesses.

"I don't think it was utilized to the fullest potential," said Heer, who was joined in opposition to the plan Trustee Patrick Horcher.

For residents who have opposed the plan since it was first presented, Monday's action was a disappointment.

Some residents still are concerned about the safety of a detention pond that will be near Whitman School and the loss of open space, said Mary Mozal, resident and president of the ad hoc group Save Precious Acreage For Children. Mozal was one of 15 residents who attended the meeting.

# Boards clash on use of Concord park

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

After nearly three hours of discussion between Wheeling park commissioners and trustees, the two boards agreed to have staffs negotiate what recreational amenities should be included in the proposed Concord development on the village's southwest side.

Concord Development Corp. of Palatine proposes to build 157 townhomes and 204 single-family homes on the 122 acres between Palatine and Old Willow roads just west of the ComEd right of way.

Thirty-eight acres of the site is to be left as open space, and eventually is expected to be dedicated to the Park District. Roughly seven acres of the open space will be used for three retention ponds.

The advantage for Concord to dedicate the open space to the Park District is that residents of the new

Avalon-Sienna subdivision would not have to pay an association fee to maintain the grounds. Also, the recreational activities a Park District could provide also may be beneficial in attracting home buyers.

The benefit to the Park District is being able to build more fields to accommodate growing sports programs.

The controversy between the two boards has centered on what type of recreation best suits the site and whether a developed park would serve mainly Avalon-Sienna residents, or attract residents from throughout the village.

"I don't see the best use of that property is providing the number of facilities and programs as the park does," said Village President Sheila Schultz at a special meeting of the park and village boards last week.

The developer, who wants to begin marketing the homes as soon as possible, needs to know how the open space may eventually be developed in

order to show potential residents, Schultz said.

Schultz said she prefers passive recreation, such as a biking/walking trail and open fields, since McDonald Creek runs through the site and the floodway and floodplain have to be preserved.

The Park District, however, envisions much more active use on the site, including two ballfields, a playground, parking lot and access road. The Park District plans to use an additional six acres south of the proposed subdivision site for three soccer fields.

"The quiet recreation space is very much in demand and it's just not there," Schultz said. "I don't think we're that far apart frankly."

The two boards also disagree on access to the park. The Park District wants an access road built on the eastern edge of the property, but most trustees said the road would limit access from residents who live

in the new subdivision.

"It seems natural to me to keep the activity away from the residences," said Park Board President Greg Klatecki. "You have to have a place for kids to go after school to play ball. You have to give them a field."

Residents of the subdivision would be able to access the park through a walking/biking trail. Building a parking lot would encourage more people to use the park and may create traffic concerns in the area.

Trustee Bob Heer said the park must have its own parking or residents will clog streets of the subdivision to use the park, as happens frequently in Buffalo Grove where Heer is a police officer.

Of the 38 open acres, Park Director Karop Bavougian estimated that about 10 acres would be developed with active recreation and parking. The Park District does not have the money to build the park now, he said. (Continued on page 17)

noting that construction could be years away.

If the Park District does accept the land and decides to develop the park, the village would have to approve the plans as a special use before construction could begin.

The boards agreed to have village staff request that the property be graded to accom-

modate the future construction of two ballfields.

"This isn't going to happen in 1997, but if the engineering isn't done, it'll never happen," Klatecki said. "Why should we not plan for it now and have the developer pay rather than wait three, four or five years, and have the taxpayers pay for it?"

Village and Park District staffs will review the plans and request engineering that fits into future recreational uses of the site.

They also will determine what activities are needed in the park and whether the site is suited for those activities. Also, they are to discuss lowering the number of parking spaces.

## Trustees back dual medians for Route 83

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees have decided to take their chances and request both landscaped and mountable medians on the stretch of Route 83 that runs through the village from Hintz to Lake-Cook roads.

This combination median would give the village some landscaping as trustees have requested, and would allow drivers full access to Route 83.

The Illinois Department of Transportation, which plans to widen Route 83 to two lanes in each direction and add a left-turn lane, initially drew plans with a mounted median along the thoroughfare.

Village officials later asked IDOT to consider a landscaped median to improve the roadway's appearance. If

Wheeling is granted a landscaped median, the village would pay for the necessary grass and trees.

Though the landscaped medians are more aesthetically pleasing, they limit access from several side streets, businesses and homes.

IDOT held a public hearing on the project early this month at Village Hall and is now awaiting the village's decision before it proceeds with final plans.

Of 12 residents who commented at the hearing, 11 were opposed to the landscaped medians chiefly because they limit access.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke presented the combination mountable/landscaped median plan to trustees last week, expressing doubts that IDOT would go along with it.

(Continued on page 17)

I would ask for whatever we think we would like," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "I like the long (landscaped) area from Fletcher to Norman. I think it would break up the area."

Though the village will request the combination median from Hintz to Dundee roads, Village President Sheila Schultz said a landscaped median would make access extremely difficult for drivers north of Dundee.

"From Dundee to Old McHenry, there's no opportunity for a (landscaped) barrier" median, Schultz said.

Trustee Bob Heer suggested that a mountable median would be best suited for Route 83 north of Dundee to Lake-Cook Road because of the many driveways along the thoroughfare.

The widening of Route 83 north to Dundee Road is slated for fiscal year 1989, with construction beginning in fall 1990 and completed by fall 1991. All construction is subject to availability of funds, IDOT has noted.

Construction on Route 83 from Dundee to Lake-Cook Road is not in the agency's immediate plans and is not expected for at least five years.

It also does not limit access to any side streets, churches, residential complexes or businesses along the route, he said.

**“I think you should ask for what you want, then let them (IDOT officials) come back.”**

Klitzke said it is unlikely IDOT would approve this mixed median because it could be confusing to drivers.

"I think you should ask for what you want, then let them (IDOT officials) come back," Village Manager Craig Anderson told trustees.

In Klitzke's combination median plan, the longest of the landscaped medians would be from Fletcher Drive to Norman Lane.

# Subdivision seeks Wheeling

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling has agreed to let 24 unincorporated homeowners decide this November whether they want to become part of the village, stalling Northbrook's plans to snag the neighborhood.

The night before Northbrook had planned to involuntarily annex the Forest View Drive homes, Wheeling trustees voted 5-0 to grant residents' requests to vote in a November referendum for voluntary annexation to Wheeling.

Northbrook will have to wait for the results of the ballot.

"My understanding is that Northbrook was going to forcibly annex them (March 26) and the residents felt they wanted to be left alone," Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said.

He said the residents felt they would be forced to tap into water and sewer lines and have their roads improved, at a cost to the homeowners, if annexed by Northbrook.

"They feel there's a better chance of them not having to tap into water and sewer if they're in Wheeling."

The subdivision contains 24 single family homes backing up against the forest preserve, east of Portwine Road and north of Dundee Road. The residents live in Wheeling Township and send their children to Wheeling Community District 21 elementary schools and District 214 high schools. They also are in the Indian Trails Library System.

"They felt they are more closely tied to Wheeling than to Northbrook," Fialkowski said. "It appears they now have the option of where they want to go."

Fialkowski said Wheeling would

maintain the roads in their current condition, but would not improve the roads unless residents requested it. To service the subdivision with Wheeling water and sewer, Fialkowski said, the mains would have to be laid through the forest preserve. Because of the extensive cost that would involve, he said, doing so would be "very remote."

The property is considered contiguous to Wheeling, even though separated by forest preserve. Fialkowski explained that the forest preserve property is not recognized for annexation purposes. Parcels under 60 acres, as this one is, can be forcibly annexed by any contiguous community. In this case, either Wheeling or Northbrook could forcibly annex the 24-home subdivision.

But Wheeling has no desire to forcibly annex the property. With the referendum (Continued on page 16)

## 40 town-home complex OK'd for 7.8-acre tract

**Wheeling:** The Village Board has approved construction of 40 town homes on a 7.8-acre parcel southwest of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue Monday, overriding the objections of one board member who said the village is becoming "the town-home capital of the world."

Larry Johannessen, of Realen Homes, said ground will be broken in late May, with occupancy set for this fall for some of the units.

Realen's proposal was made after another developer withdrew a similar proposal for the property. Village officials and officials of Elementary School District 21 have agreed that 1.9 acres of the property would be sold to the school district as a play area and buffer between the development and Whitman School.

"I'm just afraid that Wheeling is going to become the town-home capital of the world," Trustee Robert Heer said before casting one of two negative votes on the proposal. The other dissenter, Patrick Horcher, thought more effort should have been put forth to seek a restaurant or other commercial use for the Milwaukee Avenue portion of the site.

Thirty of the town homes will be two-bedroom units, and 10 will have three bedrooms. Price of the units will range from \$150,000 to \$185,000, Johannessen said.

Patrick O'Toole

### Wheeling

The Village Board will hold a public hearing to discuss the performance of Telenois Inc. at 8 p.m. Afterward, the Committee of the Whole will discuss social service agencies services. Meetings are in the administration building, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

dum, if a simple majority of homeowners decided they want to be annexed by Wheeling, the village will be able to voluntarily annex the whole neighborhood.

"We're not in the business of taking in property unless there's some other reason for it," Fialkowski said. "We never approached them to forcibly annex them. They just want to be left alone," he said. "It's a nice area backing up to the forest preserve."

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said the village will hold a public hearing to make sure all the procedures

have been followed correctly for filing the November referendum.

She said the village is pleased the residents want to be in Wheeling. "As we told the people Monday night, we were delighted they chose to voluntarily annex to Wheeling. They already share a lot of taxing bodies with Wheeling."

"They have a lot of Wheeling-oriented affiliations that are long-standing which probably influenced their desire to look to Wheeling" Schultz said.

## Wheeling commuter train station's construction schedule stays on track

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is picking up steam on its new Metra commuter train station.

The village board this week unanimously approved the hiring of the main contractor for the station on the commuter line that is expected to begin operating Aug. 19 on the Wisconsin Central Ry.

The hiring of Pickus Construction & Equipment Company Inc. is seen as a big step in the project because the work they will do — the two parking lots and road improvements — is seen as the largest part of the project, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

And though most of the station on Town Street won't be completed,

Anderson said the village will make certain that commuters have a place to park when the train begins operating Aug. 19.

"The most important thing is making sure the parking lots are in place...so people will have a place to get the train," Anderson said.

The village will pay \$1.6 million for the work that the Waukegan-based Pickus will do on the project, which is expected to cost less than \$4.7 million.

Wheeling is one of 11 communities working on stations for the commuter line that will shuttle riders 53 miles between Antioch and Chicago.

Metra spokesman Chris Knapton has said that the commuter service set the Aug. 19 date because it was assured that all the stations would

be prepared to serve people.

While some towns, such as Buffalo Grove, expect to have its station completed, Mundelein is one of the other communities which won't be finished, but will be far enough along in construction that commuters will be able to pick up the train there.

Wheeling, also, won't be totally finished with its station, but will be able to serve commuters because the more than 500 parking spaces will be completed, Anderson said.

Anderson said the village must first get the contract with Pickus approved by Metra and the Illinois Department of Transportation before any work is done. But that is expected to be done this month, he added.

## 2 police officers to be force on Olympic sidelines

By **Mark Shuman**  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Wheeling Police Officer Chris Parr reached the top of her athletic career more than 15 years ago as a Lake Zurich high school student. With a time of just under 12 minutes, Parr broke the school's record for the 2-mile run.

Another area police officer, Hoffman Estates Lt. Steven Casstevens, admits he never has been especially inclined toward athletics.

Nevertheless, both officers will realize childhood dreams this summer, when they are expected to participate in the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"Every four years, ever since I was a little kid, I've been glued to the television during the Olympics," says Parr, now a Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer with the Wheeling Police Department. "As any kid would, I dreamed about being at the Olympics someday."

Parr and Casstevens learned recently they would be included among about 2,000 police

### Northwest watch People

officers from 48 countries chosen for a volunteer police force that will provide security during the games.

Under a program organized by the International Olympic Committee, security duties this year will be performed by volunteer officers from around the world.

Parr said she was told last year that at least 8,500 applications for the positions had been received by officials in Atlanta.

Both officers were awaiting specific assignments, but each might expect to provide security during athletic events, or protect athletes and their families during the games. The officers will use personal vacation days during their assignment.

"It will be serious work," said Casstevens, special services division commander at the Hoffman Estates Police Department. "There

will be an extensive training session after we arrive [for a four-week stay] on July 3."

Although he isn't certain why his application was chosen above others, Casstevens guessed his experience organizing security for visits of Vice President Dan Quayle in 1992 and Vice President George Bush in 1986 might have had something to do with it.

Casstevens also was awarded commendations for helping save the lives of an auto accident victim in 1986, and a teenager who was shot accidentally in 1988.

Parr's work with children as Wheeling's first D.A.R.E. officer has been a career highlight. "It's great when we're able to gain the students' trust and do some good," she said.

Parr and Casstevens were the only two officers known to have been chosen from the northwest suburbs for Olympic Games assignments, and although they won't bring home any gold medals from Atlanta, they're hoping for some good memories.

They'll also keep uniforms and badges issued them by Olympic officials.

## The proposed 1996-1997 budget

Wheeling's \$33.1 million spending plan represents a 9.7 percent decrease from what the village spent this year

### Where the money goes

Expenses	1995-1996 budget	1996-1997 estimate	Percent change
Administration	\$1,483,148	\$1,456,122	-1.82
Public Safety	\$9,375,034	\$10,043,697	+7.13
IMRF/FICA	\$690,000	\$725,450	+5.14
Water and Sewer	\$6,355,458	\$7,614,044	+19.8
Capital Projects	\$910,439	\$129,035	-100
Capital Equipment	\$660,256	\$192,000	-70.92
TIF District	\$1,334,688	\$1,368,282	+2.52
Community Dev.	\$1,101,562	\$989,485	-10.17
Road and Bridge	\$1,385,625	\$1,376,283	-0.67
MFT Work	\$720,140	\$929,140	+29.02
Solid Waste System	\$474,000	\$654,000	+37.9
G.O. Bonds	\$2,437,846	\$1,336,928	-45.16
Other	\$9,755,051	\$6,309,345	-35.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,683,247</b>	<b>\$33,123,811</b>	<b>-9.7</b>

### Where the money comes from

Revenues	1995-1996 budget	1996-1997 estimate	Percent change
Property Tax	\$2,777,724	\$3,134,528	+12.85
IL. Income Tax	\$1,625,000	\$1,764,749	+8.6
Fees	\$350,510	\$362,000	+3.27
Fines	\$183,000	\$235,000	+28.4
Sales Tax	\$290,000	\$295,000	+11.32
State Use Tax	\$230,300	\$221,341	-3.89
Fire Prot. Dist	\$490,000	\$180,000	+63.27
Pers. Prop Repl Tax	\$47,000	\$45,000	-4.26
From Fund Bal.	\$7,184,188	\$7,450,245	+3.7
Other	\$16,321,337	\$11,985,201	-26.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,499,059</b>	<b>\$25,673,566</b>	<b>-12.97</b>

### Where you can give your opinions

The village board is expected to vote on the proposed new spending plan at 8 p.m. on April 15 at the Administration Building, 255 W. Dundee Road.

## Loss of township fire funds results in new village tax

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The heat from a flap with the neighboring fire district will be felt in Wheeling's 1996-97 village budget.

Previously, Wheeling received more than \$500,000 annually for having the village's fire department serve most of the district that includes nearby unincorporated areas and a majority of Prospect Heights.

However, the Wheeling township district fire board changed its contract with the village this past summer giving the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District firefighters responsibility for protecting most of the district that lies outside of Wheeling.

That move greatly reduced the amount Wheeling received for having its firefighters protect the district.

As a result, the village is considering implementing a telecommunications tax, raising its 0.25 cent home rule sales tax and increasing property taxes to fill a \$600,000 hole in the proposed \$33.1 million budget.

"A combination of the three will

do the job," Wheeling Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said about the taxes village officials are considering.

Wheeling officials are currently seeking to have a Cook County Circuit judge reconsider his denial of the injunction they requested against the fire district for changing its fire protection contract with the village.

Wheeling officials do not have back assessment numbers from the county and do not yet know how much the increase will be to its \$1.01 per \$100 equalized assessed valuation property tax rate.

They have also not yet set the details of the telecommunications tax.

The increases will come at a time the village is scheduling some major public works projects.

Under the proposed spending plan, the village will pay \$2.5 million for the acquisition of the former Meyer Material Co. property just west of village hall as the site of the commuter station.

Another \$2.1 million is ear

See TOWNSHIP on Page 3

The new budget also calls for the village to hire several new employees including one patrol officer and three firefighter shift commanders.

The village is proposing to spend \$9.2 million overall on salaries in fiscal 1996-97, which is a 9.9 percent increase from the \$8.3 million it allocated for this year.

Wheeling's contribution to Social Security and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for its employees is increasing 6.8 percent from \$679,000 this year to \$725,450 in 1996-97. While some expenses are rising, the village's bond and interest payments are decreasing.

The village is expecting to spend \$1.3 million for those payments in the new budget, which is a 45.1 percent reduction from the \$2.4 million spent this year.

On the revenue side, the village projects it will collect \$3.1 million in property taxes, which is 12.8 percent more than the \$2.7 million tallied this fiscal year.

And sewer and water rates are being raised 5 percent to offset vil-

lage expenses for its water and sewer operations.

The water rate is rising from \$2.76 to \$2.99 per 1,000 gallons and the sewer fee is coming up to 45 cents per 1,000 gallons from its current 43 cent rate.

Wheeling trustees are expected to vote on the proposed budget April 15.

## TOWNSHIP: Loss of fire funds results in new village tax

Continued from Page 1

marked for construction of the station.

The village is also making \$2.3 million in water system improvements that includes replacing the more than 60-year-old water main under Milwaukee Avenue. The village will extend its watermain to Palwaukee Municipal Airport for its firefighting needs.

The new budget also calls for the village to hire several new employees including one patrol

## Wheeling's good points

People ask me why I like Wheeling. What village can be more centrally located than Wheeling — the "hub" of the wheel and the towns that encircle Wheeling?

Where else can you find a town with a picturesque major river (Des Plaines) running through it? Two forest preserves adjacent to the Des Plaines River for picnickers, hikers, lovers and canoers who participate in canoe races.

We have a functioning horse stable (Milwaukee and Lake-Cook) and horse trails for our sophisticated residents.

Pilots from all over the U.S.A. fly into Palwaukee Airport — the second most used airport in Illinois. And why do they come here? Why, to dine at world famous Bob Chin's or LeFrancais.

We have more first-class restaurants on Milwaukee Avenue than some towns have churches, and, yes, we have St. Joseph the Worker Church — perhaps named after all the "blue-collar" workers we have in Wheeling.

Where can you find a concrete processing plant, and asphalt, paint manufacturing and dog food processing industries in a one-block area?

Wheeling is the town in the "spoke." And better yet — for the "rest of the story" talk to Wheeling's "Historical Society" "Syke" Horcher and hear about the good old days and the new Wheeling to be yet built.

Steven Telow  
Wheeling

## Cook judge upholds ruling on fire protection district

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling was told for a second time that it can't stop the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District from letting another department serve its residents.

The village attempted Tuesday to convince a Cook County Circuit Court judge to reconsider his prior decision to allow the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District serve an area that before Aug. 1 was protected by Wheeling's department.

But Judge Francis Barth didn't change his mind.

"This court will adhere to its previous decision," Barth said.

Wheeling Village President Shelia H. Schultz said the village was disappointed about the decision and was not yet certain if it would appeal.

Barth, as he did last October, ruled that a 1982 contract does not prevent the Wheeling Township district from choosing what agencies will serve its residents.

The Wheeling Township district last June decided to have two-thirds of its area served by the Prospect Heights district instead of the

Wheeling Fire Department. Wheeling still serves about a third of the district.

The district changed the service for the Prospect Heights area to enable firetrucks and ambulances to respond more quickly to emergencies, said Karl R. Ottosen, the district's attorney.

For the second time since the change, an attorney for Wheeling on Tuesday argued that cutting the village's coverage area violated the contract.

Attorney Michael Jurusik said that the contract can be interpreted to mean the village would always be responsible for covering the area, even if the district dissolves. The district this November will attempt to merge with the Prospect Heights district.

Barth said the contract doesn't preclude the district from seeking fire protection by another provider. He added that the contract gives the district the authority to serve residents "to the best of its ability."

Saying Wheeling's request was made "in good faith," Barth also denied a motion by the Wheeling township district to have the village pay attorneys' fees.

## OLYMPIC BOUND

Wheeling Police officer Christine Parr is headed for Atlanta this summer to volunteer providing security. Parr hopes the experience will bring something back to her department, and her DARE students.

PAGE 7

*Countyside*  
4-11-96



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

## Fixing cable problems a priority in Wheeling

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is about to negotiate with its cable television provider how the village will continue to get MTV and other favorite stations.

But before starting talks with TCI of Illinois Inc. about renewing its contract to serve the village, officials have collected comments and concerns that residents have so that the service might be improved.

"It's a guide for us for representing the residents," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

In a public hearing this week, some residents told Schultz and other Wheeling officials about problems they have with the cable company, whose current contract with the village expires July 20.

Long periods of time waiting for a customer service representative to answer a question was the chief concern raised by about 20 people at the meeting and 352 in their responses to a survey. About 50 percent of households, or 6,000, subscribe to TCI, according to the company.

The complaints stem from "typical bugs" the company is having

with a new customer service center in Chicago, which it opened in January to improve its operation, said Jim Leach, the company's director of government affairs.

"We will not go in the village of Wheeling and say that this is not true," Leach said. "It's a new facility."

Leach said the company will use the comments to remedy the problems, which could happen within 30 days.

The company, Leach said, anticipates that it will add more employees and track calls to see when most of them are made and to know what sort of questions are most common.

Meanwhile, village officials plan to review the current agreement, which is 15 years old, to identify any deficiencies, said Assistant Village Manager Ingrid Velkme.

Board members will take into consideration the concerns of officials and residents when deciding what a new contract should include or if it will be renewed, officials say.

Though the village cannot control rates and programming, the negotiations are a way to influence the service so that it reflects what customers want, Schultz said.

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# Wheeling helps packager get loan

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling recently decided to help a company in its village get a low-interest loan.

But because Cano Packaging Corp. will use the \$1 million to rehab a Wheeling plant so that it can expand its operation, the business isn't the only one getting a deal.

"Cano does seem to be a company that we should do it for. They want to stay in the community and they want to expand," said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "They're a

firm that we would like to keep here."

The village board recently unanimously decided to issue for the packager of candy, cookies and other goods a \$1 million industrial revenue bond.

The village will issue the bonds and give the money to Cano, which will pay back the loan, Anderson said.

Wheeling will not be responsible for paying back the loan, he added.

Anderson said the village is authorized to annually issue about \$1.5 million worth of the loans that are designed to spur economic develop-

ment. Issuing the bonds won't prevent the village from getting other loans for its own use, he added.

The industrial revenue bonds are attractive for business owners because they enable them to get financing at a lower interest rate than they could on the market.

Ron Lemmon, who owns Cano, said he expects to pay about 5.5 percent interest on the \$1 million he is borrowing instead of about 8.5 percent.

The money will be used to rehab a 48,000-square-foot building at 448 Mercantile Court, which was built in 1959 and has been vacant for four

years, Lemmon said.

Cano will move from the building it built at 305 Alderman Ave., where it has packaged gum, candy, cookies and other products since 1989, Lemmon said.

The new location, Lemmon said, will enable him to expand his work force that now fluctuates between 50 and 60 to about 100.

Lemmon added that he might have considered moving to an area with lower taxes if he didn't get the financing break.

"I like the community," Lemmon said. "It's a good deal for them; it's a good deal for me."

## Village Board meetings to air on Channel 6

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

4-18-96  
Wheeling village officials hope to improve communication with residents as they expand their use of Channel 6, the local access cable television channel.

Assistant Village Manager Ingrid Velkme said Wheeling officials want to begin taping Village Board meetings by the end of the month to be later broadcast on the access channel.

"We recently bought a new computer equipment system that can play back a tape, then go back to computer-generated messages," Velkme said.

Residents who flip on Channel 6 see a number of computer-generated messages, but no video.

"Right now we have an electronic bulletin board system," Velkme said.

"It's very old and it's very hard to work with. The new system should be much easier to use."

Taping the meetings may be a little tricky in the beginning. Unlike Buffalo Grove and Mount Prospect, the Wheeling Village Board room is not wired as a cable television studio. A Wheeling resident has volunteered to begin taping the board meetings on a trial basis to see how many residents tune in, she said.

Between 6,200 and 6,300 Wheeling homes have TCI cable service, Velkme said. According to 352 responses to a cable survey taken by the village last fall, 55 percent said they would like to see Village Board meetings aired on cable.

"I think it's going to be a real asset to the village," she said.

Recently, the village changed its cable access channel from 25 to Chan-

nel 6, in hopes of attracting more viewers.

"We have been woefully lax in using our access channels," Village President Sheila Schultz said at a public hearing last week about TCI, the village's cable provider. "We have talked about putting these meetings on cable. We were discouraged by the cost, but we have not given up."

The board recently approved spending \$2,048 to purchase equipment that is necessary to start broadcasting the meetings.

Schultz jokingly said she does not expect the meeting broadcasts to be among the top 10 mostly watched programs in the village, but believes they will serve a purpose.

"We also intend to run tapes on what (events) we think would be of interest to the community," she said.

One resident at the public hearing

said she learned about the hearing from a notice she read on the access channel's electronic bulletin board.

Trustee Patrick Horcher has repeatedly said he would like to see the village broadcast its agendas prior to the board meetings so residents can come to Village Hall and comment, if they desire. At the hearing, Schultz said, doing so is in the village's plans.

Nearby Buffalo Grove has been airing taped Village Board meetings since April 1992. The village began using the cable access channel for a three-month trial period, then surveyed residents to ask whether the taping should continue.

"The results were more than enough that it gave us the motivation to continue," said Phil Versten, administrative assistant for Buffalo Grove. "It's not the kind thing most (Continued on page 9)

viewers seek out, but there are enough viewers interested."

Buffalo Grove meetings air the day after they are taped, then run about six times in the two weeks between board meetings, Versten said.

"One of the things the

board has told me from time to time is that they notice people are more conversant on the issues," something they credit to watching the meetings at home, Versten said. "They have found that people will approach them and can speak on a specific issue.

That's all the more reason to continue with it.

"It's a narrow-cast," Versten said of the meeting broadcasts. "It's not intended to compete with 'E.R.' or 'Sienfeld,' but it is intended to be an informational way to learn about government."

## Rural fire district close to disbanding

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

4-16-96  
Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District this month expects to begin asking residents for permission to disband.

At least 50 signatures will be sought from voters in the area to allow the district to merge into the Mount Prospect Rural Fire Protection District, said Karl R. Ottosen, attorney for the Wheeling Township district.

The same number of residents also have to sign a petition that will be presented this summer to a

Cook County Circuit Court judge, who must approve the signatures before a referendum authorizing the merger can be placed on November's ballot.

If the move is approved, the Wheeling Township district and board would formally disband, with the Prospect Heights district board taking over.

The idea behind the merger is to streamline fire protection in the area, officials say.

As of last August, the Prospect Heights district, which is independent of the city, began serving most of the Wheeling Township district

located in Prospect Heights. That area, which had been served by the Wheeling Fire Department, composes about two-thirds of the Wheeling Township district.

With the other one-third of the 10,000-home district dispersed in pockets located near Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Northbrook, officials think that it makes sense for the area to also be served by the Prospect Heights district.

"It only makes sense," said Anthony Carlin, president of the Wheeling Township district.

Carlin said that efficiency will be one of the merger's benefits.

The Wheeling Township district contracts all of its service to other departments, while the Prospect Heights district has emergency trucks, firefighters and paramedics to provide the service.

Since the Prospect Heights district began serving portions of the Wheeling Township district last August, response times for that area have averaged between four and six minutes, Carlin said. Before, it took as long as 12 minutes in some cases.

Carlin added that the merger will continue to make response times uniform throughout the area.

### Is it cronyism?

4-19-96  
On March 4, the Wheeling Village Board of Trustees contracted with an Arlington Heights firm, Siles and Walsh, to provide public relations services for a six-month "trial period."

The ambiguous objective: inform people about "the good things that go on in Wheeling." If they don't deliver, the board will assertedly find another organization. No one has suggested how success will be measured.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the selection was based on "recommendations of other agencies." Earlier, Anderson is quoted as saying they "couldn't find" anyone else. Mere mortals would discover 30 public affairs and public relations counselors listed in the Northwest suburbs.

Despite claims made at the February meeting that a search was under way, documents reveal that requests for proposals actually went out on March 1. Two "competing" proposals included one that arrived on — surprise! — March 4.

I have been in the public relations field for more than 30 years and am puzzled how the people of Wheeling will benefit absent reasonable objectives. If our firm had been contacted (assuming we were willing to accept the assignment), we would have tried to learn the village's (apparently nonexistent) objectives, then develop a written program of measurable activities.

So the village of Wheeling will spend \$12,000 of the taxpayers' money for nebulous outcomes based on the proposal of a sole source recommended by "other agencies." If a private corporation acted so cavalierly, its board of directors likely would revolt.

Was this peculiar arrangement the product of Cook County small-town deal-making? Siles and Walsh has a long history in local politics, with strong ties to the Wheeling Township Republican Organization.

Elsewhere, such an arrangement might be labeled "cronyism." What is it called in Wheeling?

Dale Kemery, Owner  
Kemery Media Group  
Wheeling

# Officer to provide security for Olympics

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling police officer Christine Parr is headed to the Olympics this summer, but not as a spectator.

Parr will spend her vacation working as one of 1,700 volunteers chosen to provide security services during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

"I never imagined I would be chosen," Parr said.

Parr filled out the initial application about two and a half years ago. "One of the officers at the Illinois DARE Officers Association had gotten the applications and asked if any of us were interested," she said.

Since submitting that first application, Parr has received numerous questionnaires, each one a bit more in-depth, she said. Without giving them too much thought, she kept filling them out and returning them.

"Then I got the letter that started with 'Congratulations.' I never imagined I'd be selected," she said. Parr was chosen from a pool of 8,500 applications from 49 countries.

She plans to arrive in Atlanta on July 3 and stay through Aug. 5. About the first two weeks will be spent in training. The Olympic games run July 19 through Aug. 4.

Parr is not yet sure what her duties will be at the Olympics, but has told the Olympic Committee she is trained in radio communications and has drug-preventive experience as the department's DARE officer. Duties for the security patrol range from guarding a parking lot to escorting athletes around the Olympic village.



Hub Dickert/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Police officer Chris Parr teaches a DARE class at Holmes Middle School. Parr will be spending her summer vacation volunteering as security for the Olympics.

"I've always watched the Olympics on TV. I was an athlete in high school and enjoyed watching the games," Parr said. This will be her first time seeing the Olympics in person.

The Olympic Committee will pay for Parr's food, clothing and housing during her stay. She is responsible for travel to and from the games.

As a DARE officer for the Wheeling Police Department, Parr spends a majority of her time in District 21 schools

and Wheeling High School, teaching students about the dangers of drugs. When in Atlanta, Parr hopes to go on-line via the Internet and write to district students about what is happening.

"I'd like to do that, if at all possible. I don't know if I'll have access to a phone line, but if I can get on the Internet, I can send things back to the school about what's going on," she said. If she cannot get on the Internet, Parr plans to keep a daily diary in her computer note-

book to print out for the students when they return to class this fall.

"Somehow I want the kids to see it. I really want to share this with the kids I work with," Parr said, adding that she is certain she will be taking a lot of photographs and hopefully, shoot some videotape for the students. "I think they'll enjoy that."

Some of the students are as excited as Parr herself.

"Everytime I see them they ask if I know any more about my assignment," she said.

"They are just constantly asking me questions. They've asked if I can get autographs of the athletes or have my picture taken with them. They're very interested."

Parr also hopes her trip to the Olympics benefits her fellow Wheeling police officers.

"As a training officer, I hope to bring back the training I get there and put it to use here," she said. "Dealing with an event this size, the special training we'll receive is something we can't get here. Anything that would be useful to us here would be a benefit to the department."

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said the contacts Parr will make in Atlanta eventually will benefit the department, possibly more so than the training itself.

"More importantly than the training, the information she's going to obtain from the people who are there will be tremendous," Haeger said. "It'll be interesting to see how they do things differently in their agencies."

Wheeling probably will never handle an event as large as the Olympics, but Haeger said, the operations departments use in everyday police work are universal.

Haeger too, said he thought about submitting an application to volunteer at the Olympics, but never found time to do so.

"Chris is the second person I know who is going," he said. A friend, who is a Canadian mountie, also was selected, he said. "I think it's great that she's going."

"I think she'll bring more into the classrooms where she teaches DARE than into the department. That's something special she can offer the students," Haeger added.

# Chevy Chase notice may go out in water bills

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Park Board members are on the verge of deciding the fate of Chevy Chase Clubhouse and resident Laurel Anderson wants to ensure that the decision is made with the most input.

Anderson, who has attended two previous hearings by the park board, said she fears many residents are not aware that the clubhouse might be destroyed, despite numerous newspaper articles and notices in the Park District's brochure.

Last week, she convinced village trustees to consider inserting a notice in water and garbage bills to alert residents about Chevy Chase's possible fate. Trustees said they would consider doing so, if the Park Board has no objections.

"I was trying to think of how you get (information) to 30,000 people and realized everyone gets a water bill and a garbage bill. A lot of people really don't know it's going on," Anderson said. "We're trying to notify as many people as possible. A lot of people came out to the meetings, but not many were Wheeling residents."

"Personally, I feel we'd be losing a great asset to this community and I don't want to see it torn down. I'd just like people to know so they have the opportunity to voice their opinion by writing a letter to the Park District," she added. The public also can comment at the Park Board's meetings held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.

The park district is trying to decide what to do with the clubhouse. An engineering study completed in fall of

1994 included a lengthy list of necessary renovations, some of which are required because of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The building will eventually need some work just to remain sound, and when the park district begins that work, it will be required to comply with the ADA requirements.

On the list are 300-some new windows, wider doors, handicapped accessible restrooms and elevators. Renovations are expected to cost \$2.76 million.

Another option, tearing down the clubhouse and building a new 15,000-square-foot banquet hall is estimated to cost \$2.9 million. Demolishing all but the Gable Room which serves golfers and building a new 15,000-square-foot banquet hall would cost \$2.9 million.

Park officials say they would need

a referendum, that could cost taxpayers about \$30 a year, to save and renovate the clubhouse.

Anderson said the notice would not lobby for one choice or another, but would solicit feedback. "I want to reach the most amount of people in the shortest amount of time," Anderson said. "A lot of people say they don't want any raises in taxes, but this is something they could actually see where their money is going."

Park Board President Greg Klatecki said commissioners are reviewing the idea.

"We didn't say no to her," Klatecki said. "We'll probably say it's OK, but we'll want to review what (the flier) is going to say."

Klatecki said the board welcomes letters from residents about the Chevy Chase.



**Towering work**  
A single-engine airplane flies by the skeleton of a new air traffic control tower under construction at Palwaukee Airport in Wheeling. The tower's construction, which is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, is expected to be completed in September, although it will not be operational until 1997.

# Open-space group takes message to the Internet

Residents hope a new web site will attract a commercial developer who will help their group preserve trees and open space on land eyed for residential construction.

*Countryside*  
By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
4-18-96

A residents group trying to save open space along Milwaukee Avenue as a play area for Whitman School children has taken its message on-line in hopes of attracting a commercial developer while killing a proposed townhome community at the same time.

Call up <http://www.wheeling.com> on the Internet and you will see a photograph of one of the mature trees that dot the property and a brief synopsis of the land's history.

The page was established by Gary Cohn, spokesman for the group that calls itself SPACE — Save Precious Acreage for our Children and Community to Enjoy.

The debate between SPACE and the village has been ongoing since last summer.

The village plans to purchase six parcels at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. from four owners and offer them together for development as part of Wheeling's tax-increment financing district.

## Townhome plan

An initial townhome plan, proposed by developer Joseph Freed, was abandoned early this year but it was quickly picked up again.

This time it was Realen Homes of Palatine moving the plan forward, and the company recently received the trustees' approval to build a 40-unit complex on the site. Construction could start next month.

Residents oppose the plan because they say it would take away play space from students at nearby Whitman School, destroy trees that some claim are more than 100 years old, and increase traffic congestion.

Of the 7.8 acres targeted for development, Elementary School District 21 has committed to purchasing 1.9 acres to expand the play area used by Whitman students. The School Board is expected to vote on the purchase price for that land at tonight's meeting.

SPACE, however, says it still needs at least three acres to create a park. The groups hopes the web page will attract a developer who is interested in a commercial use along the Milwaukee Avenue frontage.

"We are not anti-development," the page states. "We are in fact for sensible development. . . . Let's plan ahead this time and do the right thing by buying the back acreage for (Continued on page 9)

**"I believe with enough public opposition we can stop it. It's not over."**

**Gary Cohn**

a park and selling the (frontage) which is east of the trees for commercial development."

The page instructs those who want to help SPACE's cause to call 685-ROBB for weekly updates, e-mail Village President Sheila Schultz or call Village Hall and comment. The group continues to sell bricks from the former Union Hotel to raise funds in hopes of purchasing part of the site.

"I decided the ROBB line was helpful in keeping people updated," said Cohn. "But I thought so many people have not been to the area and haven't seen the trees. I thought I could send them all a picture, but decided to put the site on the Internet."

## Address concerns

Cohn purchased the electronic address late last year and has been setting up the page since. It went on-line last week.

The address would seem to represent the village of Wheeling, though governments usually end their addresses with gov. Cohn said his ability to purchase the Wheeling address was because of a "lack of foresight on the village's part."

"They can't own the name," Cohn said. "They can't use it without my permission."

"This allows people to e-mail their comments and allows me to hand-deliver them to Village Hall," he said. "I want to know what the people think — whether they want a park or the townhomes. To me, it's 'virtual Village Hall.' It's the future of communication."

With construction of the townhomes expected to begin in May, SPACE members realize their time to fight the development is running out, Cohn said.

"Obviously, this is one of the last steps before they break ground. I believe with enough public opposition we can stop it," Cohn said. "It's not over."

Regardless of what happens with the property along Milwaukee, Cohn said, he plans to maintain the web page to publicize Wheeling. "I want to help the village more than just this project with the trees," he added.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the board on Monday was to vote on resolutions authorizing village staff to negotiate the purchase of the six parcels involved in the townhome project.

# Wheeling taps residents, visitors for budget increase

expected to cost \$700,000 to \$800,000.

In fact, it is capital improvement projects that are boosting the budget to about \$40.4 million, Anderson said. The new budget is about 37.8 percent more than the \$29.3 million that the village expects to spend in the current year.

And to help pay for these projects, the village passed the tax and fee increases without having to rely solely on property taxes, Anderson said.

"Rather than rely on the property tax, we are looking at other ways to do it," Anderson said. The tax increase also helps spread the financial burden for operating the village with customers of shops and businesses, Anderson added.

The new sewer and water rates are expected to increase revenue for those services by \$94,250, to \$4,394,250.

The new sales tax will increase revenue by \$200,000 to \$900,000. These increases are a portion of the \$32.1 million that the village projects to collect this year. This amount, according to the budget, is about 2 percent less than the approximately \$32.8 million that is expected to be collected this year.

BY **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
4-17-96

Wheeling officials this week approved the budget for the upcoming year.

And to help pay for the \$40.6 million that it expects to spend, officials increased taxes and fees for not only residents, but people who eat in the village's restaurants and shop at its stores. Village trustees, as part of approving the budget for the fiscal year that begins May 1, imposed increases in Wheeling's water and sewer fees and its sales tax. Residents will pay about 5 percent more for water and sewer service, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The water rate will increase from \$2.76 to \$2.90 for every 1,000 gallons, while the sewer rate will increase from 43 cents to 45 cents for every 1,000 gallons of service, Anderson said. The sales tax that the village charges will increase from .25 percent to .50 percent, Anderson said.

The village will undertake several capital projects, which include about \$900,000 in road improvements and a water main extension to portions of Palwaukee Municipal Airport that is

# Fire protection to change in 4 unincorporated areas

4-17-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board members Tuesday night decided to have more of their district served by the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District.

Less expensive, but equal fire and ambulance service is why the board voted 2-1 to have the Prospect Heights district serve about four pockets of unincorporated Wheeling Township that are located south of Dundee Road.

However, board Member Peter Urban and some residents fear that it will take emergency vehicles from the Prospect Heights district longer to reach those areas than it would for those that now come from the Wheeling Fire Department.

The board's move increased from about 67 percent to 90 percent the area of the Wheeling Township district that will be served by the Prospect Heights district.

Board President Anthony Carlin said that the shift in departments was made partially because it will cost the district \$133,000 to protect those areas instead of the projected

\$215,000 that Wheeling was expected to charge.

The entire contract, which includes the \$82,000 cost savings, that is expected to be effective May 14 after the Prospect Heights' district approves it is for \$715,140.

And, Carlin said, this will be done while providing service in between four to six minutes, the district's goal for response time.

However, Wheeling Township resident Tina Dean said it now takes about two minutes for Wheeling's emergency vehicles to get to her home. And she opposes the district's move because it will now take longer for crews to respond to emergencies. Urban said he voted against the change because there are closer stations to serve the area than the Prospect Heights district's.

But new service to the area won't necessarily be slower because the station is farther, said Chief Donald R. Gould Jr., of the Prospect Heights district. He added availability of crews is one of the many factors that contribute to response times.

Gould said his district can give the area the same type of service they have had.

# Louisiana cuisine getting niche on restaurant strip

Tribune 4-18-96

■ **Wheeling:** Wheeling's strip of notable restaurants will likely gain a new addition by late this summer.

The Village Board has granted site-plan approval for conversion of the buildings and grounds of a former recreational vehicle sales and repair office at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave to a 2,300-square-foot Cajun and Creole style restaurant called Crawdaddys Bayou.

Total cost of building and remodeling to create a southern Louisiana atmosphere is about \$850,000, said Dan Heuertz, operations manager for Downtown Restaurants Inc., a management firm that will oversee construction of the restaurant.

Other noteworthy restaurants located along Milwaukee Avenue include Bob Chinn's Crab House, The Weber Grill, Le Francais and Hackney's among others.

Patrick O'Toole

# Judge levels strike two against fire service plan

4-13-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling this week failed for the second time to convince a judge to prevent the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District from contracting with another district for service the village once provided.

Now, trustees have about a month to decide whether the village should make one more attempt.

A Cook County Circuit Court judge opted to uphold his October decision to allow Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District to continue serving an area, that before Aug. 1, was protected by Wheeling's department.

Despite the village's second request to quash that arrangement, Judge Francis Barth said the contract between Wheeling and the Wheeling Township district does not preclude the latter from obtaining service from other departments.

But regardless of the decision, Wheeling is still concerned that the area that it no longer serves — primarily Prospect Heights — won't have the same quality of fire protection, said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Schultz said the village has opposed the change, not because it is losing as much as \$284,000 annually, but because officials think the Wheeling Fire Department can provide better service to those residents.

"This is not strictly a money issue," Schultz said.

Wheeling Township district officials, however, think the loss of funding is why the village is objecting.

"(That's) exactly it," said Karl R. Ottosen, the attorney for the Wheeling Township district.

Ottosen said the district decided to switch departments that serve two-thirds of its 10,000-home coverage area to provide quicker service.

Since making the change, Ottosen said, ambulances and fire trucks now respond to emergencies in the area in about four to six minutes. Before it took as long as 12 minutes.

And the service is the same type of protection that was provided by Wheeling's department, said Anthony Carlin, president of the Wheeling Township district.

Schultz said it is uncertain whether the village will appeal Barth's decision. The village has until May 9 to file an appeal to the Cook County Appellate Court.

# Small increases in sewer rates, sales tax approved

4-17-96

■ **Wheeling:** To meet a slight budget shortfall in the village's general fund for the coming fiscal year, trustees approved two small tax hikes along with its \$40.6 million budget.

The total budget for the fiscal year that begins May 1 is about 9.7 percent higher than the current year. Most of that increase is due to anticipated capital expenditures for a new train station, expected to open in late summer.

To offset a nearly \$1.5 million shortfall in its general fund the board agreed to raise its home-rule sales tax percentage to 1/2 a percent from 1/4 a percent and

raised the general fund property tax levy by 10 percent.

Village President Sheila Schultz said that even at the new higher level, the village sales tax would still be lower than most towns.

The board also agreed to raise water and sewer rates slightly to \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons of water from \$2.76 and to 45 cents per 1,000 gallons from 42 cents for sewer. Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said these increases would help offset the cost of a long-term phase-in of new water meters that are readable remotely via radio frequency technology.

Patrick O'Toole

# Wheeling to fund agencies at 4% more than last year

4-22-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees this week decided to spend \$113,435 in the coming year to help fund social service agencies.

Though the monies granted were less than what the groups that provide counseling, child care and other services had requested, they are about 4 percent more than the \$109,075 received this year.

Wheeling is pleased with how the agencies have served the area, but the village is limited in how much it can contribute to them, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

The social service contributions were included in the \$40.6 million budget for the fiscal year that begins May 1, which trustees recently approved.

Despite "the era of cuts" that is common in government, Schultz said, the village was still able to grant most of the requests made by the seven agencies that provide counseling, child care and other services to the area.

The agencies requested from the village a total of \$120,335, about 11 percent more than was

given the year prior and about 6 percent more than what they will receive for this year.

Schultz said most of the requests made by agencies were granted.

One request that wasn't fully granted came from the Wheeling-based Horizons Children's Center, which asked for a larger percentage increase than the other agencies, officials said.

Horizons originally requested \$25,000, which is about 47 percent more than the \$17,000 it received in fiscal 1995-96, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The board granted the nonprofit agency \$17,500, Anderson said.

Schultz said the increase for Horizons — a day-care provider, with 27 percent of those having their tuition subsidized by the government — was comparable to those given to the other agencies.

Though the less-than-hoped-for contribution was understandable, Horizons hopes to receive more funding from the village in the future so that it may serve more children who need financial assistance, said Suzan Sclove, the center's executive director.

# Wheeling: Fire contract swap won't hurt service

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

4-20-96

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District this week almost completely dropped the Wheeling Fire Department from serving its area.

Though it had to find other funding, such as raising some fees, Wheeling officials say the money lost from its coverage area shrinking from most of the 10,000-home district to about 28 in under a year won't be detrimental, nor will it hurt service.

"The needs of the fire department have been met to meet the needs of the community," said Wheeling's Chief Keith S. MacIsaac.

The Wheeling Township district this week switched which emergency crews serve about 20 percent of its area from Wheeling's department to the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District. This means the latter will now be hired to protect about 90 percent of the area, which was once mostly served by Wheeling.

The change left the Wheeling Fire Department protecting only about 28 homes near Northbrook, which is about 5 percent of the area.

The amount that Wheeling will now be paid still has to be negotiated, said Wheeling Township district President Anthony Carlin.

But after the district last June decided to have the Prospect Heights district serve about 70 percent of its area, which was mostly served by Wheeling, the payment made to the village decreased from \$558,902 annually to a maximum of \$216,000.

Previously, the Prospect Heights district received about \$30,000 annually for an area it served, said Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. of that department.

With the new contract to serve 90 percent of the district, which is expected to go into effect May 14, the Prospect Heights district will get \$715,140 annually.

A less-expensive service was one of the reasons why the area was switched to the Prospect Heights district, Carlin said.

But MacIsaac doubts that Wheeling's cost would have been that much. Carlin contests that, based on past increases.

The cost is based on calculating the property values of the village and district, then charging those areas proportionately to cover the department's expenses, he said.

# Wheeling might knock down eyesores

4-23-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are reviewing the possibility of removing two street barriers that spur periodic complaints from residents who think they are eyesores.

But before the village removes the 6-foot-tall wooden and steel structures that are on its border with Wheeling Township, officials want to get further opinions.

First, Wheeling officials plan to discuss the barriers that stand on Edward Street and Vera Lane with township officials. They would have to finish about 150 feet of Edward Street to meet where the village's portion of the road ends, officials said. Vera Lane is complete.

Wheeling officials also will get the opinions of people who live in

the village and township, where township residents about 10 years ago spurred construction of the barriers because of concerns that motorists would use the residential streets as a thoroughfare.

The issue about whether or not to tear down the barriers that the village erected has periodically surfaced since they were built, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson told trustees during Monday night's committee-of-the-whole meeting.

Complaints by a couple of Wheeling residents about the appearance of the barriers revived the issue recently, he said.

"Because it is an issue ... that keeps coming back," Anderson said, "maybe the best solution ... is to take away the barricades."

David Skarosi, a Wheeling resi-

dent, said the rusty barriers are unsightly. But he also was concerned that if they are taken down, motorists will use the streets, which each have posted 25 mph speed limits, to cut through to major streets, including Elmhurst and Schoenbeck roads.

"People will race through there," he said.

Anderson said the village possibly could step up police patrols in the area and install stop signs to prevent motorists from speeding if the barriers are taken down.

Some trustees seemed to support removing the barriers.

"As long as that is what the residents want," Trustee Robert J. Heer said.

He said the village should discuss the matter with township officials and consider all options.

# Property transfer tax rejected

4-23-96  
Tribune 5496  
■ Wheeling: Village Board members have turned down a tax proposal that would have increased the cost of selling property.

The board rejected a proposed real-estate transfer tax of \$3.00 per \$1,000 of sale price. The tax would have charged \$450 to the seller of a \$150,000 home.

The village anticipates a \$1.4 million budget deficit next year.

Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said the village averages 600 to 700 real-estate transfers annually. He estimated a transfer tax could have raised between \$300,000 and \$450,000 a year.

In voting against the measure, trustee Robert Heer acknowledged that a transfer tax was a common way for home-rule communities to recoup losses from unpaid local services such as water bills. But he said the proposed tax had not been on the table long enough for Wheeling residents to voice their opinion on the idea.

Patrick O'Toole

# Restaurant to capture taste of bayou

4-24-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is about to get a taste of the Louisiana bayou.

By summer's end, Craw Daddy Bayou will bring crawfish, gumbo and other Cajun fare to the area when it opens a new restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue.

The restaurant will transform the building at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave. from a place that was once used to repair recreational vehicles to an old-fashioned Louisiana general store somewhere on the fringe of a swamp.

"There isn't anything like it anywhere," said William Pritts, president of Downtown Restaurants Inc. of Palatine, which will run the business for owners John Liautaud and his son, John Liautaud Jr., of Cary. "Nothing that has captured the essence of the bayou."

Aside from Cajun food, Craw Daddy Bayou will serve up live Cajun and zydeco music, also trademarks of Louisiana.

Pritts said the 9,200-square-foot building will be expanded by 1,200 square feet. Construction on the restaurant, that will be able to seat more than 300 people, is

expected to begin next month.

The fact that the warehouse, that had been vacant for at least two years, will now house a business is a benefit to the village, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

"It is especially good because it is taking an existing building and redoing it," Schultz said. "It cleans it up and we are able ... to make an interesting building out of something that was non-descript."

The opening of Craw Daddy Bayou comes at a time, and to an area, that the village is trying to improve, Schultz said.

Particularly, Schultz said, the village is trying to spur development of property that is hard to build on because it is small or oddly shaped or is currently occupied by buildings that are not using the land's full potential.

More development along Milwaukee Avenue would benefit the village because the strip is heavily traveled and could potentially generate additional taxes, Schultz said.

"It has a lot of possibilities and there a lot of things happening there," Schultz said.

# Fire district change divides Palwaukee

4-25-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When an airplane is involved in an accident or catches fire, there is no time for confusion.

That's why it is important for Palwaukee Municipal Airport to know that only one fire department is responsible for responding to emergencies, said manager Fred Stewart.

"It's only logical," Stewart said. "How would you feel if you had a high-rise building and one fire department was responding for the first ten floors and another for the next ten floors?"

But an impending change in which department will serve portions of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District might result in one department being responsible for half the air-

port while another will be responsible for the other half.

The Wheeling Township district last week switched about 20 percent of its area from the Wheeling Fire Department to the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District.

According to the change, which is expected to go into effect May 14, the Prospect Heights district would serve the southern half of the airport, which is within the Wheeling Township district.

The northern half is within Wheeling and would continue to be served by its department, which now serves the entire airport.

That change could pose confusion over which department to call, Stewart said.

But the Wheeling Township district is responsible for serving its

area and intends to do so, said district President Anthony Carlin.

It is possible that the issue will be discussed at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission joint meeting with Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials at 7:45 p.m. Monday at the Northbrook Hilton, 2855 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The airport is jointly owned and operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said that he hopes the issue will be resolved by May 14 and result in his department serving the airport.

Prospect Heights district Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. said he hopes both departments can work together and respond to calls at the airport.

# Wheeling appeals fire protection ruling

5-7-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is heading back to court in a third attempt to stop the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District from contracting with another district for service the village once provided.

Village officials Wednesday said they planned to appeal two previous decisions by a judge allowing the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District to continue serving an area that was once served by Wheeling's fire department.

Village officials hope an appellate court will overturn Judge Francis Barth's decisions in October and another last month, claiming the Wheeling Township fire district violated its 1982 contract with Wheeling by twice paring the area

it covers.

"The contract basically said that we would be the provider and their interpretation was different," Wheeling Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said.

The Wheeling Township fire district, which pays other departments to serve its area, last June changed its contracts so the Prospect Heights fire district could serve two-thirds of its 10,000-home area, the majority located within Prospect Heights, which was once mostly served by the village of Wheeling.

But the Wheeling Township fire district last month proposed another contract change, effective Tuesday, to have the Prospect Heights district cover about 90 percent of the area.

The fact that this latest change splits coverage of Palwaukee

Municipal Airport between the village of Wheeling and the Prospect Heights fire district was the "final straw," spurring Wheeling officials to file the appeal, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

Schultz and airport officials are concerned that having two departments serve the airport will create confusion and a safety concern.

But having two departments cover the airport won't jeopardize safety because both will respond to emergencies, doubling the service that was once given, Wheeling Township fire district board President Anthony Carlin said.

Carlin said Wheeling's court action will not sway the fire district's plans. "I don't think it will change anything," he said.

Rhodes said it will take at least six months for the appellate court to hear the case.

# NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

## Group turns to court for help in its fight against town houses

5-7-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of Wheeling residents wants a judge to nullify village approval of plans for 40 town houses on Milwaukee Avenue in order to give residents more of a chance to fight the project.

Three residents filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court claiming the village violated its own ordinance when trustees gave preliminary approval last month for the project that targets about 8 acres at 124-129 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The lawsuit was filed Friday by Mary Mozal, Effie Myrick and Gary Hittleman, who are members of a citizens group called Save Precious Acreage for Children, or SPACE. The group opposes the project because they say it will destroy trees and occupy open space used by children.

The residents also appealed to the village's zoning board of appeals to recommend that the village board overturn the decision.

The residents' attorney, William C. Spangenberg, said the plan should have gone through another review by the plan commission and a public hearing because the developers of the

project have changed. Wheeling-based Joseph Freed & Associates originally planned to develop the land that once housed the Union Hotel and other businesses, but it backed out of the project. Plans called for the developer to buy the land through the village as part of a project to redevelop the area.

Realen Homes Inc. of Philadelphia has since decided to develop the area, which is next to Whitman Elementary School.

The lawsuit charges that the plan commission recommended village board approval of the plans on Aug. 31, 1995, but that approval was not given until last month.

The suit contends that the late vote violated an ordinance requiring trustees to act on a recommendation within six months.

Village Manager Craig C. Anderson declined to comment about whether the board voted on the recommendation within the required time.

But he said the plan did not change substantially from developer to developer.

Though the developer changed, the four current owners of the land have always been the ones named as the main sponsor of the project, Anderson said.

The league, which has been described as "friendly but competitive," consists of eight three-person teams, and they take over the eight-lane Jeffrey facility every Tuesday morning.

# London gets touch of Arbor Day green

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

dent present. 5-2-96

*Countyside*  
London Middle School is looking a little greener, thanks to the planting of several trees along the school's curved parkway as part of Wheeling's recent Arbor Day celebration.

Teacher Pam Wieland said the village gave London School five trees for the celebration. Four were planted by village employees and the fifth was planted by students. Five sixth-graders were chosen to help toss dirt onto the trees.

The entire sixth-grade class at London, about 150 students, welcomed village officials to the Arbor Day celebration Friday. Students' artwork and stories were on display and Kathryn Ward, a new Wheeling resident, obtained tree seedlings and handed one out to each stu-

Besides planting the trees, Wieland said, students read poems they had written about Arbor Day.

"The students were very excited," Wieland said of the sixth-grade "Navigator" team chosen to represent the school and accept the trees.



Rob Dickey/Plumtree Press

**Wheeling Street Department** employee Jeff Kopper, left, gets an assist from Jerry Edwards and Scott Mulford while rolling a crab apple tree into its new home at London Middle School.

# Northbrook sweetens Forestview deal

**Northbrook officials have offered residents of an unincorporated neighborhood a sweet deal to annex into their village instead of Wheeling, but a final decision may have to wait until after November.**

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

5-2-96

*Countyside*  
"Well, they got our attention," laughed Northbrook Village Manager John Novinson, but he wasn't kidding. The folks who own the 24 properties on unincorporated Forestview Drive seem to have successfully enlisted the entire Village of Wheeling in their tussle with Northbrook.

Those property owners, tucked under Northbrook's northwest edge, were the object of an attempt by Northbrook to involuntarily annex them earlier this year. But a few fled west to Wheeling, which agreed to set up a November election to make their own decision to annex to that town, which is legally, though not practically, contiguous, to their little neighborhood. In between Forestview Estates and Wheeling is the Tri-State Tollway, the Des Plaines River and the Potawatomie Woods.

Some of the Forestview neighbors term the few among them who dragged Wheeling into the conflict "hotheads," but hotheaded or not, they seem to have forced Northbrook to bargain with everybody.

Last week, the village offered them all an annexation agreement that answers many of their concerns, and so far, the reviews are good.

"It's just great," said resident Lloyd Peterson Monday after showing the pact to his lawyer. "I can see no problem." He sees the pact as giving him the best of all possible worlds when it comes to fending off unwanted services to the "rustic" community.

"We'll be able to keep our wells, and any deviation from (Northbrook) zoning laws will be grandfathered," he said. "We don't want lights, sidewalks, sewer and water, and they have agreed to this."

"But should the terrible time arrive that we run out of water, or our septic systems fail, if we were part of Wheeling it would be astronomically expensive to come up under the Des Plaines River to serve 20-odd properties. The cost would be out of this world."

**'We don't want lights, sidewalks, sewer and water, and they have agreed to this.'**

**Lloyd Peterson  
Forestview resident**

Northbrook, however, started the original process out of concern for what happened in the air, not water.

The village sought to annex them and other tiny unincorporated parts of Cook County near town in the face of a rush by the area's two cellular telephone providers to purchase sites for transmission towers, some of which are over 100 feet tall.

Favorite locations are unincorporated parcels near towns with high usage, and close to highways, where cellular phoning is heaviest. Several area villages have been burned by placement of towers outside of town, but close to residents often incensed by their new tall neighbors.

Novinson said Monday more than half the Forestview homeowners have asked their property be inspected to assess what non-code portions of their properties would be grandfathered if they opt for

one of two plans offered.

One plan would annex their properties; another would freeze the status quo for 20 years, according to Novinson. Northbrook couldn't force a homeowner to do anything, but the homeowners couldn't add cell towers and the like, either. The second option would keep the homeowners independent of the village, but they couldn't annex to any other town for the 20-year term.

## Wheeling election

But as long as the Wheeling election date remains, Northbrook can't legally annex the properties, even voluntarily. Novinson has asked those who opt for entry to his village to ask Wheeling to drop the election. Otherwise, the only way they'll get in is after an electoral loss this fall. Presumably, all those who went along with one of the Northbrook plans wouldn't vote against their own wishes.

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes chided Northbrook's dual offer as creating a "piano-tooth" kind of annexation, in which the village could gain compliance with its codes for a generation without necessarily annexing all the properties. He said the Wheeling way allows "the majority of people to make the determination where it goes."

He maintained the Forestview residents "are more involved in the community of interests of Wheeling than Northbrook." They're in Wheeling Township, Wheeling School Districts 21 and 214 and are protected by the Wheeling Fire Department.

In Northbrook, they'd pay slightly lower property taxes, but that's not the only reason the "community of interests" with Wheeling isn't necessarily a positive, according to Dr. Sanford Mason, who owns a Forestview Estates home.

(Continued on page 8)

## ■ Forestview *Continued from page 5*

He uses it as an office for his podiatry practice, which he conducts principally at nursing homes. He said Monday he would eventually like to move his business to a real office, and give the Forestview Drive land to his daughter. She would tear down the house where his office is, and build a bigger home there.

But he said as things are now, she wouldn't do it. "Not when she'd have to send kids to Wheeling schools," he said. He said a later move to petition into Northbrook Schools would be a good idea. Such petitions, traditionally unsuccessful, have become much more possible in recent years as courts take community preference more into account than previously.

Mason would welcome the Northbrook Police Department, already a presence yards from his home. He said he never sees Cook County police patrolling his area, only an occasional squad checking speeders. He suspects the Wheeling department would neglect his neighborhood, estranged from the rest of that

village as it is.

The Northbrook Fire Department would take over from the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District if he annexed, with a new station under construction on Huehl Road a short distance from his house.

Recently, the Wheeling Fire Department lost the contract for the "paper" rural district to the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, keeping only the small portion on Forestview. Currently, Northbrook Fire has an automatic aid relationship with Wheeling to cover the neighborhood, and Northbrook Chief Jay Reardon says both squads arrive at fire calls there at about the same time.

Some Forestview residents worry they might wind up covered, like the rest of the Wheeling Rural district, by Prospect Heights. That rural district's nearest station is a temporary one just south of Palwaukee Airport. "When you look at police and fire, you look at the most critical services," said Novinson.

Rhodes warned that the

Northbrook agreement restricted reconstruction of homes to be accomplished within the village code, which would prevent partially-burned homes from being rebuilt if their setbacks were smaller than those allowed in their new village.

"You go to close on a sale (of a Forestview home), and lo and behold, the mortgage company says you have a non-conforming use," said Rhodes. Forestview residents contacted discounted that possibility, maintaining their lots of an acre or so left enough room around their houses to comply with Northbrook setback standards.

Mason said Northbrook officials told him they would grandfather-in his podiatry practice as a non-conforming legal use in the residential area. Some homeowners outside of Forestview Estates will have the same opportunity. Though they don't have the leverage of the Wheeling election, Northbrook has offered the same agreement to homeowners in other areas it planned to forcibly annex.

# Annexation talk ignites fire protection disputes

By IRV LEAVITT  
STAFF WRITER

5-2-96  
*Countryside*

When Northbrook officials invited homeowners of unincorporated Forestview Drive for a discussion about annexing to their community, one of the residents brought up a subject already on several of their minds: The changes in the fire coverage for the unincorporated areas between Wheeling and Northbrook.

In fact, along with a few scraps of land covered by the Buffalo Grove and Glenbrook departments, the 24 homes on Forestview Drive are among the few whose protection provider haven't changed. The Wheeling Fire Department still covers the Forestview Estates, the only portion of the Wheeling Rural Fire Protection District it retains after losing most of it to the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, a force independent of the village of the same name.

Forestview Drive resident Peter Urban is a minority of one on the Wheeling Rural District. Two other trustees, led by Prospect Heights' Tony Carlin, successfully wrenched the Wheeling rural contract from the Wheeling municipal department, which handled it for years.

"They have it rigged," said Urban.

"He didn't even vote against it," came back Carlin. Urban admits he mistakenly voted to award the contract to Prospect Heights because he wasn't sent an advance copy, and misunderstood the lengthy document.

Urban, along with the village of Wheeling and its Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac, seems to be the loser in a two-year battle over the rural district to Carlin, Carlin's fellow Trustee and Prospect Heights resident Joe Wolfe, and Prospect Heights Chief Don Gould. They say they aim to make their victory permanent, by swallowing the Wheeling Rural District whole.

Urban maintains even with the new station, Wheeling's two stations are closer to most of the district than Prospect Heights is, with its Piper Lane location plus its main one at Camp

McDonald and Route 83. He said it's wrong to shift the contract because of the distances.

Prospect Heights Chief Gould said response times remain low because the roads leading to most of the district are easy to traverse. He and Carlin also maintain Wheeling's response times are too high to much of the district. MacIsaac said that's hogwash; he maintains the eight and twelve-minute response times they complain about are for service calls like carbon monoxide-checks where sirens aren't used.

Carlin complains Wheeling doesn't have a 3,000-gallon tanker to bring to fires, like the new one Prospect Heights has. Urban maintains Wheeling trucks, which carry 750 gallons, have sufficient hose to reach from hydrants to most of its non-hydranted former territory.

Wheeling's village department has an enviable Insurance Service Organization rating of 3 in the district, while Prospect Heights has an uncoveted 9.

The Wheeling Rural contract Wheeling municipal handled its last full year, 1994-1995, for \$541,000, has been awarded to Prospect Heights this year for \$715,000. Urban and MacIsaac say that's not right, because Wheeling charged out the contract to cover fire department costs on a straight pro-rate of equalized assessed value of the district compared with that of the Village of Wheeling.

Carlin says the contract is still based on EAV, and suggests that if Wheeling still had the contract, it would be charging about the same for it, even though it wouldn't be paying for a share of the new tanker. As it is, Wheeling's fire tax rate is half Prospect Heights'.

But even with a loss of over a half-million dollars to the Wheeling Fire Department budget, MacIsaac is going ahead with moving up three firefighters to shift commander status, and hiring three new men to replace them, at a cost of about \$200,000. "The Village of Wheeling has a commitment to support this fire department," he said.

# Wheeling gives Mobil green light

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-10-96

Wheeling officials this week approved a new Mobil gas station, but with the hopes that they will be a better neighbor than in the past.

Mobil Oil Corp. this month expects to begin building a new combination gas station, mini-mart and car wash on about an acre on the southeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads.

But before the village board approved the project this week, some trustees raised concerns about the way the company has

operated in the village in the past.

At issue was the way in which two former Mobil stations were closed and left vacant for several years before the buildings were razed.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said the new station would be a good addition to the corner, but what was a concern for her was how long it would remain in business. And if it did close, Abruscato questioned if the company would maintain the site.

Trustees were assured by Mobil representatives that the new station on heavily traveled Lake-Cook Road would probably be one of

their most successful in the region and that the two that formerly closed did so because the company was in a transition.

"I am quite confident that this site will be a viable site," said Robert Kraus of Mobil's marketing division. "We are not going to board this building up."

The two stations, closed for more than three years, were located at the northeast corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and the southwest corner of Schoenbeck and Dundee roads.

And officials say the property owners of the former stations,

which have been razed, had to be reminded often to keep the property maintained while the buildings were vacant.

The stations had been acquired from another company, Texaco, in a takeover, said Ernie Rossi, a manager from the company's Midwest office in Joliet.

The stations were closed while Mobil was considering whether it would remain in the area, Kraus added.

Mobil has since restructured and regionally, its service stations are now number three in the market, Rossi said.

# Despite a need for new revenue, Wheeling dumps transfer tax idea

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-7-96

Wheeling officials say they're always looking for new sources of revenue to help pay for village services.

But the village board Monday night opted against charging a tax on residents and business owners who sell their property.

"It's almost like we are going to penalize someone for selling their house," Trustee Robert J. Heer said.

Heer was one of four trustees who voted unanimously against a proposed real estate transfer tax that would have cost property owners \$3 for every \$1,000 of a property's sale price. Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and Robert Todd were absent.

If a house was sold for \$150,000, the

owner could have been charged \$450.

The tax, which provided an exemption for people older than 65 and for those who would sell their property to buy other property in the village, would have raised an estimated \$300,000 annually.

Officials have been looking for revenue sources, without increasing property taxes, to help fund Wheeling's \$40.6 million budget, which includes a \$1.4 million deficit.

The board last month, as part of approving the budget for the fiscal year that begins May 1, imposed increases in the village's water and sewer fees and its sales tax.

But trustees Monday night opposed creating the real estate transfer tax.

Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski said he

opposed the idea because he doesn't think homeowners should have another tax imposed on them.

Heer said the village should review other ways to raise income.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said many other communities have such a tax and that property owners could have arranged to either split the payment with a buyer or have the buyers pay all of it.

Nearby Buffalo Grove has such a tax. That village's tax, enacted in 1992, is similar to one that was proposed in Wheeling.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said revenue wasn't the only reason the tax was enacted. She said it was also seen as a way to ensure that property owners paid all their water and other bills before moving.

# Community policing puts brakes on crime

## Suburbs with programs saw decrease in crime last year

BY DAN ROZEK  
DAILY HERALD STAFF WRITER

Community programs that enlist residents in the fight against crime helped send crime rates sliding last year in many Northwest suburbs and across Illinois.

Law enforcement officials are citing such community policing programs as a key reason to the lower crime rates seen in suburbs like Wheeling, where crime dropped a healthy 10.2 percent in 1995.

"We focused on the community with crime prevention programs so

### Town by town breakdown of crime statistics - Page 4

people become more aware and call us more often," said Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes. "We feel it's definitely made a difference for us."

Serious crime dropped about 1 percent statewide in 1995, while violent crime slid a steeper 3.4 percent, according to Illinois State Police statistics.

In Cook County, there were similar results, with reported crime dropping about 2.9 percent and vio-

### Northwest Suburban crime 1995 figures

#### Biggest crime rate increases

Town	Percent increase	Rates per 1,000 people
Tower Lakes	+233.3	6.96
Bartlett	+17.2	20.05
Prospect Hts.	+15.2	28.59
Hanover Park	+12.8	28.89
Barrington Hills	+10.6	11.23

Source: Illinois State Police

#### Biggest crime rate decreases

Town	Percent decrease	Rates per 1,000 people
Barrington area	-15.1	18.62
Rolling Meadows	-11.9	37.03
Wheeling	-10.2	26.21
Elk Grove Village	-8.4	40.97
Hoffman Estates	-3.7	19.85
Palatine	-3.7	36.54

#### Types of crime

##### Biggest increases

Robbery	+24.0 %
Criminal sexual assault	+19.0 %

##### Biggest decreases

Agg. assault/battery	-19.1 %
Burglary	-9.3 %

Daily Herald Graphic

lent crime falling 4.5 percent.

A number of Northwest suburbs, like Wheeling, also reported declining crime rates. Across the Northwest suburbs, the rate of serious crime rate rose just 4 percent last year.

Even towns that posted higher

crime rates say those increases are deceiving, caused more by statistical quirks or inaccuracies than by rising levels of crime.

"In the scheme of things, it's not a crime boom," said Bartlett Police Sgt. Robert Page of state statistics that show Bartlett's crime rate ris-

ing 17 percent.

State police officials credit drop in crime statewide — third time that's happened in last four years — to a mix of police, more prisons and

See CRIME on Page 4

## CRIME: Aggressive law enforcement helps trend

Continued from Page 1

community involvement.

"Community policing and aggressive law enforcement is helping," said Mark McDonald, a spokesman for State Police Director Terry Gainer. "People are taking a lot more responsibility for their communities and neighborhoods."

In Wheeling, where violent crime dropped 12.6 percent, officials have added police foot patrols in the last year and plan this year to begin running bicycle patrols.

Other programs have focused on young people, on drug prevention and on building closer ties between police and merchants, Hermes said.

"That's all led to more interaction with citizens," he said.

Such programs are being used across the Northwest suburbs with greater frequency.

In Buffalo Grove, for example, community liaison officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods. Schaumburg police this year have begun patrolling the same areas in a move designed to dampen crime by strengthening ties between residents and police officers.

"It's not just a police problem, it's a community problem," said Schaumburg Police Sgt. Ron Dutner.

The crime rate in Schaumburg rose 7.5 percent last year, an increase Dutner linked largely to a growing daytime business population.

"The opportunity is there to do more criminal activity," he said. "It's not unexpected in a growing community."

A number of officials complain that the state crime rates are either flat-out wrong, or sometimes inflat-

ed because local population figures are higher than those used to compile the state statistics.

In Bartlett, for example, a jump in the number of sexual assaults from four to 12 largely fueled a 13 percent jump in violent crimes.

"In a small community, that number (of assaults) gives us concern and something to focus on," Page said. But he noted the percentage increase in violent crime translates out to 23 more actual crimes committed in 1995 than in 1994.

Taken collectively, the number of murders in the Northwest suburbs rose 7.1 percent last year, the number of sexual assaults jumped 19 percent and the number of robberies rose 24 percent.

And some officials caution that the decline in recent years are not a sign that crime is in full retreat.

Thomas Kirkpatrick, executive

director of the Chicago Crime Commission, cautioned the yearly changes are only significant when viewed over the long term. And long-term analysis shows substantially more crime now as compared to 30 years ago, and also shows more random crime.

Mobil officials, however, believe this store will succeed, and could be the jewel of their Chicago market.

"We feel this site has a tremendous future for success," said Bob Kraus of Mobil's marketing department. "We think it's going to be our finest market in the Chicago area. We feel this

Stadelman expects he will need between 45 and 60 days to complete the village's permit process, but expects to begin construction as soon as the permits are obtained. Construction should last 100 days.

Mobil, which has a history of two abandoned service stations in Wheeling, had a tougher time seeking trustees' approval. The Mobil, with a car wash and convenience store, will be located on the northwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot.

"This is beautiful and it will enhance that corner and the village of Wheeling, but my question is how long will it enhance it?" Abruscato asked, saying if the company abandons the site after opening the business, the village would like some assurance that the site would be cleaned up and landscaped to its current state.

Mobil expects to begin building the station as soon as weather permits. The service station and convenience store will be open 24 hours. Access will be a right-in, right-out only turn from Lake-Cook Road. As with the McDonald's access to the site is available through the Wal-Mart parking lot.

An extra feature of the new Wheeling McDonald's will be built on the northeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot, and will use the existing right-in, right-out access from Lake-Cook Road. The fast-food restaurant also can be accessed from McHenry Road by driving through the Sam's Club and Wal-Mart parking lots.

McDonald's project manager John Manchester said the restaurant has undergone many changes since being referred to the Plan Commission and should work well in the Wal-Mart outlet site. Trustee Bob Heer noted that the drive-through has been positioned so cars' headlights will not shine into nearby homes.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said there is nothing the village can add to the ordinance to require Mobil to clean up the site if the business fails. "It's my opinion we cannot require someone to remove a building because (it's) vacant," he said. "We continue to look at the issue and for guidance from other municipalities that have dealt with this issue."

In 1991, trustees had approved a similar development on this site, but Mobil never built it. One Mobil official admitted that the company's performance prior to 1991 was sub-par, and noted that the company is now third in the Chicago market. Some reorganization has occurred within the company also, including moving the Midwest region headquarters from Fairfax, Va., to Joliet.

## New businesses get village's OK

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

By this fall, two new businesses should join Wal-Mart and Sam's Club on the southeast corner of Lake-Cook and Weiland roads.

Wheeling trustees on Monday approved site plans and special uses for a McDonald's restaurant and a Mobil gas station/car wash and convenience store, all to be located on the Wal-Mart property at 1455 W. Lake-Cook Road.

The McDonald's will be built on the northeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot, and will use the existing right-in, right-out access from Lake-Cook Road. The fast-food restaurant also can be accessed from McHenry Road by driving through the Sam's Club and Wal-Mart parking lots.

Trustee Judy Abruscato questioned whether the new McDonald's would take business away from the McDonald's at 188 E. Dundee Road.

"We are very, very confident that both restaurants will survive," said Jim Stadelman, real estate manager for McDonald's.

McDonald's project manager John Manchester said the restaurant has undergone many changes since being referred to the Plan Commission and should work well in the Wal-Mart outlet site.

Trustee Bob Heer noted that the drive-through has been positioned so cars' headlights will not shine into nearby homes.

### Public Works open house set

Wheeling residents will have the opportunity to have their public works-related questions answered at a village open house from 9 a.m.-noon May 18 at the newly constructed South Receiving Station, 95 Old Willow Road.

Guests will tour the new water facility and view the 3 million-gallon standpipe constructed on the site.

Public works staff will be able to answer questions and provide information.

The open house is intended to celebrate the contributions Wheeling's Public Works Department makes to the community and share its vision and plans for the future. All residents are invited.

# Crime in the Northwest suburbs

Town	Year	Pop.	Crimes per 10,000 residents	Violent crimes per 10,000 residents	Murder	Criminal sexual assault	Robbery	Aggrvt. assault/battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson
Arlington Heights	1995	77,438	251.0	9.2	2	8	17	44	323	1451	90	9
	1994	77,438	256.7	8.9	0	17	13	39	330	1483	85	21
	% Chge.		-2.2	2.9	DNA	-52.9	30.8	12.8	-2.1	-2.2	5.9	-57.1
Barrington area	1995	22,939	186.2	34.0	0	1	2	75	105	226	16	2
	1994	22,939	219.3	53.2	0	0	0	122	51	315	14	1
	% Chge.		-15.1	-36.1	0	DNA	DNA	-38.5	105.9	-28.3	14.3	100
Barrington Hills	1995	4,629	112.3	19.4	0	0	0	9	10	33	0	0
	1994	4,629	101.5	6.5	0	0	0	3	7	34	3	0
	% Chge.		10.6	200	0	0	0	200	42.9	-2.9	-100	0
Bartlett	1995	29,920	200.5	8.7	0	12	3	11	94	465	10	5
	1994	29,920	171.1	7.7	0	4	1	18	76	401	9	3
	% Chge.		17.2	13.0	0	200	200	-38.9	23.7	16.0	11.1	66.7
Buffalo Grove	1995	39,806	177.1	4.8	0	2	3	14	54	603	24	5
	1994	39,806	170.6	3.8	0	4	2	9	82	563	16	3
	% Chge.		3.8	26.7	0	-50	50	55.6	-34.1	7.1	50	66.7
Cook Co.sheriff	1995	80,890	522.7	44.5	1	58	65	236	795	2374	659	40
	1994	80,890	519.7	38.8	7	66	47	194	1,628	1787	459	16
	% Chge.		0.6	14.7	-85.7	-12.1	38.3	21.6	-51.2	32.8	43.6	150.0
Des Plaines	1995	52,896	368.7	16.8	0	11	19	59	358	1365	125	13
	1994	52,896	355.4	11.9	0	10	21	32	324	1336	141	16
	% Chge.		3.7	41.3	0	10	-9.5	84.4	10.5	2.2	-11.3	-18.8
Elgin	1995	85,339	495.3	44.9	10	74	134	165	685	2831	305	23
	1994	85,339	504.1	50.6	4	49	105	274	824	2749	275	22
	% Chge.		-1.8	-11.8	150	51	27.6	-39.8	-16.9	3.0	10.9	4.5
Elk Grove Village	1995	34,027	409.7	12.6	2	12	1	28	142	1110	88	11
	1994	34,027	447.0	13.2	0	10	6	29	169	1210	80	17
	% Chge.		-8.4	-4.4	DNA	20	-83.3	-3.4	-16.0	-8.3	10	-35.3
Hanover Park	1995	35,381	288.9	17.0	0	9	9	42	107	807	38	10
	1994	35,381	256.1	20.4	1	12	14	45	183	624	25	2
	% Chge.		12.8	-16.7	-100	-25	-35.7	-6.6	-41.5	29.3	52	400
Hoffman Estates	1995	48,625	198.5	6.6	0	6	18	8	77	792	60	4
	1994	48,625	206.1	12.3	1	8	9	42	102	783	56	1
	% Chge.		-3.7	-46.7	-100	-25	100	-81.0	-24.5	1.1	7.1	300
Lake Co.sheriff *	1995	155,270	186.7	15.6	4	61	30	147	626	1887	116	29
	1994	155,270	185.6	16.2	8	72	31	140	684	1648	275	24
	% Chge.		0.6	-3.7	-50.0	-15.3	-3.2	5.0	-8.5	14.5	-57.8	20.8
Long Grove	1995	4,740	141.4	0	0	0	0	0	36**	31	0	0
	1994	4,740	141.4	2.1	0	0	1	0	35**	32	0	0
	% Chge.		0	-100.0	0	0	-100	0	2.8	-3.1	0	0
Mount Prospect	1995	53,605	336.5	12.7	0	5	20	43	176	1484	64	12
	1994	53,605	326.3	16.4	0	7	21	60	196	1381	73	11
	% Chge.		3.1	-22.7	0	-28.6	-4.8	-28.3	-10.2	7.5	-12.3	9.1
Palatine	1995	39,985	365.4	11.5	1	11	8	26	149	1207	49	10
	1994	39,985	379.4	16.5	1	9	15	41	196	1180	68	7
	% Chge.		-3.7	-30.3	0	22.2	-46.7	-36.6	-24.0	2.3	-27.9	42.9
Prospect Heights	1995	15,635	285.9	20.5	1	8	8	15	77	298	38	2
	1994	15,635	248.2	17.3	2	6	4	15	76	253	32	0
	% Chge.		15.2	18.5	-50	33.3	100	0	1.3	17.8	18.8	DNA
Rolling Meadows	1995	22,952	370.3	17.4	0	4	14	22	102	663	44	1
	1994	22,952	420.4	11.3	0	5	1	20	162	690	77	10
	% Chge.		-11.9	53.9	0	-20	1,300	10	-37.0	-3.9	-42.9	-90
Schaumburg	1995	73,521	482.2	21.8	1	40	22	97	447	2756	166	16
	1994	73,521	448.4	18.4	1	18	17	99	453	2429	263	17
	% Chge.		7.5	18.5	0	122.2	29.4	-2.0	-1.3	13.5	-36.9	-5.9
South Barrington	1995	3,760	101.1	13.3	0	0	1	4	11	22	0	0
	1994	3,760	98.4	0	0	0	0	0	5	29	3	0
	% Chge.		2.7	DNA	0	0	DNA	DNA	120	-24.1	-100	0
Streamwood	1995	35,116	300.4	17.1	0	7	11	42	163	787	41	4
	1994	35,116	285.9	13.7	3	15	7	23	153	763	36	4
	% Chge.		5.1	25.0	-100	-53.3	57.1	82.6	6.5	3.1	13.9	0
Tower Lakes	1995	1,436	69.6	7.0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	0
	1994	1,436	20.9	0.0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
	% Chge.		233.3	DNA	0	0	0	DNA	-100	350	0	0
Wheeling	1995	30,863	262.1	12.6	0	3	9	27	86	626	52	6
	1994	30,863	291.9	14.6	1	5	5	34	101	723	28	4
	% Chge.		-10.2	-13.3	-100	-40	80	-20.6	-14.9	-13.4	85.7	50
COOK COUNTY	1995	5,141,209	752.7	166.0	937	3630	33236	47550	56761	194704	48396	1752
	1994	5,141,209	775.0	173.9	1054	3891	37104	47334	61669	191843	53743	1810
	% Chge.		-2.9	-4.5	-11.1	-6.7	-10.4	0.5	-8.0	1.5	-9.9	-3.2

\*Lake County sheriff patrols Long Grove, Deer Park, North Barrington, Lake Barrington, as well as unincorporated areas.  
 \*\*Long Grove includes thefts from vehicles among burglaries.



**LESSON ABOUT LAW** *5-9-96*  
*Countryside*  
 Wheeling High School students Meredith Gaffke, David Pio and Stephanie Lundberg get a tour of the Wheeling Police Station from Sgt. Jim Kuzynowski and dispatcher Jodi Glickauf during a Youth in Government Day program.

PAGE 7

# WHS students learn how village works

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
 STAFF WRITER

*5-9-96*  
*Countryside*  
 Twelve Wheeling High School students spent Monday at Village Hall, getting a crash course on what it takes to make the village run smoothly each day.

The students were participating in the Youth in Government program, a cooperative effort between

**‘You learn more about citizens’ needs at board meetings, but here you learn what the government does about it.’**

Meredith Gaffke  
 WHS student  
 the village of Wheeling and High School District 214. The program shows students what responsibilities the village has to residents by allowing them to “shadow” various employees for the day.

Before meeting with their mentors for the day, the students toured Village Hall, and the police, fire and public works departments.

“Public Works has the job of keeping everything glued together,” Public Works Director Robert Gray told the students, mentioning that among the department’s re-



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

**Wheeling Police Sgt. Jim Kuzynowski tells students about the use of deadly force in the police firing range. The students toured various village departments as part of a Youth in Government program.**

sponsibilities are street signs, road conditions, village vehicles and water meters.

Village Manager Craig Anderson, who was shadowed by Wheeling High School junior D.J. Corchin, had a full day ahead as he prepared for Monday night’s Village Board meeting.

“One of the things we’ll do, because we have a board

meeting tonight, is to go through the board packet. I’ve already gone through it once, but I need to see if anything needs updating, highlight some items and make notes to myself,” Anderson said as he anticipates trustees’ questions about the agenda items to be discussed.

“We’ll go through the mail, look through the newspapers

to see if there’s anything about Wheeling we need to know about, answer a few phone calls,” Anderson said. “The manager tries to be a generalist — know a little about everything.”

Corchin, who along with the other students were to give a presentation about their day at Monday’s board meeting, said he asked to

shadow Anderson.  
 “He was my first choice,” Corchin said. “I heard he had an interesting job, I’m not really interested in Public Works. I wanted to see what the man behind the mayor does.”

Though Corchin is interested in political science, he hopes to make a career in the performing arts as a musician.

Freshman Jessica Birnbaum, who shadowed Village President Sheila Schultz, got a head start on the other students when she attended a meeting concerning the Wisconsin Central commuter railroad with Schultz on Friday.

“I didn’t know too much about what will happen with the new station, but I learned more,” Birnbaum said.

Schultz said she wanted Birnbaum to realize that much of her work as village president is done outside the walls of Village Hall. “Many village-related items are done outside the building,” she added.

The students quickly learned that Youth in Government Day gave them a different perspective of the inner workings of the village than attending a board meeting.

“You learn more about citizens’ needs at board meetings, but here you learn what the government does about it,” said student Meredith Gaffke, who shadowed Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart.



### Winning help

Sirk Schultz helps his mother, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, and Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato pick a winner during the Inaugural Derby Gala held at Arlington International Racecourse Saturday.

*Countyside 5-9-96*

Photo for Pioneer Press by Danelle Fron

## Report shows crime drops in Wheeling

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Of the eight offenses considered "major crimes" by the Illinois State Police, five in the village of Wheeling have decreased during the last year.

One of those crimes, robbery, has increased from five incidents in 1994 to nine in 1995. Also on the rise were motor-vehicle thefts and arsons, from 28 to 52 and from four to six, respectively.

The other major crimes — murder, criminal sexual assault, aggravated assault/battery, burglary and theft — all have decreased in Wheeling.

Overall, Deputy Chief Michael Hermes noted, the village's crime index, which is based on the number of crimes per 100,000 population, has decreased 10 percent. In the report released this week by the Illinois State Police, Wheeling's crime index had dropped to 809 from 901 in 1995.

Many crimes can be prevented if residents protect themselves, said Hermes.

"Motor vehicle theft is a crime of opportunity," he said. "One of the keys is always to

lock your car. The first thing someone does when he's going to break in, is look for an open car."

Visible crime-prevention devices, such as The Club which locks onto steering wheels, also deter criminals, Hermes said. "At restaurants, try to park in a lit area so you're less likely to worry about the car being stolen or broken into," he added.

Of the robberies in Wheeling in 1995, Hermes said, six were "strong armed," meaning no weapon was displayed or used. Handguns were used in two robberies and another weapon, not specified in the report, was used in the third.

Most of the arson in the village is small fires set by juveniles, Hermes said.

Crime can be prevented if neighbors agree to watch out for each other, Hermes said. Several Wheeling neighborhoods already have organized Neighborhood Watch groups that patrol and report suspicious activity to police.

"Residents should call the police anytime they see something suspicious," he said. Wheeling has the 911 emergency number for residents to request fire and police services.

### Airport group favors firm's bid

Prospect Heights Municipal Airport Commission Wednesday adopted a resolution that the Illinois Department of Transportation accept a bid to begin the first phase of the airport's long-planned overhaul.

Fred E. Stewart, airport manager, said the first step is to move the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which runs through the airport. The move will cost about \$1.75 million, he said.

The 15-foot ditch runs south and east across much of the airport, and airport officials consider it a hazard. The ditch will be moved to flow west to east just above the north and border of the airport and into the Des Plaines River.

If approved by IDOT, Lake County Grading of Libertyville will handle the first phase of relocation.

Cal McAllister

# Towns unite to build \$540,000 facility

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Crews this summer are expected to begin turning a vacant site in Buffalo Grove into a 4 1/2-acre training camp of sorts for firefighters from Long Grove, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Construction on the Combined Area Training Facility is expected to begin as soon as July, with Buffalo Grove village trustees' recent approval of a permit and preliminary plans for the project at the southeast corner of Deerfield Parkway and Krause Drive.

"We're set," Buffalo Grove Fire Chief Thomas C. Allenspach said. "As soon as the (initial work) is done we will be training out there."

As early as this fall, firefighters could begin training at the site, including practicing how to remove victims from wrecked cars, extinguishing fires and performing other emergency tactics, Allenspach said.

The center is being built jointly by Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and the Long Grove Rural Fire Protection District. Initially, crews will have a majority of the property, Allenspach

said. And in the fall, a four-story training tower designed to simulate a burning building will be installed. The tower will include rooms and an elevator shaft where firefighters will put out fires.

But training will be conducted as soon as the paved area is completed, Allenspach said.

Officials also expect to gradually add props to the center, such as tanker trucks and train cars to expose firefighters to various types of emergencies they may face.

Since the three departments commonly work together, the opportunity to train collaboratively

will be a benefit, officials say.

"We work together, we have to train together. ... We need to understand how each other function," Allenspach said.

He added that center will make it easier for departments to train together, and more frequently. Currently such training is done sporadically and crews often have to travel throughout the area.

The cost of the \$540,000 facility is being shared equally by the three communities, Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said.

## District puts off plan to split fire service at Palwaukee Airport

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District officials opted to delay a controversial decision to have Palwaukee Municipal Airport served by two fire departments.

The possibility of having the airport protected jointly by the Wheeling Fire Department and the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District is expected to be raised in a closed-door meeting today between officials from the Wheeling Township district, Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The Wheeling Township district pays other departments for fire service.

However, the airport, which is owned and operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, will continue to be served solely by the Wheeling Fire Department for now.

This is a change in plans for the Wheeling Township district, which last month proposed to have the Prospect Heights district as of Tuesday serve the southern half of the airport.

The district opted against changing the airport's coverage because it wants to avoid any confusion from having two departments protecting it, said

district President Anthony Carlin.

"We held off," Carlin said at the district's Tuesday night meeting, although the issue was discussed during the session.

Carlin said the decision was based on his concerns, and on those from others, about splitting fire protection at the state's third-busiest airport.

The fear that having two departments serving the airport could create confusion in emergencies has been mirrored by airport officials, Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford and Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

While Schultz said Tuesday she has voiced her concerns with the district, Rotchford said he didn't because when inquiring about the change last week he was told by officials that just one department would serve the airport.

Carlin added that the change in plan was not because the Prospect Heights district was unable to protect the airport.

Carlin said he intends to raise with officials in a meeting today the possibility of both departments serving the airport to increase protection and because they both already respond to many emergencies there.

# Grants put more police on the streets

## New hires to 'develop a personal relationship' in neighborhoods

5-17-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove's police within the past year hit some of its problem areas with an old-fashioned law enforcement tool: the familiar face.

The department assigned two officers to specific areas with the help of a federal grant designed to stem crime by having more police on the streets to work with community members to address problems.

"You start to develop a personal relationship ... and people will become more comfortable with someone they know," said Buffalo Grove's Cpl. Deborah Chrobak. "They try to intervene into (the) small problems before they become big problems."

Now, Buffalo Grove and other Northwest suburbs will add more officers to its streets through new

grants announced this week by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The \$225,000 Buffalo Grove will receive to hire three more officers is part of \$604 million that will be issued nationwide as part of the 1994 Crime Act, said Charles Miller, a Department of Justice spokesman. About \$8 billion was promised to departments that met the program's guidelines primarily to hire 100,000 officers by 2000, Miller added.

"It's a vehicle to get police officers to know their community, and people to know them" Miller said.

The grants pay for 75 percent of an officer's salary and benefits for three years, with the departments paying the remainder, Miller said. The departments also must agree to pay for the officer an additional year, he added.

In Rolling Meadows, the three new officers it will receive

through a \$225,000 grant are being thought of as "problem solvers," said Deputy Chief Doug Larsson.

The department is still defining what the new positions will entail, but those officers will work "to understand what the neighborhoods want," he said.

In Wheeling, the police have tried to fight crime by training officers to identify and remedy problems by working with residents before they escalate, said Chief Michael Haeger.

For instance, instead of an offi-

cer just responding frequently to a certain home, the officer would try to find a solution to resolve the particular problem, Haeger said.

And the \$150,000 grant, earmarked for two officers, will help expand Wheeling's program, he added.

Other suburbs receiving grants included: \$75,000 for an officer in Barrington; \$300,000 for four officers in Palatine; \$150,000 for two officers in South Barrington; and \$75,000 for an officer in Streamwood.

# Airport fire protection up in the air

5/17/96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The debate regarding how Palwaukee Municipal Airport will receive fire protection continues to smolder.

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District officials this week decided to delay for at least another three months a controversial decision that would have split fire protection for the airport between two departments.

The time, officials say, will be used to define the best way to serve the state's third busiest airport.

But once the smoke clears, the

Wheeling Fire Department will still probably continue to be the sole provider of service, despite the efforts to change that, said Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford.

"If there was a change it would have to be an awful good reason and I just don't see it coming forth," Rotchford said.

The Wheeling Township district last month decided to have the southern half of the airport served by the Mount Prospect Rural Fire Protection District. The northern half, which lies in Wheeling's borders, was still to be served by the vil-

lage. But after officials of the Wheeling Township district, Prospect Heights and Wheeling, met this week, it was decided that the Wheeling Fire Department will continue to serve the airport solely for at least 90 more days. During this time, the buildings and runways will be inventoried to know what protection is needed.

Meanwhile, Wheeling Township district President Anthony Carlin has proposed having the airport served jointly by both departments.

Carlin added that the Prospect Heights district could add extra protection, new equipment to fight air-

craft fires and be able to respond from a station that is less than a mile away.

But Prospect Heights and Wheeling, which jointly own and operate the airport, want Wheeling's department to just protect the facility.

Rotchford wants just one department protecting the airport to minimize any confusion of both having the responsibility. And the current arrangement should not be changed because Wheeling is already accustomed to serving the airport and the Prospect Heights district now already backs up Wheeling in emergencies, Rotchford said.

## Wheeling police under microscope; Accreditation panel conducts review

5-18-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police this weekend will be the ones answering the questions.

The department Sunday and Monday will be tested for accreditation, a review to see if they comply with national standards for training, pursuits, use of force and other areas of its operation.

"One of the benefits is that with an accredited agency, (community members) can be sure they have a professional police department," said Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. will send to Wheeling three assessors, officers and chiefs from departments in Ohio, Maryland and South Dakota.

The team will compare the policies under which Wheeling's department operates to the national standards and observe if it actually adheres to them, Hermes said.

Though most police departments have policies, being accredited indicates that procedures are nationally accepted and are followed and is required in order to be re-accredited, which Wheeling is seeking.

Wheeling, first accredited in 1990, is joined by other Northwest suburbs in meeting the national standards.

Buffalo Grove, for instance, in 1987 was one of the first Northwest suburbs to be accredited, being re-accredited in 1992, said Cpl. Deborah Chrobak of that department.

The assessors will also ask the community its opinion of its police department.

Residents will have the opportunity to comment at a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Wheeling Park District Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.

Comments can also be given Tuesday between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 459-2697 or writing the commission at 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, Va., which also can be reached at (800) 368-3757.

## Village might regulate rents at trailer parks

TRIBUNE - 5-20-96  
■ **Wheeling:** Officials have approved of using public hearings to explore rent control for mobile communities.

If the hearings lead to a rent ceiling, Wheeling will be the first community in Illinois to enact such legislation, although other towns have considered the idea, village atty. James Rhodes said.

The problem, Whippetree Village renters say, is a shortage of trailer park vacancies in the Chicago area. That has left the owners of their park free to raise rents to nearly double what they were 10 years ago, renters said. Whippetree Village's rates are the second-highest in the Chicago area, according to village research.

"Essentially we're trapped there," said Elayne Hettinger, who with her husband, Robert, organized tenants to file a class-action lawsuit against the trailer park owner two years ago. The case has not gone to trial.

Village documents show that lots that rented for \$255 in 1986, including garbage pickup, were \$470, without garbage pickup, in 1996.

Add in monthly finance payments for the purchase of a trailer, and most residents at Whippetree are paying what they would for an apartment, Hettinger said.

"Mobile homes are supposed to be for low-income people," Hettinger said. "At these prices you don't need to buy a mobile home; you could buy a house."

Patrick O'Toole

# Several suburbs put through the wringer as rain pelts area

5-18-96

By BOB MCKEE  
AND TIMOTHY S. ROONEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Northwest suburban chocolate lovers probably heard the racket that Friday morning's storm made. They also might feel its pain. Strawberries, peanut butter cups and other candy at The Long Grove Confectionery Co. was not only dipped in chocolate, but in about 3 feet of water left behind by the torrents. "We're just heartbroken. ... It's a horrible mess," said owner Heidi Mangel. And because there isn't a market for water-soaked confections, the company had to clear its entire basement store in Long Grove's

shopping district of stock and discard about \$50,000 worth of candy, Mangel said. "We can't sell it," Mangel said. "It was a total, total disaster." The Mangels weren't the only ones left picking up the pieces Friday morning. Communities in southern Lake and northern Cook County repaired damaged electrical and gas lines, and bailed out flooded areas that an intense two-hour storm left. The heaviest hit from the storm was the Lincolnshire area, the target of as much as 4 inches of rain. The two-hour downpour pelted the area, knocking out power and flooding homes and roads. When it was all over, it was

water, instead of students, streaming through the halls at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. As much as 3 inches of water flooded the lower level hallways and classrooms, canceling school for half the day, said Jim Hintz, assistant superintendent for business. Crews are expected to work through the weekend. "It was everywhere and coming up through the floor drains," Hintz said. In all, the storm between about 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. was concentrated over a 10- to 15-square-mile area that reached as far south as Wheeling, as far north as Lake Forest, and spanning between Barrington and to about Lake Michigan, said Allen Morrison of the National

Weather Service. The unusually intense rainfall, fanning from 4 inches to about 1 inch at the storm's edge, came down in concentrated sheets, giving the ground little chance to absorb it. This resulted in some flooding streets and rising bodies of water, such as the Des Plaines River. "Everybody's worried," said Al Gavlick, of North Liberty Estates, a subdivision along the Des Plaines River. "We don't have much to go," he said looking at the river about 50 yards from his home, across Des Plaines Road. "Once the water comes, there's not much you can do," Gavlick said. "You just pray and hope the water goes down." As is common with intense down-

pours, the storm that hit Friday morning also taunted the area with lightning. In Wheeling, for instance, firefighters were kept busy chasing after the strikes. In about a one-hour period, crews responded to about 12 calls of either fire alarms being triggered by the thundering crashes or homes actually struck, said Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac. No one was injured in the strikes that left basketball-sized holes in some roofs, starting a small fire in one home, he added. And if the electricity in the sky wasn't a hassle for residents, power — or lack of — was also a problem for many. Wind and rain before and during the storm kept ComEd crews darting

about the suburbs, propping up felled power poles, re-stringing downed wires and reviving zapped equipment, said spokesman Joe King. Water is believed to be the culprit of starting a small fire in an office building at Kemper National Insurance Companies in Long Grove. Though the fire, that was caused by power cables that shorted out from water, was extinguished quickly before causing much damage, the building had lost power throughout the day. The company was forced to allow about 500 employees to leave early.

Daily Herald staff writers Sandra Del Re, Jon Marshall and Chris Heidenrich contributed to this report.

standing water, making passes difficult for motorists. Creeks also swelled, as did the Des Plaines and Fox rivers. A few schools were forced to close. Damage estimates were not immediately available, but they were undoubtedly in the thousands of dollars. One lucky Inverness resident, whose home escaped any flooding in his village as "the worst I've ever seen." Ironically, some nearby communities had nary a problem from the heavy rain. In Elk Grove Village, where the Salt Creek occasionally tips its banks, few problems were reported, said Carrie Ansenberger, who works for the village's public works department. "It's been dry, or as dry as it can be," she said. "We really haven't had any calls." While rains carried over into Tuesday in some areas before blue skies appeared, the forecast suggested the possibility of more showers later in the week.

## Neighborhoods left wrung out to dry

Parts of Wheeling, Barrington, Inverness, Deer Park, Palatine and Crystal Lake were among those hit the hardest after rain pelted the metropolitan area starting on Sunday. More than 5 inches of rain fell in some spots. A slew of homes were flooded, and some residents were forced to leave for higher ground. Many yards became temporary ponds. Some under-ver screen. Select areas in the Northwest suburbs have come to resemble the futuristic land depicted in the movie "Waterworld" more than the quiet tree-lined communities they were just days ago. But residents stuck bailing out their basements and sandbagging their yards know all too well that this is not the silver screen.

By ROBERT C. HENRICH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

## Students unite

By ELLEN O. DADAY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

5-19-96

The chance to help a paralyzed classmate drew four different student groups from the Wheeling area to work together to hold a benefit car wash on Saturday. In all, nearly 50 teens turned out to help Becky Torres and her family pay for a new electric wheelchair. The car wash took place at Wheeling High School, where more than 100 motorists stopped by for the wash. They made donations of up to \$20 for each wash, said volunteer Billy Campos of Wheeling. The group expected to make \$600 from the fund-raiser to donate to Becky's parents, Adam and Francisca Torres. Torres was left paralyzed from the waist down after a car accident in December 1994 while she and her family were driving back from Mexico. Her parents and three younger siblings suffered abrasions from the accident, but no one was as seriously injured as Becky. "I'm just so grateful," said Becky, a freshman at Wheeling High School, who watched her classmates scrub cars and later helped attract cars to come in off Wheeling Road. Students involved in the benefit included members of the Wheeling High School Latino Club, the Wheeling High School Newcomers Club, the St. Joseph the Worker Jovenes Latinos Unidos and the Nipper School Young Adult Program. Local businesses, such as Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and McDonald's in Wheeling, donated lunch for the teens. "Every spring we hold a fund-raiser for a student in the school who needs help," said Carol Cimo, spokeswoman of the school.

of the unusual together. teens. 16-year-old Heights from 8:30 hour. "I just Ruiz. "Or needs the out," at Arlington outside a Meant Wheeling of Arlin working were Macarti Prosperi attendi classm enough puter. "I just been fr and gre "It w pital." the sai Bec would pende gain i her he can p an Islamic militant accused of bombings. The arrests followed the capture of Hassan Salameh, second in command of Izzeddine al Qassam, the military wing of the Hamas organization. He was shot and hurt Friday in the West Bank town of Hebron.

### Israelis arrest suspects in suicide bombings

HEBRON, West Bank — Israeli security forces arrested eight Palestinians Saturday on suspicion of aiding an Islamic militant accused of bombings. The arrests followed the capture of Hassan Salameh, second in command of Izzeddine al Qassam, the military wing of the Hamas organization. He was shot and hurt Friday in the West Bank town of Hebron.

### Pope's birthday

Pope John Paul II celebrated his 76th birthday Saturday while on a three-day trip to Slovenia. About 100 children offered him birthday greetings before he celebrated Mass outdoors.



### Congress grows of squ

AKRON, Ohio believes God told side First Congress so he took his makeshift tent. That was 137 he was welcomed slay and the an have made ch consider their g Asking God for vote at their an on whether to church property

THE WORLD

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Associated Press

WASHINGTON more records and some had bother and the up side: People riding in more On balance, situate's annual pulse, design, we're sit In its 169-page which will be group focus worsening glo says is at the predicted wo increases.



Karen Sande and two pets are escorted from her flood-ravaged house Monday evening by Lake Zurich firefighters Pete Przybysz, left, and David Hornung. Several homeowners in the hard-hit neighborhood near Deer Park had to be evacuated from their sodden homes

Daily Herald Photo/Bonnie Trafelet

# Rains create flood of problems

## Barrington area hard hit as storms pound suburbs

BY DAN ROZEK  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Debbie Jurs spent Monday frantically sandbagging her home near Deer Park, only to see the water overwhelm her barricade, burst through her windows and flood her basement.

"You could just hear the water flow. It sounded like a waterfall," said Jurs, 36.

In Palatine, Bonnie Broeske watched her yard flood and the water rise ominously towards her house as rains fell intermittently.

"My front lawn is under water, my driveway is under water. I

can't get my child out to his bus without driving him," Broeske said. "I'm scared to death. I don't know what to do."

Residents in a narrow band of hard-hit suburbs — mostly in the Barrington area — spent Monday battling, fleeing or nervously watching floodwaters left by drenching downpours that dropped more than 4 inches of rain in some towns.

The storms, in suburbs like Crystal Lake, Barrington and Inverness, dropped almost a month's worth of rain in a few

See **BREAK** on Page 6

### A month's rain in a day

The Barrington area bore the brunt of flooding from Monday's storms, getting hit by more than 3 inches of rain — approximately what would be the total for the entire month of May and what would be about 30 inches of snow in the winter. Other areas of the Northwest suburbs, however, saw very little rain.

#### Area of heaviest rain



### Rainy May: Chicago's official rainfall, measured at O'Hare:

This May, to date	4.16 inches
Average for all of May	3.32 inches
The record, set in May 1945	7.59 inches

Source: National Weather Service

Daily Herald Graphic

### INSIDE

#### 'The worst I've seen'

In the village of Inverness, neighbors gathered together to help one another as flood waters crept across well-kept lawns and into homes and garages. One resident said the flooding was the "worst I've ever seen" — Page 6

#### Handling the clean-up

Watching floodwaters seep into your finished basement or along your kitchen floor is traumatic indeed, but experts tell how to handle the clean-up once your home is flooded — Page 6.



Workers pile sandbags alongside Baldwin Road in Inverness, site of some of the worst flooding in the Northwest suburbs on Monday. Residents blamed saturated ground and broken drain tiles for the flooding, which ravaged yards and garages and basements.

Daily Herald Photo/  
Bob Chwedyk

# Bicycles bring Wheeling officers closer to the residents

BY BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new type of police squad is hitting the streets of Wheeling. Much like the conventional cruiser, it is black and white, has a flashing light and a radio.

But this police vehicle is designed to cruise down sidewalks and places where no police car has gone before — it's a bike.

"(It's) a two-wheeled black and

white," said Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes.

Some Wheeling police from now through the summer will be patrolling through the village on mountain bikes as part of the department's "community-oriented" policing effort, Hermes said.

The program, as with the bikes, is designed to get residents more involved in identifying problems, he added.

Unlike with a car, a bike can

enable an officer to get into such areas as apartment complexes, neighborhoods and parks and actually stop and talk to residents.

"Once an officer can build a rapport and people realize they are real people ... we would hope people would feel free (to talk) to the officers," Hermes said. "That would help us, because they can express their concerns in the neighborhood."

And since the officers will stand

out more than in cars, the bikes are also a deterrent to crime, Hermes said.

"It also gives the bad guys one more thing to worry about," Hermes said.

The bikes can also be a help in chases, being more agile than a car when chasing a person on foot, Hermes said.

"They can go a lot of places where a car can't," Hermes said. "The bike would definitely have an advantage."

Hermes said four officers will be assigned to the Fugi bikes: Officer Michael Kirby, Officer Francisco Lozano, Officer Anthony Raitano and Officer Joseph Schaff.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz has heard from residents and officers that the officers on bikes are being well received by the community.

"People like to see them coming around on the bikes," Schultz said. "It's not just the kids who are excited, it's everybody."

# Students unite to help classmate in Wheeling

5-19-96

BY EILEEN O. DADAY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

The chance to help a paralyzed classmate drew four different student groups from the Wheeling area to work together to hold a benefit car wash on Saturday.

In all, nearly 50 teens turned out to help Becky Torres and her family pay for a new electric wheelchair. The car wash took place at Wheeling High School, where more than 100 motorists stopped by for the wash.

They made donations of up to \$20 for each wash, said volunteer Billy Campos of Wheeling. The group expected to make \$600 from the fund-raiser to donate to Becky's parents, Adam and Francisca Torres.

Torres was left paralyzed from the waist down after a car accident in December 1994 while she and her family were driving back from Mexico. Her parents and three younger siblings suffered abrasions from the accident, but no one was as seriously injured as Becky.

"I'm just so grateful," said Becky, a freshman at Wheeling High School, who watched her classmates scrub cars and later helped attract cars to come in off Wheeling Road.

Students involved in the benefit included members of the Wheeling High School Latino Club, the Wheeling High School Newcomers Club, the St. Joseph the Worker Jovenes Latinos Unidos and the Nipper School Young Adult Program. Local businesses, such as Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and McDonald's in Wheeling, donated lunch for the teens.

"Every spring we hold a fund-raiser for a student in the school who needs help," said Carol Cirno, spon-

sor of the Latino Club. "But this is unusual that four clubs are working together. It says a lot about these teens."

16-year-old Mimi Ruiz of Prospect Heights scrubbed cars non-stop from 8:30 a.m. through the lunch hour.

"I just want to help her out," said Ruiz. "One day it could be me who needs the help."

"We're just trying to help someone out," added Joel Garcia, 13, of Arlington Heights. "It's fun to be outside and working together."

Meantime, Krissy Kleen, 14, of Wheeling, and Diana Delegge, 14, of Arlington Heights, have been working to help Becky since they were students together at MacArthur Junior High School in Prospect Heights. While she was attending MacArthur, Becky's classmates held a dance to raise enough money to buy her a computer.

"I just want to help Becky; we've been friends since we were in second grade," said Delegge.

"It was hard to visit her in the hospital," added Kleen, "but she's still the same as she always was."

Becky said the electric wheelchair would help her become more independent. While she has worked to gain much of the strength back in her hands and arms to the point she can push her wheelchair and move herself in and out of it, it's tiring, she said.

"The electric wheelchair would let me go places, become more independent," said Becky, who said she continues to receive physical therapy twice a week at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove, but not occupational therapy, since her insurance will not cover it.



Above, students from Wheeling High School's Latino Club and St. Joseph the Worker Jovenes Latinos Unidos spent their Saturday washing cars to buy a new wheelchair for their friend Becky Torres, who was injured in an auto accident. Below, Joel Garcia of Jack London Middle School, left, and Mimi Ruiz of Wheeling High School share a laugh with Becky.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zar



# BREAK: All systems taxed; creeks, storm sewers are full

Continued from Page 1

hours. But in a quirk of nature, some suburbs farther east received less than an inch.

Compounding flooding fears, the storm closely followed an earlier wave of storms that had already left the ground waterlogged, said National Weather Service meteorologists, who issued a flash flood watch for the Northwest and North suburbs.

By that time, however, flooding already was a reality for a number of suburban residents.

In Inverness, Palatine and other suburbs, residents pumped water out of basements or barricaded their homes with sandbags following thunderstorms.

Many more suburban residents could only anxiously watch the dark, misty skies and water rising in nearby creeks and ponds, hoping for a break in the weather that could avert even more widespread flooding.

While rain continued to fall Monday night, meteorologists were predicting the storms would break today, bringing clearer skies and some hope of relief to flooded or flood-threatened neighborhoods.

"I'm sitting here watching the water getting closer to my house," said Julie Ganatos, who lives along the Des Plaines River near Mount Prospect. "I am real nervous about it."

The humid, 90-degree temperatures that lingered through the weekend helped fuel the ferocious storms that pummeled suburban areas Monday, meteorologists said.

The fast-moving thunderstorms siphoned the moisture out of the sticky, clammy air and then rained it back on a slice of the region in torrents, meteorologists said.

"It draws the moisture in, compresses it and drops it along a narrow band," said WGN-TV meteorologist Tom Skilling. "It comes down so fast that it doesn't percolate into the ground — it runs off and causes flooding."

Barrington saw at least 3.17 inches of rain fall from Sunday evening through Monday night, while Crystal Lake received more than



Dorothy Carelli of Barrington stands in her flooded back yard with the source of her problem behind her on her right — a pond built by developers that gave way.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

4 inches. Other sections of Lake and McHenry counties, and parts of Northwest Cook County, including Inverness and Palatine, also were soaked.

As the water drained off the waterlogged ground, flood warnings were issued for both the Des Plaines and Fox rivers as water levels continued rising. Both were expected to crest Tuesday at between 1 and 3 feet above flood stage, said Bill Morris, a hydrologist for the National Weather Service.

Inverness officials reported receiving about 50 calls from residents with flooded basements, driveways or yards. Some portions of the village were nearly inaccessible because of flooded streets.

In neighboring Palatine, 20 to 25 homeowners reported flooded basements or backed-up sewers.

"All systems are being taxed,"

said public works Director Andrew Radetski. "With all the rains that have fallen, the retention ponds are full, the creeks are running high and the storm sewers are full."

The most waterlogged areas are the same ones struck by storms last week that, because of atmospheric conditions, followed the same rough path.

The culprit is a quirky loop in the high-altitude jet stream that is sweeping just north of Chicago in an arc that cuts through the Northwest suburbs. Storms slide along the edge of the jet stream.

"These things are firing over the same area repeatedly," Skilling said of the storms.

Because of those conditions, Inverness, for instance, has received about 5.1 inches of rain in the last week. About 4.8 inches have fallen in Barrington, according to local officials and spotters.

In May, 3.32 inches of rain typically falls in the Chicago area, weather service records show.

The water-soaked ground is adding to flooding problems because evaporation from the soaked ground is putting more moisture back into the air, providing fuel for more storms, Skilling said.

What's needed now are several days of clear weather to allow water to soak into the ground and for river levels to drop, forecasters say.

"Right now, it's kind of critical with what's going to happen in the next 24 hours," Morris said Monday. "We need a couple of days of clear weather."

Rain is supposed to end today and skies could begin clearing. But longer range forecasting shows another line of storms approaching that could strike the area by Friday, before the ground dries sufficiently to ease flooding fears.

"It'll take a while — at least a couple of days — to dry the area out," Skilling said.

Water pooling in low spots blocked parts of a number of major highways Monday, including several lanes of the Northwest Tollway, parts of Rand Road, several sections of Northwest Highway and parts of

Wheeling and Wolf roads. The flooded pavement caused commuting problems that stretched the morning rush hour into a marathon affair, said Lonny Tyler, a spokesman for Shadow Traffic, although afternoon commutes generally went more smoothly.

But until the skies clear, homeowners threatened by flooding say they can't relax.

Ganatos, whose basement received some seepage last Friday after an earlier storm, said she still hasn't returned most items to that room.

"I haven't even put the kids toys back," she said. "I'm afraid it'll be worse this time."

Daily Herald staff writers Alysia Tate, Timothy Rooney, Sandra Del Re, Amy McLaughlin and Freida Gad contributed to this report.

# Water finds own way through towns

By SANDRA DEL RE AND AMY McLAUGHLIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

In a town that was among the hardest hit of any in the Northwest suburbs, the consensus was that Samuel Lasusa's Inverness house got the worst of it.

His emerald green front yard was a vast muddy sea. The only thing keeping the brown slop out of the family room were the sandbags — placed under the personal supervision of Inverness Village President Donna Thomas. More than half a foot of water had crept into the garage.

Neighbors comforted Lasusa in front of his flooded house at 1627 Baldwin Road, but he was almost more amazed at the power of the storm than depressed over its consequences.

"You can cry, but it's not going to change anything," Lasusa said.

Village officials say his house got the worst of it, but Inverness took a terrible pounding in general.

For the first time in years, dozens of residents witnessed water backing up into basements through floor drains.

Some stood outside, watching cloudy water crawl like a creepy sewer salamander towards front doors. "I've never seen it like this," said a drenched Thomas. She arose at 6:30 a.m. and had spent more than 11 hours visiting homes and supervising water pumping operations. "It's just a mess."

Among the areas hardest hit were along Baldwin Road, Banbury Road, Willow Street, Roberts Road and Tweed Road.

Baldwin and Banbury roads were so swamped with water that cars could not maneuver through the waist-high pools or get past the ponds on the shoulders.

Pumps had to be brought in to remove water, which was four feet high, on some portions of both streets. At Banbury and Blackburn Drive, water was just six inches from the top of the street sign.

"I've never seen anything like it in the 11 years I've lived here," Lasusa added. "I've never even had water on my driveway."

Thomas said this week's flooding was worse than in 1989, when 10 inches of rain hit Inverness in less than 24 hours.

Why did this happen? Inverness officials said the ground was already saturated from last week's heavy rains. Couple that with the more than three inches that fell Monday, giving Inverness



Phil and Harriet Cowan, from left, with neighbor Pat Finacune watch as Road rushes over their yard. Water also flowed into the basement of th home.

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carry all that water." Salt Creek was also full, eliminating a natural place for the water to go, Village Administrator William G. Grams said.

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Chicago suburb: Jimmy Rotizza, 10, navigates his neighborhood Tuesday in Wheeling, Ill.

5-22-96 - USA Today  
A DELUGE: Floods in Wheeling, Ill., forced up to 300 people from their homes and closed a junior high school. The area has received 5 inches of rain since Sunday. Heavy rain also sent rivers and streams out of their banks in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio. In West Virginia, Gov. Gaston Caperton asked President Clinton to declare 17 counties disaster areas after last week's floods. Thunderstorms spread from the Rockies to Florida. In Vermont, at least 31 cows were electrocuted in two lightning strikes in recent days.

# BREAK: All systems taxed; creeks, storm sewers are full

Continued from Page 1

hours. But in a quirk of nature, some suburbs farther east received less than an inch.

Compounding flooding fears, the storm closely followed an earlier wave of storms that had already left the ground waterlogged, said National Weather Service meteorologists, who issued a flash flood watch for the Northwest and North suburbs.

By that time, however, flooding already was a reality for a number of suburban residents.

In Inverness, Palatine and other suburbs, residents pumped water out of basements or barricaded their homes with sandbags following thunderstorms.

Many more suburban residents could only anxiously watch the dark, misty skies and water rising in nearby creeks and ponds, hoping for a break in the weather that could avert even more widespread flooding.

While rain continued to fall Monday night, meteorologists were predicting the storms would break today, bringing clearer skies and some hope of relief to flooded or flood-threatened neighborhoods.

"I'm sitting here watching the water getting closer to my house," said Julie Ganatos, who lives along the Des Plaines River near Mount Prospect. "I am real nervous about it."

The humid, 90-degree temperatures that lingered through the weekend helped fuel the ferocious storms that pummeled suburban areas Monday, meteorologists said.

The fast-moving thunderstorms siphoned the moisture out of the sticky, clammy air and then rained it back on a slice of the region in torrents, meteorologists said.

"It draws the moisture in, compresses it and drops it along a narrow band," said WGN-TV meteorologist Tom Skilling. "It comes down

so fast that it doesn't percolate into the ground — it runs off and causes flooding."

Barrington saw at least 3.17 inches of rain fall from Sunday evening through Monday night, while Crystal

said public works Director Andrew Radetski. "With all the rains that have fallen, the retention ponds are full, the creeks are running high and the storm sewers are full."

The most waterlogged areas are the same ones struck by storms last week that, because of atmospheric conditions, followed the same rough path.

The culprit is a quirky loop in the high-altitude jet stream that is sweeping just north of Chicago in an arc that cuts through the Northwest suburbs. Storms slide along the edge of the jet stream.

"These things are firing over the same area repeatedly," Skilling said of the storms.

Because of those conditions, Inverness, for instance, has received about 5.1 inches of rain in the last week. About 4.8 inches have fallen in Barrington, according to local officials and spotters.

In May, 3.32 inches of rain typically falls in the Chicago area, weather service records show.

The water-soaked ground is adding to flooding problems because evaporation from the soaked ground is putting more moisture back into the air, providing fuel for more storms, Skilling said.

What's needed now are several days of clear weather to allow water to soak into the ground and for river levels to drop, forecasters say.

"Right now, it's kind of critical with what's going to happen in the next 24 hours," Morris said Monday. "We need a couple of days of clear weather."

Rain is supposed to end today and skies could begin clearing. But longer range forecasting shows another line of storms approaching that could strike the area by Friday, before the ground dries sufficiently to ease flooding fears.

"It'll take a while — at least a couple of days — to dry the area

o u t," Skilling said.

Water pooling in low spots blocked parts of a number of major highways Monday, including several lanes of the Northwest Tollway, parts of Rand Road, several sections of

# Water finds own way through towns

BY SANDRA DEL RE  
AND AMY McLAUGHLIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

In a town that was among the hardest hit of any in the Northwest suburbs, the consensus was that Samuel Lasusa's Inverness house got the worst of it.

His emerald green front yard was a vast muddy sea. The only thing keeping the brown slop out of the family room were the sandbags — placed under the personal supervision of Inverness Village President Donna Thomas. More than half a foot of water had crept into the garage.

Neighbors comforted Lasusa in front of his flooded house at 1627 Baldwin Road, but he was almost more amazed at the power of the storm than depressed over its consequences.

"You can cry, but it's not going to change anything," Lasusa said.

Village officials say his house got the worst of it, but Inverness took a terrible pounding in general.

For the first time in years, dozens of residents witnessed water backing up into basements through floor drains.

Some stood outside, watching cloudy water crawl like a creepy sewer salamander towards front doors. "I've never seen it like this," said a drenched Thomas. She arose at 6:30 a.m. and had spent more than 11 hours visiting homes and supervising water pumping operations. "It's just a mess."

Among the areas hardest hit were along Baldwin Road, Banbury Road, Willow Street, Roberts Road and Tweed Road.

Baldwin and Banbury roads were so swamped with water that cars could not maneuver through the waist-high pools or get past the ponds on the shoulders.

Pumps had to be brought in to remove water, which was four feet high, on some portions of both streets. At Banbury and Blackburn Drive, water was just six inches from the top of the street sign.

"I've never seen anything like it in the 11 years I've lived here," Lasusa added. "I've never even had water on my driveway."

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Phil and Harriet Cowan, from left, with neighbor Pat Finacune watch as water from Lake-Cook Road rushes over their yard. Water also flowed into the basement of the Cowans' Barrington home.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

more than 5 inches of rain since last week. Couple that with aging, crumbling drain tiles under ground.

"It was just so much water in a short period of time," Thomas said. "We have a lot of old clay tiles in town. They collapse. They can't

carry all that water."

Salt Creek was also full, eliminating a natural place for the water to go, Village Administrator William G. Grams said.

Many of the problems were occurring in older developments

that date back 40 or 50 years before the village was incorporated, Grams said.

The drain tiles, or small pipes underground that hold water, are aging and are likely cracking and breaking, Grams said.



Dorothy Carelli of Barrington stands in her flooded back yard with the source of her problem behind her on her right



State transportation officials are in the process of placing 30 mph speed limit signs in the construction zone on a portion of Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling. The speed limit on that stretch of road was 40 mph.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

## Road work prompts speed limit of 30 mph on Milwaukee Ave.

The Daily Herald continues its weekly report featuring answers to your questions about traffic problems and road construction.

**Q.** About a month ago, work started on Milwaukee Avenue about a half-mile north of Hintz Road in Wheeling.

I'm in a house in the middle of this, and my driveway is completely hidden by the forest preserve that runs along my property line and the construction barricades.

All the 40 mph speed limit signs have been taken down, and now drivers are going past my driveway at 60 to 65 mph. Why isn't there a construction zone speed limit of 30 mph? Can a sign warning of a hidden driveway be put up?

**A.** There is a 30 mph construction speed limit, and more signs indicating that are scheduled for installation, said Mike Brangen-

berg, resident technician for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"I already have one up, and I am working on getting more up," Brangenberg said.

As for putting up a sign during construction to indicate an upcoming driveway, Brangenberg said the high number of driveways on Milwaukee Avenue makes it difficult to use such signs.

"Other state projects have (temporary) driveway entrance signs, but out here, if you start putting those up, you'd have them all over the place," he said.

Brangenberg said he spoke to the caller and reviewed his situation, but the problem is more permanent than construction-related. To get a permanent sign on an IDOT right of way would require a permit. Brangenberg said he will follow up on the caller's request.

Residents in the area will have to get used to having construction crews on Milwaukee since the

work being done now near Hintz Road is just the beginning, said Ed Wilson, IDOT area programmer.

Wilson said the three-quarters of a mile stretch of the road between Hintz and Industrial Lane is being widened and reconstructed to fit in a median and new bridge being built, all for \$3.6 million.

"It's only a small part of a project from Lake-Cook Road to Palatine Road that involves reconstruction and relocation of the roadway to the west," he said.

Wilson said Milwaukee will be widened between Lake-Cook and Palatine roads to fit in a median, and that traffic signals will be improved from Lake-Cook Road to just south of Willow Road.

The additional road work to the north and the south of the project near Hintz is estimated to cost \$8.5 million dollars, Wilson said. The second part of the project will be put out for bid in July, he said.



If you have a question for traffic engineers or if you can tell us about a traffic problem, call the Daily Herald traffic voice mail line at (847) 427-4470 and we will publish answers each Tuesday.

### NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

## SEWER: Wheeling, developer debate who'll pay for line

Continued from Page 1

benefit.

"Let's work out the negativity (in the plan)," said Denise Carpenter, economic development chairperson of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Let's work with these people because we need the sales taxes."

It is projected that the Target store could bring in about \$550,000 in taxes annually to Wheeling, according to a letter written by the chamber to Schultz and trustees.

Within the last 1 1/2 years, at least two major retailers have either left the village or announced that they will do so.

In February of 1995 Dominick's Finer Foods left the village after doing business there for 22 years because the location was too small to meet its needs. The independent C.K. Foods has since moved into the store at 550 W. Dundee Road.

And in January, Sportmart announced that it will shutter its



## Wheeling considers plan for Target store

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Most Wheeling officials seem to agree that the village could use additional tax revenue.

But concerns about how a sewer project would be funded or if it would be wise to allow a Target to be built on land now earmarked for town houses are among the issues keeping officials from jumping at a proposed development that could bring the village about \$550,000 annually.

"(There is) no question that it would be a direct financial advantage to the village," said Village President Sheila Schultz. "(But) you need to look at the pros and cons of everything."

Centrum Properties Inc. is proposing to build a 122,000-square-foot Target store on 14.5

acres of a 48-acre farm on the south side of McHenry Road just east of Weiland Road. The project, which also might include two 10,000- to 20,000-square-foot stores fronting McHenry Road, was opposed last month by plan officials, who recommended to trustees that they not grant a necessary zoning-code change. The land is now earmarked in the village's master plan for town houses.

On Monday night, Centrum presented its project to trustees, some of whom raised concerns about the fact that it would require a change in Wheeling's master plan and about how a sewer project would be funded.

Normally, a developer pays for sewer improvements that are necessary.

John McLinden of Centrum told officials that he would pay for

sewer work along McHenry Road, estimated to cost as much as \$800,000, but he would want to recoup the cost from sales-tax revenue. McLinden added that the cost of the work would be too expensive for Centrum to fund itself.

Some officials suggested that the village and Centrum discuss the issue more. But other trustees, recognizing that the store could be a tax generator, encouraged that some sort of arrangement be made so that the project goes through.

"If we lose the Target deal, we are losing a lot of tax base," said Trustee Robert J. Heer.

Other members of the community, too, view the project as a way to boost its economy and caution the board not to overlook a potential

See SEWER on Page 4

store at 240 E. Dundee Road after selling all of its merchandise there. The Wheeling-based company said competition has spurred the closing.

When considering the proposal, Wheeling officials should take into consideration that there are few remaining spots for large commercial developments, Carpenter said.

But Schultz said that retail development is not the only way to keep the community economically viable. Industrial development, for instance, continues to be strong in the village, she added.

# Wash out

## Subdivision residents lose daylong battle with flood; residents leave homes in boats

By TIMOTHY S. ROONEY  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As the sun set over Deer Park and Kildeer Monday evening, a ring of people stood on the high ground along Sturm Road and peered back into the subdivision half-buried by floodwater.

War had been waged, then lost. Sandbags and pumps had been abandoned. One by one the fire boats had gone in, picking up people and pets. Everything else was left behind.

The relentless rain that engulfed the greater Barrington area Monday resulted in great personal tragedy for homeowners in this neighborhood between Deer Park and Kildeer. Six of the 18 homes in the Sturm subdivision, west of Route 12 and north of Quentin Road, had been abandoned to floodwater. As the sun was setting, another five still were in the fight. The remaining seven houses were on slightly higher ground.

The desperate battle, which began around 8 a.m., was being waged with three dump trucks full of sand, 12 shovels and 2,000 bags.

Above, on dry ground, a tent had

been set up for shelter. The Red Cross has set up a temporary shelter in Mundelein High School's gym and was offering dry clothes. The Metropolitan Emergency Support Services canteen was giving out food and coffee.

The evacuees stood together under umbrellas, talking quietly, sharing their despair. No one cried.

Debbie Jurs had been sandbagging non-stop for six hours when the water pushed and clawed and finally broke through a basement window.

"It sounded like a waterfall," she said. "We could hear the water flowing."

She and her husband, Ben, went downstairs and saw that the basement would be a total loss. That was their signal to leave. She took 4-year-old Benjamin to a friend's house on high ground.

Now she was standing atop a hill, looking back at her two-story house.

"Now we wait and pray that it doesn't come into the top of the house," she said, referring to the first floor.

Their pickup truck was pulled to higher ground but already the back

wheels were partially under water.

The murky, brown water that threatened the low-lying Sturm neighborhood was coming from a nearby retention pond.

The pounding rain forced the water over its banks, through the subdivision and toward a culvert along Route 12. But the culvert was too small, and the water steadily backed up into the neighborhood.

Susan Haines, 44, was evacuated from her home shortly after 7 p.m. when emergency officials said she could no longer stay. The boat resembled Noah's Ark: It contained Haines; her son, Ben, 17; daughter, Tempa, 14; plus two cats and a lizard. Once on dry land she was contemplating the additional disaster that her insurance would not cover the cost of damage to the \$184,000 home.

"The thought that insurance is not going to cover this is an awesome thought," she said. "I can't even comprehend that."

Haines, a professional musician, snatched her music from the flood water in hopes of working this weekend. She plays the piano and viola and plays for students' recitals. Some antique violins in the



Homeowners with flooded basements and yards weren't the only ones affected by Monday's heavy rains. Motorists in Lake Zurich were forced to contend with a flooded viaduct on Rand Road near Ela Road.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

basement were ruined but the family moved her piano and viola into the highest area of the house.

Karen Sande, an interior decorator who works out of her home, said she has been trying for 6½ years to get the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission to address flooding in the subdivision. Still, this was the first

time the water had gotten so far into people's homes.

Sande had left the house via boat, while her husband, Dan, continued to try pumping water out faster than it was coming in. "What else can we do?" she asked. "There is nothing else we can do."

Walter Folkowski was one of the folks able to hang on, since his

house was on higher ground than his neighbors.

"I'm just trying to make sure if the water rises we can hold it back," he said.

Folkowski, who lives on Sturm Road, said he and his neighbors had been sandbagging since about 8 a.m. to keep the water away from their homes.

# Flood may put damper on holiday

By Charles Mount  
and Gary Mays

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

Although flood waters were slowly receding in the far north and northwest suburbs Wednesday, their effects are expected to spill over into the holiday weekend—and could even ripple into groceries all across the Chicago area in the form of higher food prices.

Things were getting back to normal for most flood-weary

residents along the Des Plaines River, but thousands of Memorial Day weekend picnickers and boaters will have to change their plans or adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

The Fox Waterway Agency kept the Fox River closed to boat traffic Wednesday and kept a no-wake restriction on boaters in the nine major lakes that form the Chain O' Lakes, which stretch from Johnsbury to Antioch in McHenry and Lake Coun-

ties.

State officials said the excess water may not start draining before Thursday if no more rain arrives, leaving open the possibility of no-boat and no-wake restrictions through the holiday weekend.

"The boating conditions will be updated at 10 a.m. every day, so people need to check our recorded line Saturday morning to get an idea what the weekend will be like, and we will update

it Sunday and Monday if conditions change," said Karen Kabbes, executive director of the Fox Lake-based Fox Waterway Agency.

The agency's telephone number is 847-587-8540.

The area under its jurisdiction draws an estimated 2 million visitors a year and has more than 25,000 registered boats, according to surveys by Fox Lake officials.

In Lake County, forest pre-

serve officials on Wednesday announced several facilities will be closed through Memorial Day. Among them are the Buffalo Creek Preserve in Buffalo Grove; Grant Woods (Grant Avenue entrance) in Fox Lake and Wright Woods in Lincolnshire.

The Des Plaines River Trail will continue to be closed from Illinois Highway 60 in Vernon Hills south to Illinois Highway

SEE FLOODS, PAGE 2

Village to negotiate land purchase  
Wheeling trustees last week agreed to allow village staff to negotiate the purchase of 7.8 acres along Milwaukee Avenue for the future construction of townhouses. The property is in the village's tax increment financing district. "Ultimately, we'll have to come back to the board and get final amount approval," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "This gives us permission to go ahead and make an offer."  
The targeted parcels include the site of the former Union Hotel. Three residents have filed a lawsuit against the village, saying it violated a village ordinance by not acting on the Plan Commission's recommendation of the plan within six months.

# Police find bikes a wheel help

5-21-96

TRIBUNE

**W**heeling police were pretty much sold on the bicycle patrol before it went into effect May 1. After all, it isn't exactly a new concept in the northwest suburbs, and it's rare to find a law enforcement officer who does anything less than bubble over with enthusiasm about the benefits of putting cops on two-wheelers.



**Christine Winter**  
NORTHWEST JOURNAL

But Wheeling Police Chief **Michael Haeger** acknowledged that despite all the positive feedback and community relations benefits, he had a few niggling doubts in the back of his mind about one little point: Would officers on cycles be as effective in responding to emergency

calls as their colleagues in marked squad cars? Within a few weeks of the bicycle unit's debut, he had his answer: a resounding yes. The Wheeling bike patrol was put to the test just last week, and the outcome was roughly as satisfying as winning the Tour

de France the first time out. Officer **Michael Kirby**, one of the four Wheeling officers chosen for bike patrol duty out of the 11 who volunteered, actually beat patrol cars to the scene of what could have been a "major incident," even a hostage situation, in a home on Mors Avenue on Wednesday.

Fortunately, it was not, and Chief Haeger believes that may very well have been in part because of Kirby's prompt appearance at the scene and his ability to get the situation under control quickly.

There already was a burglary in progress, as well as an acci-

SEE WINTER, PAGE 5

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dent with injuries, when a "check the well-being" call came in that afternoon. Officer Kirby, aware that squad patrols were busy on the west side of Wheeling, had been pedaling around the center of town about 5:30 p.m. so he could be ready to head out in any direction.

In police circles, a "check the well-being" call is no biggie, but as Kirby points out, "a lot of things turn out differently than you think they are going to."

Patrol cars also sent to the scene got hung up in traffic around Dundee and Wolf Roads. Kirby, by riding on sidewalks and taking shortcuts, traveled the 1.7 miles within about six minutes. He beat his fellow officers by less than a minute, but his timing was just right: He approached the scene at the same time as the wife of a man who had barricaded himself in his basement with an arsenal of guns and ammunition impressive enough to stock a Clint Eastwood movie.

He was able to talk to the wife and learn that there was more here than police had been led to expect. While he was discussing the situation with her, a child came running out to announce, "Daddy is in the basement loading his guns."

"In retrospect, by getting there at the same time as the wife, I think it made it possible to get her and the kids out before a hostage situation could develop," said Officer Kirby, who along with backup officers, was able to subdue the man without a shot being fired.

"This could have been a real serious call, since the man had more than 600 rounds of ammunition with him, as well as several guns, including an automatic gun with a banana clip," Haeger said. "It was important to get the situation under control quickly."

And to put their chief's mind at ease as well.

"It's obvious now that an officer on a bicycle is able to respond as quickly or quicker than a marked car," Haeger said.

Kirby, who said he also was the first unit to arrive at a recent battery scene while on his bike, thinks the bicycle patrol unit has a lot of other benefits besides being able to ride around traffic jams.

"It's true we don't have an engine block to protect us, but we can pick and choose how we want to approach a scene, we can even ride over lawns or through back yards," he said.

And then, of course, there are the much-publicized community relations benefits, considered invaluable in this era of neighborhood policing.

"In just a couple of days, I met more than 60 people who approached me to joke about my uniform [shorts], ask about my bike or just engage me in conversation outside the White Hen," he said. "That doesn't happen when you are in a squad car."

Eventually some of those conversations got around to problems

occurring in their lives or neighborhoods, he added.

Kirby said the element of surprise is a big boon to officers on bikes, especially at night.

Even though they may be wearing uniforms and the bikes say "police," the officers don't exactly have flashing blue lights on their helmets, and it doesn't seem to register with people that they are cops. True, there have been bike patrols in the northwest suburbs for a half-dozen years, but how often to you see an "NYPD" episode starring an officer on a mountain bike?

"Some of the bike patrol mem-

bers on duty nights have had a lot of luck catching underage drinkers," Kirby said. "They saw the patrol cars coming and ran away and bumped right into the officers on the bikes. I guess you might say they were pretty surprised."

Kirby said he hadn't ridden a bicycle since he was a teenager and "fell all over" during training, which gave him some second thoughts about the whole idea. He acknowledged he spent those first couple of days gulping pain killers to soothe his aching muscles.

"But this week for the first time I felt good and I haven't been sore at all," he said.

# Metra line's next stop ... right name

5-14-96

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The new Metra commuter line will be ready to roll in August.

But there is one more detail that has yet to be ironed out that could make riding the new line easy or confusing — the name.

Metra's board of directors this week might decide what to call the line that, beginning Aug. 19, will shuttle people between Antioch and Chicago on the Wisconsin Central Railway.

"The general feeling from the beginning is that the train would not

come out of Wisconsin and it was not central to our system, (so) Wisconsin Central didn't make sense," Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said.

There will be five proposed names that will be presented to the Metra board Friday, three of which were devised by the rail service and two by the Northwest Municipal Conference.

The names include: Prairie North Service; Lake Prairie Service; Lake District Service; North Central Line and the Lake-Cook Suburban Line.

Officials say they want to select a

name that is descriptive of the area the line serves and is not confusing for commuters.

"The whole idea is that it is a distinctive name (that is indicative of) that line and not another line," said Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias, who is also president of the conference.

"If you are downtown and running to a train you (need to) know where you are going. ... You don't want to get on the wrong train," he added.

The conference's first choice for the service is the North Central Line because it identifies the location, said Wheeling Village Presi-

dent Sheila H. Schultz. She added that since the name incorporates part of the track's title, Wisconsin Central, it will be easy for commuters to recognize initially.

Knapton said Metra staff members thought of the area's intrinsic qualities — prairies and lakes — when devising names.

"We want (a name) to stand the test of time," Knapton said. "As long as there is a rail service up there, there will be lakes and prairies."

Though the board will be presented with the list of names, it is possible that they may devise one of their own, Knapton said.

# McDonald's to rise in Wheeling — again

5-24-96

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is getting its second set of golden arches.

McDonald's Corp. expects this summer to begin building a restaurant on Wheeling's northern edge, being lured there by the area's growth.

The restaurant, including an indoor "Playplace" recreation area for children, will be built on about an acre of the northeast corner of the Wal-Mart store parking lot at 1455 Lake-Cook Road.

McDonald's selected the site

partially because it is convenient for customers traveling along busy Lake-Cook Road, which is in an area that continues to grow,

said Jim Stadelman, a real-estate manager for the company. In fact, when trustees approved the restaurant recently, they also backed a plan to build a Mobil gas station just to the west where the McDonald's will stand, on southeast corner of Weiland and Lake-Cook Road.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz expects that the new McDonald's will do well in the business corridor that includes

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. The restaurant will be 4,650 square feet, 1,250 of which will house the "Playplace," an area that will have plastic play equipment for small children.

Before the village board unanimously approved the project, Trustee Judy Abruscato inquired if the new McDonald's will jeopardize the one that currently does business at 188 E. Dundee Road.

Abruscato said she would not want the current business, which has been operating for more than 20 years, to be impacted by the new location.

Construction of the restaurant is expected to take about three months, he added.

Stadelman said that McDonald's has been looking to expand in the Lake-Cook area because of growth and Wheeling has expanded to the point where it can support both locations.

"We would not do it if we felt it hurt the system," Stadelman said. Stadelman said that it might take about two months before construction to begin because the company now must obtain the proper permits.

Construction of the restaurant is expected to take about three months, he added.



Tribune photo by José M. Osorio

**'The ground can handle 1 or 2 inches in 24 hours, but if we get 5 inches in a couple of days, we'll have a problem.'**

Barry Valentine, McHenry County emergency services agency



Tribune photo by José Moré

Wheeling Road (above) was just one flooded by the downpour, which left Kildeer residents to fill sandbags to brace Lake Zurich.

## North suburbs caught in deluge

By Charles Mount  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Heavy rains that continued through Monday night caused serious flooding in the far northern suburbs, especially in high-growth areas that were not prepared to deal with the torrent, officials said.

No deaths were reported in northwest Cook, McHenry and Lake Counties, where emergency crews in several communities were filling sandbags and preparing evacuation plans.

In the tiny village of Union in McHenry County, Dawn Psilos stood on her porch and looked out onto a flooded back yard and what had been Depot Street, which had been impassable since early morning.

Psilos already had rescued three Isa brown chickens and carried them to the porch in a cardboard box.

"There's no place for the water to go," she lamented.

In Lincolnshire, retention ponds that overflowed near Stevenson High School caused water to back up and flood 100,000 square feet of the school's lower level, said James Hintz, assistant superintendent for business. Officials estimated damage at \$300,000.

The school was hit with about 4 inches of rain in one hour Friday, flooding classrooms, science laboratories and part of the library, Hintz said. To make matters worse, the roof sprung small leaks. Before Monday's downpour,

SEE FLOODS, PAGE 2



Tribune photo by José M. Osorio

Karen Sande carries belongings from a boat Monday after being rescued from her home in unincorporated Lake Zurich.

## Floods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some 70 people had worked over the weekend to pump out the water and clean carpeting, desks and computers, he said.

Elsewhere in Lake County, Lake Forest officials reported at least temporary closures at U.S. Highway 45 and Illinois Highway 137 in Libertyville, Illinois Highway 120 and O'Plaine Road in Gurnee and U.S. Highway 41 at Illinois Highway 176 in unincorporated Lake Bluff and at Deerpath Road in Lake Forest.

In Barrington, Flint Creek, which drains most of the village, was at capacity from rainwater flowing off buildings, streets, sidewalks and lawns.

Lake Forest had its worst flooding in eight to 10 years, said John Varner, assistant supervisor of water and sewers.

Meanwhile, numerous intersections in Lake and McHenry Counties were flooded Monday, and at least six were blocked for at least eight hours.

The Lake County sheriff's office reported it was getting calls well into Monday evening to help close flooded roads. The roads include Illinois Highway 132 between U.S.

Metra/Union Pacific Northwest line railroad tracks east of Illinois Highway 31 near Crystal Lake. U.S. 14 at the viaduct was closed from 6:45 a.m. to just after 9:30 a.m. because of flooding, McHenry County Sheriff's police said.

Many basements, yards, retention ponds, creeks and side streets were flooded, particularly in Algonquin, Cary, Crystal Lake and Lake in the Hills. Lightning toppled trees in Cary and Crystal Lake.

At least 40 homeowners in Lake in the Hills reported flooded basements and garages and began stockpiling sandbags, while Towne Park behind the Algonquin Village Hall was closed as Crystal Creek overflowed shortly before noon, police said.

"Algonquin and Lake in the Hills had a lot of growth in the past three to four years that has taken up former open land that used to absorb water," said Barry Valentine, director of the McHenry County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency.

"Some of the terrain is pretty steep in those villages, and the water runs off rather quickly. The water runs into storm sewers and culverts that can fill up fast," he said.

Officials warned that flash flooding Monday night and early Tuesday likely would cause sewers and drainage ditches to overflow.

More-established areas also saw their homes and first-floor spaces flooded. Six homes were evacuated from a subdivision at Sturm Road and U.S. Highway 12 near Kildeer in Lake County, while Arlington Heights officials reported flooding in a few dozen homes.

No flooding was reported on the Des Plaines River, but police in Wheeling and Des Plaines said they were told the river was expected to crest at various points on Tuesday and Wednesday.

At Gurnee, where flood stage on the Des Plaines is 7 feet, the river was at 6.2 feet Monday and was expected to crest near 8 feet Tuesday, forecasters said.

Officials also expressed concern about the Fox River south of the McHenry locks and the Kishwaukee River east of Marengo. A no-wake restriction was put into effect Monday on the Fox River from Pistakee Lake to the Algonquin Dam, the Fox Waterway Agency announced.

Officials at the National Weather Service said showers and



Tribune photo by José Moré

Wheeling Road (above) was just one flooded by the downpour, which left Kildeer residents to fill sandbags to brace Lake Zurich.

## North suburbs caught in deluge

By Charles Mount  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Heavy rains that continued through Monday night caused serious flooding in the far northern suburbs, especially in high-growth areas that were not prepared to deal with the torrent, officials said.

No deaths were reported in northwest Cook, McHenry and Lake Counties, where emergency crews in several communities were filling sandbags and preparing evacuation plans.

In the tiny village of Union in McHenry County, Dawn Psilos stood on her porch and looked out onto a flooded back yard and what had been Depot Street, which had been impassable since early morning.

Psilos already had rescued three Isa brown chickens and carried them to the porch in a cardboard box.

"There's no place for the water to go," she lamented.

In Lincolnshire, retention ponds that overflowed near Stevenson High School caused water to back up and flood 100,000 square feet of the school's lower level, said James Hintz, assistant superintendent for business. Officials estimated damage at \$300,000.

The school was hit with about 4 inches of rain in one hour Friday, flooding classrooms, science laboratories and part of the library, Hintz said. To make matters worse, the roof sprung small leaks. Before Monday's downpour,



Tribune photo by José M. Osorio

Karen Sande carries belongings from a boat Monday after being rescued from her home in unincorporated Lake Zurich.

## Floods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some 70 people had worked over the weekend to pump out the water and clean carpeting, desks and computers, he said.

Elsewhere in Lake County, Lake Forest officials reported at least temporary closures at U.S. Highway 45 and Illinois Highway 137 in Libertyville, Illinois Highway 120 and O'Plaine Road in Gurnee and U.S. Highway 41 at Illinois Highway 176 in unincorporated Lake Bluff and at Deerpath Road in Lake Forest.

In Barrington, Flint Creek, which drains most of the village, was at capacity from rainwater flowing off buildings, streets, sidewalks and lawns.

Lake Forest had its worst flooding in eight to 10 years, said John Varner, assistant supervisor of water and sewers.

Meanwhile, numerous intersections in Lake and McHenry Counties were flooded Monday, and at least six were blocked for at least eight hours.

The Lake County sheriff's office reported it was getting calls well into Monday evening to help close flooded roads. The roads include Illinois Highway 132 between U.S. 41 and O'Plaine Road in Gurnee and U.S. 41 by Kilbourne Road, where the underpass is flooded, also in Gurnee.

Lake County Sheriff's Lt. Dempsey Leith said about 8,000 sandbags were delivered to county residents Monday to guard against the high water.

Many other road closures came during the Monday-morning rush hour, including busy U.S. Highway 14 where it crosses under the

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"Some of the terrain is pretty steep in those villages, and the water runs off rather quickly. The water runs into storm sewers and culverts that can fill up fast," he said.

Valentine warned that the flooding will worsen significantly if the area, which had had up to 3 inches of rain in the past 24 hours, gets another 2 inches in the next few days.

"We had an unusually dry winter, but the ground is pretty saturated from rain we got in recent weeks," Valentine said. "The ground can handle 1 or 2 inches in 24 hours, but if we get 5 inches in a couple of days, we'll have a problem."

Officials warned that flash flooding Monday night and early Tuesday likely would cause sewers and drainage ditches to overflow.

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Officials at the National Weather Service said showers and thunderstorms were expected to end by midnight Monday. A 30 percent chance of showers was forecast for Tuesday, with high temperatures in the middle 70s.

Precipitation for Sunday night through Monday evening varied, with Crystal Lake recording the greatest amount of rainfall, 5.16 inches, and O'Hare International Airport the lowest, 0.95 inches. Most reporting stations around the Chicago area had more than 2 1/4 inches of rainfall.

**'Think of it as a bathtub. If you leave the water running long enough, it will overflow.'**

Tom Cummings, disaster manager for the Army Corps of Engineers



Shari Galvraith and Pete Brosseau inspect flooded Wolf Road on Tuesday in Wheeling.



Ernie Rogers, who has lived on Sturm Road for 23 years, looks at the mess left after her home was flooded on Monday.

Tribune photos by José Moré

## Sun comes out, but ordeal isn't over

By Gary Mays and Charles Mount

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

With the clouds and their incessant rain gone, the sun seemed a ray of hope Tuesday for those facing the flood waters in Lake and McHenry Counties.

But those exhausted homeowners, after hours of demanding effort to salvage their belongings, were unable to take solace from the clearing skies. They turned their attention instead to the Des Plaines and Fox Rivers, which were expected to crest Tuesday night and

Thursday, respectively.

And that would be the moment of truth, when homeowners would find out whether their sandbag dikes, assembled during the night, had withstood the onslaught of the two rivers. For many, there would be sighs of relief. A few others, though, would weep as water filled their living rooms and basements.

To be sure, they who have chosen to live on the river's edge are used to flooding—it is part of the territory. But this year, they may have been caught off guard.

In the past, the most severe floods—the ones that residents talked about as they hoisted sandbags on Tuesday—came in March and April, when melting snow mixed with the usual spring rains. By contrast, the culprit this time was a deluge of 2 to 5 inches of rain falling during the past two days, more water than the Fox and Des Plaines Rivers could move downstream, officials said.

Larry Harris, McHenry County Farm Bureau manager, said, "We started out with a below-average precipitation from

SEE FLOOD, PAGE 2

brown river flowed swiftly through their back yards. One resident reported finding a stranded northern pike in his back yard. "Want to come and see my lake, front property?" joked a passing North Libertyville Estates homeowner, whose spirits were buoyed by good weather and the sight of neighbors helping one another through what has become an all-too-familiar situation.

But there was little to smile about on Sturm Road near Lake Zurich.

"I'm just sick over this," said Ernie Rogers, whose living room on Monday night was filled with 2½ feet of water. The water had receded by Tuesday afternoon, leaving behind a room full of mud and ruined furniture.

Eleven houses in the Sturm Road subdivision were flooded by Monday's rains, according to the Illinois Stormwater Management Commission.

Ironically, commission officials said construction is scheduled to begin this summer on a \$350,000 effort to alleviate flooding there through replacement of a failing water outlet pipe and renovations to a retention pond.

Back along the Des Plaines River, residents of North Libertyville Estates said much of Tuesday's flooding woes could have been prevented had the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a long-awaited \$3 million earthen levee that would act as a barrier to protect the houses.

"You just don't know what to expect. That levee has been in the works for 10 years," said Jan Fock, standing outside her house on water-covered Des Plaines Road.

The Army Corps of Engineers' Cummings was unsure when construction was scheduled to begin on the levee.

The corps estimated that flooding along the Des Plaines River costs an average of \$11 million a year in damage, and it likely will worsen as the pace of development quickens throughout Lake County.

Des Plaines River's flooding also prompted the closing of two schools in Wheeling, the postponement of graduation ceremonies at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines and the evacuation of a few hundred homes in Wheeling.

The Oakton ceremony, canceled because of a flooded access road, has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday.

"It's really sad to think how much this will affect people's day," said Oakton spokeswoman Ray Rolf.

## Flood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

snowfall and rain during early spring . . . and then all of a sudden we went to an above-normal [amount] of precipitation."

Tom Cummings, disaster manager for the Army Corps of Engineers, added, "Think of it as a bathtub. If you leave the water running long enough, it will overflow."

And the bathtub's drains, in this case the Des Plaines and the Fox Rivers, are only so big.

On Tuesday afternoon, the water was still running into the upper Des Plaines near Gurnee, enough of it to threaten houses along its meandering path south through Lake County. At the Army Corps' gauge in Gurnee, it was predicted to crest a very threatening 9 feet, about 2 feet more than flood stage and far above its normal depth of about 4 feet.

Things were not much better on the Fox River, which was closed to boats in McHenry, Lake and Kane Counties Tuesday afternoon, according to Karen Kabbes, executive director of the Fox Waterway Agency. The river is expected to crest Thursday.

In addition to imperiling houses, runoff from the swollen Fox River threatened to destroy recently planted corn.

"I've lived in this county for 23 years," Harris said, "and I've seen water [Tuesday] standing in fields between Crystal Lake and Woodstock where I've never seen it before."

There was scattered flooding throughout the northern suburbs, although only a handful of residents were forced to flee their homes, officials said.

By far the hardest-hit areas were the North Libertyville Estates subdivision in unincorporated Libertyville and a low-lying subdivision off Sturm Road in unincorporated Lake Zurich, according to Lt. Dempsey Leith, director of emergency management services for the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

In response, the county distributed about 29,000 sandbags to homeowners in those and other water-logged neighborhoods over the past two days. Of the roughly 115 houses in the Libertyville subdivision, about 30 of them "have water at the door," Leith said.

Those residents, having lived through far-worse floods in 1993 and 1986, continued the labor-intensive work of sandbagging on Tuesday afternoon as the dark-

# Why flood hit some, spared others



Geroge Lang stands on the porch of his Wheeling home Tuesday, warily watching flood waters encroaching on his yard.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

■ **Grandpa's trunk, old love letters: Losses add up to more than money — Constable, Page 9**

■ **Snapshots around the suburbs show who got the worst of it — Photos, story in Neighbor**

■ **Wheeling homeowners are wakened in the night and told to flee the rising floodwaters — Page 8**

A combination of nature, human factors play into who was affected

5-22-96

By JON MARSHALL  
AND STEVE WARMBIR  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

As they continue the messy task of cleaning up today, residents from Wheeling to Libertyville to Inverness all must be asking a similar question:

Why was my neighborhood hit so hard by flooding while others were spared?

The disparity was glaring Tuesday. Although many North and Northwest suburbs remained soaked in water, others basked in the day's much-needed sunshine.

The reason for the vast differences in damage, experts say, comes from the randomness of Mother Nature combined with human mistakes.

A mix of climate, topography and building patterns all contributed to determining where the waters rose.

■ Uneven rainfall played a big

See FLOOD on Page 9

# FLOOD: What causes the difference in water levels among towns?

Continued from Page 1

role. "Every flood is different," said Michael Klitzke, the community development director in Wheeling, where 49 households were evacuated early Tuesday morning after Buffalo Creek spilled over its banks. "It depends where, when and how the rain falls."

For instance 3.83 inches of rain fell in Barrington and 3.60 inches in Buffalo Grove during a 48-hour period span ending at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

But nearby Arlington Heights and Streamwood got an inch less rain.

"There was a narrow band of rainfall that was very intense," said Ward Miller, executive director of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

■ Neighborhoods in low-lying areas got dumped on the most.

For instance when the Buffalo Creek Reservoir at Lake-Cook and Arlington Heights roads began to spill over, the water flowed downstream to the Meadowbrook West subdivision in Wheeling.

■ Older subdivisions bore the brunt of the damage, especially in southwest Lake County.

These older subdivisions tend to suffer the worst flood damage because their drainage systems are often falling apart, Miller said.

In addition some older homes were built before building codes had strong flood-control standards, he said.

Also, when a subdivision is packed with houses, there's fewer places for the water to go.

■ What happens downstream depends a lot on what goes on

upstream, sometimes miles away.

In some areas where commercial developments have sprouted, up to 90 percent of the soil that would absorb water now are covered with buildings, roads and parking lots, said Robert Gemmell, a civil engineering professor at Northwestern University who specializes in hydrology.

Joe Martinez, the Ela Township highway commissioner, was dealing with the aftermath of some of that development as he helped clean up some of the flooding.

"They never looked at the future," Martinez said. "They are building everywhere, even the low areas, so there's nowhere for the water to go."

In recent years, most communities have passed laws requiring developers to build ponds to hold water after new construction is completed.

These man-made ponds do a lot to help, but depending on the volume of water passing through they can't control all flooding, Miller said.

"The more development you have, the more accumulated runoff you will have, even with good regulations," Miller said.

In addition some buildings constructed before the flood-control laws passed aren't required to have any these so-called retention ponds and contribute to runoff, Gemmell said.

■ Other causes of flooding include broken drainage tiles in older sections of towns, which can make water back up into streets and neighborhoods, said Philip Bernstein, the Chicago region's chief of planning for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Residents who think they have seen the worse of the flooding may be in for more heartache.

The Des Plaines River, already above its flood stage, was expected to crest Tuesday near Gurnee but not until some time Thursday near the city of Des Plaines, according to the National Weather Service.

The weather service predicts Thursday, Friday and Saturday could bring renewed thunderstorms after sunny skies Wednesday.

Although the flooding has hurt many homes, it could have been a lot worse if communities hadn't started working on flood-control projects after previous floods.

For instance Wheeling has built the Buffalo Creek Reservoir, put new bridges on streets vulnerable to flooding and worked to clear its streams of debris that can block water, Klitzke said.

Now communities are looking to find answers on a regional basis. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission for example is developing a watershed plan so it can come up with regional solutions.

But it lacks the money to fully develop the plan, Miller said. Other collar counties are experiencing similar financial constraints, he said.

A bigger ray of sunshine may be on the horizon.

The federal government is considering a massive project to alleviate some flooding along the Des Plaines River, but the improvements likely won't be in place until the year 2000.

The Army Corps of Engineers project would cost about \$150 million and add eight reservoirs along

the river plus levees and berms.

But the project isn't a done deal. It still must be reviewed by suburban towns affected by the plan and approved by Congress, which will decide whether to pay for it. Local governments will have to share about 25 percent of the cost.

While suburban leaders said Tuesday they should work together more frequently to solve flooding problems, politics slows progress.

For instance some say creating a

regional planning group that would review whether major projects will lead to flooding in neighboring towns may be impractical.

Suburban officials are touchy about placing major projects in their towns under review of another agency. Plus, it's difficult to raise money from towns to pay for the necessary studies.

Inverness Village President Donna L. Thomas called the obstacles "almost insurmountable," but

that doesn't mean villages shouldn't try, she said.

"I think we have to begin at least exploring the idea of working together," Thomas said. "I don't know if we can keep putting it off."

The key is not forgetting about flood problems once the water dries up, Miller advised.

"We can't just react to floods," Miller said. "We need a sustained effort to solving the problem during the dry months."

## Where flooding hit hardest



# Wheeling takes brunt of flooding

5-22-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bill and Janet Hutchings had already put their television atop a table and their couch up on chairs.

The Wheeling family was warned by officials that the nearby Buffalo Creek could overflow its banks, flooding their Meadowbrook subdivision.

But being veterans of past floods and saying they wanted to watch over everything they had worked for, the two Tuesday morning did the only thing that was left for them to do — stand on their lawn and watch water steadily begin to fill Jeffery Avenue.

"You watch it go up, and you watch it go down," Bill Hutchings said.

"And you clean up the mess afterwards," added Janet Hutchings, as the creek, less than a block away, had risen to the top of the Jeffery Avenue bridge.

Rising water in Buffalo Creek and the Des Plaines River Tuesday forced as many as 49 people from their homes, submerged streets, and closed schools and two of three runways at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

But officials and residents were waiting to see if they would be able to begin cleaning up Wednesday or if more rain would just keep the waters rising.

"Things have stabilized, hopefully it will get better," said Fire Inspector Michael Barden, who was working in the command center the village is using to direct its more than 100-person effort to fight the flood. The creek stopped rising at 10 a.m. Tuesday and began to recede at about 4 p.m.

Village workers Monday night had fortified detention ponds with sandbags to prevent the rains from



Victor Albarado takes off his socks Tuesday after going for a swim in the flood waters next to the closed St. Joseph the Worker School in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

flooding nearby apartment complexes.

But the fight against nature shifted after about 1 a.m., when the Buffalo Creek Reservoir in Buffalo Grove became inundated and began spilling water directly into Buffalo Creek.

"Everything was holding its own until that reservoir let loose," Barden said.

The storage retention, which holds an amount of water equal to 800 acres by a foot deep, is designed to prevent flooding downstream, said Michael Fenelon, a director with the Lake County Forest Preserve District, which oversees the reservoir. But recent rains and upstream runoff caused the reservoir to spill over.

Knowing that the rising Buffalo Creek could inundate low-lying areas, village officials at about 2 a.m. went to about 150 homes, warning their property could flood.

As of Tuesday, about 40 homes were affected by flooding, with the worst cases resulting in filled basements, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. Officials say no home suffered structural damage and no one was injured.

At least 49 residents heeded officials' warning and spent the evening in a Red Cross shelter set up in the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center. Others went to relatives homes and hotels.

Priscilla Gamboa said she and her family didn't hesitate when a police officer came to their home on Wolf Road, going immediately to the shelter. Water had risen two steps below their front door, completely filling their basement, where Gamboa's sister, brother-in-law and two nieces lived. They did not have time to remove any of their clothes or other belongings.

Aside from Wolf Road, portions of

Wheeling Road and Highland Avenue were closed because they were partially submerged.

Another area that officials were concerned about Tuesday was the Fox Point mobile home park, which abuts the Des Plaines River.

Residents, such as Tim Anderson, feared that their mobile home would be inundated as the river continued to rise Tuesday.

"I'm going to flood; there's no doubt about it," said Anderson, who was wearing thigh high boots while walking through the 2 feet of water in front of his home. "I'm going to lose everything."

Meanwhile, flooded streets and parking lots also lead officials to close St. Joseph the Worker School and Holmes Middle School.

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 expects to reopen Holmes today, while St. Joseph's is expected to remain closed at least until Thursday.

# 'It's the biggest deal we've lived through'

5-22-96

By BURT CONSTABLE  
Daily Herald Columnist



Pete Sanchez and his daughter, Brenda, walk to their home on Wolf Road south of Dundee Road in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

To most suburbanites enjoying Tuesday's sunny skies, the recent hard rains merely made the golf greens a tad slow and the dandelions grow too fast.

"In the scheme of things, it's not a big deal, but it's the biggest deal we've lived through," says Susan Haines, 44, standing near a shallow pond that used to be the Sturms subdivision near Lake Zurich.

Just a few blocks from where homeowners unaffected by the flood mundanely mow their grass, Haines needs a rowboat to get through her yard.

The basement of her home flooded to the ceiling and didn't stop until it was nine inches deep in her family room.

She'd spent much of the flood moving things from the floor to a shelf and then watching in amazement as the rising flood waters saw her truck and raised the stakes.

"I'd go back an hour later and say, 'Well, maybe I'll move it up again,'" Haines says.

She ticks through a list of things that must be replaced — "electrical wiring, phones, the furnace, a freezer, the washer and dryer."

Police evacuated this neighborhood early Tuesday.

## BACCALAUREATE

## CAN EARN

## GRADUATE

## IN APPLIED SCI

## ASSOCIATE

SIU Southern Illinois University at C



Brat the cat gets a standing ovation from Wheeling Village President Shella Schultz at an awards ceremony in his honor. But the best testimonial to Brat is a happy, healthy Jose Ybarra — shown here — now fully recovered from his dangerous bout with meningitis.

S-12-96

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Walsh

## Brat the cat a celebrity after helping ill child

After "Brat," a cat, alerted Karen Ybarra Hummerich that her son, Jose, was suffering from a near-fatal meningitis-induced seizure, the Wheeling family called the feline a hero. This week, the title was officially bestowed upon the kitty by Wheeling and the Illinois Senate.

"This is really a pleasure and a first for us. ... Come forward and let everyone see this hero," said Wheeling Village President Shella H. Schultz this week as she presented Brat with proclamations from both government bodies.

It was a healthy Jose, instead of Brat, who took charge of the parchments during a village board meeting.

And instead of shaking hands, Schultz whispered kudos to the cat.

Jose, while carrying the celebrity cat, said the family appreciated Brat's efforts recognized in such a regal fashion. "I've never heard of a cat, or an animal, saving someone's life," Jose said.

Schultz said the story deserved recognition: the cat was alarmed by Jose's deteriorated condition one night and woke up Karen Hummerich by licking her eyelids.

The Senate proclamation, which requested the cat be treated well, was sponsored by Sen. Martin J. Butler, a Republican from Park Ridge, who also thought Brat's accomplishment deserved merit.

"(Wheeling) thought it would be fun and appropriate," Schultz said. "It's always nice to hear good things happen."

Cleaning up scum and muck left behind by standing water is not exactly a fun job.

But dozens of Northwest suburban residents were forced to deal with the musty smell and gritty mess in the aftermath of this week's flooding.

Dressed in work clothes and armed with a garden hose, Inverness residents Samuel and Kathy La Susa got down and dirty Wednesday when they began to scrub the floor of their garage on Baldwin Road.

Once submerged under 6 inches of water, the floor was left with a dirt residue from the murky water.

The flooding also ruined possessions and the couple was forced to haul a water-damaged table and other trash to the curb.

"Now that this happened, we are learning to live with less junk," Kathy said. "We'll be happy to get our cars back into the garage. Our neighbors have been nice enough to let us park our cars by their houses."

After spending a night at a Red Cross shelter and another at a relative's house, Geza Sebestyen returned to his Wheeling home on Wednesday to find a basement full of water. Frustration and a lot of work ahead.

"I'm tired. I didn't sleep last night (because) I'm upset," said the 69-year-old Sebestyen, clad in work clothes.

"Everything is lost. I can't save anything," Sebestyen said while peeling back drenched paneling, part of the damage estimated to cost as much as \$30,000 to repair.

In Deer Park, Thomas Hohmeier was using a pump and Wet-Vac to suck up water from the basement and family room.

"We have residue like silt left over from the water," Hohmeier said. "We are opening windows to get rid of the musty smell. We had 32 inches of water in the basement so our parts that were drenched from pumping about 5 feet of water from his basement, his bare feet muddy. Sudden and stained furniture and memories filled the dank basement of his Wolf Road home. The bench on which Sebestyen crafted wood work tipped, the rocking chair he's had for about 20 years dumped on its side on the still-soaked carpet.

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BY SANDRA DEL RE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



Dozens of carp followed the flood waters into the back yard of Joe Masella's father-in-law in Wheeling. More rain could arrive today, possibly raising the water level even higher.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

Residents from areas like Long Grove and Des Plaines also piled less from water damage on the curb for scavenger services to pick up.

"People are emptying out their basements and putting them in the trash," said Don Hamstra, facility manager for Waste Management Northwest, a scavenger service. "There's tons of garbage out there; it's a nightmare."

To deal with the additional trash, Waste Management had employees working longer hours. Some collected garbage until 9 p.m. "We have been trying to keep up," he said. "We do 50 routes a day. We've increased manpower by 20 percent."

But one garbage man said people had simply strewn carpets curbside, making them difficult to pick up.

"It's all soaking wet," Hamstra said. "Everything is soaked and heavy. We are trying to get more helpers on routes to make things easier."

Not only was business booming for garbage collectors, but carpet cleaning services were trying to handle an influx of calls for service.

"We are working very hard," said Dieter Eckstein, owner of Dura-Clean Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners in Libertyville. "We are pumping out homes all over the place."

Daily Herald Staff Writers Bob McKee and Jon Marshall contributed to this report.



Bob Gray, left, director of Wheeling Public Works, and Ken Kent confirm that the level of Buffalo Creek is dropping despite Thursday's additional rain. But the swollen creek still moves swiftly under the Jeffrey Avenue bridge in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

# How to rein in the river?

## Levees, wetlands eyed as solutions

Jan Feck and other residents depend on sandbags to protect their homes from the flooded Des Plaines River.

Someday, though, a permanent, grass-topped levee could replace the stopgap barrier of sandbags protecting residents in flood-prone neighborhoods.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering that and other ideas, such as man-made wetlands, huge reservoirs and other levees to protect homeowners and businesses up and down the urbanized river from floods like the one now threatening the region.

For residents, the Corps' \$150

**More rain on the way**

<b>FRI</b> ■ High in the 80s, 60 percent chance of rain	<b>SAT</b> ■ High in the 80s, 60 percent chance of rain	<b>SUN</b> ■ High in the 70s, dry	<b>MON</b> ■ High in the 70s, dry
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Sources: National Weather Service

million flood control plan can't come soon enough — even though it's at least a year away.

Both the Des Plaines and Fox rivers have been at or above flood stage this week following deluges across the area that began Monday. A half-inch of rain Thursday kept river levels high.

For those who live near the Des Plaines River, the flooding demonstrated the need for the flood-control system the Army Corps said could consist of rearranging portions of the river banks into a system of levees, reservoirs and reconstructed wetlands.

Though funding hasn't been lined up and construction is more than a year away, it sounds wonderful to residents who have seen numerous floods over the last several years.

# Homeowners pinch their noses, sop up muck

S-23-96

# Weary eyes look to the sky

More rain in forecast leaves flood victims anxious

BY JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Walter Falkowski isn't planning to take down his sandbags any time soon.

The 50 bags piled around Falkowski's yard near Deer Park have managed to keep flood waters out of his home so far.

"If it keeps raining," he said, "I'll be in big trouble."

The past two days of sunny skies have brought some encouraging news for flood-threatened homeowners in the North and Northwest suburbs: The water in some areas has begun to recede and the Des Plaines River crested late Tuesday and early Wednesday in Gurnee and Des Plaines while the Fox River is expected to crest today in Algonquin.

But there is ominous news, too: Thunderstorms are in the forecast for today, Friday and Saturday, according to the National Weather Service.

What could renewed rain mean for Chicago's flooded suburbs? Don Meseth is holding his breath.

There was a wide variation in rainfall with last weekend's

See FLOODING on Page 9

## Canoeists rescued from flood waters

A Park Ridge couple had to be rescued from the swollen Des Plaines River Thursday when their canoe overturned. Meanwhile, residents along the river went about the messy task of cleaning up. See Page 9.

## River watch

Rain expected today could raise the level of the Fox and Des Plaines rivers, already swollen from storms this week.



### The Des Plaines River:

- Rose 6 1/2 feet in one week at Des Plaines.
- Crested late Tuesday and Wednesday 1 1/2 feet above flood stage at Gurnee and 3 1/2 feet above flood stage at Des Plaines.
- Is vulnerable to flooding because development along the shores funnels water directly into the river.

### The Fox River:

- Is expected to crest today at six inches above flood stage at Algonquin.
- Rose eight inches in 24 hours at South Elgin after Monday's rainstorms.
- Reacts less dramatically to rainfall because the Chain O' Lakes acts as a giant reservoir.

### Five-day forecast

- |  |   |                                 |                            |                            |
|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>THU</b> ■ 70 percent chance of thunderstorms or showers | <b>FRI</b> ■ 40 percent chance of showers | <b>SAT</b> ■ More rain possible | <b>SUN</b> ■ Dry, clearing | <b>MON</b> ■ Dry, clearing |
|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|

Sources: National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps

## FLOODING: Battle continues for some

Continued from Page 1

storms, with as much as a month's worth of rain dumped in one day in the Barrington area while suburbs farther south received barely an inch. The impact of the rain due today depends on where the heaviest accumulation occurs, said Meseth, emergency management coordinator for Des Plaines.

"Where it's going to hit and how it's going to hit," he said, "no one knows."

In the past week, the Des Plaines River rose almost three feet at Gurnee and more than six feet downstream near Des Plaines. It is well above flood stage at both points, the weather service said.

The Fox River was a half foot above flood stage Wednesday at Algonquin, and the U.S. Coast Guard has closed the river to boats.

The weekend forecasts worry Sandy Plesha of Wheeling, who fears the Des Plaines River and Buffalo Creek will once again turn her lawn into a small sea.

"The river is so high and the creek is so high," Plesha said. "Where is the water going to go?"

Besides collecting sandbags and having crews ready to respond, there's little communities can do to prepare, Meseth said.

The governments in Des Plaines and other communities are planning to keep their emergency centers open for the rest of the week.

Wheeling is stocking its emergency center with supplies and coffee just in case the hard rains return, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Prospect Heights is keeping sandbags and barricades on the side of River Road in case the floods return, City Engineer Howard Killian said.

"I really don't consider this [flooding] done," he said, "until this weekend is over to see what happens."

While governments prepare plans, residents are doing what they can to protect their homes. Jan Fleck's home in North Libertyville Estates has escaped the worst of the flooding, but she isn't taking anything for granted. A pile of sand sits in front of

her home to fill more bags if the rains return, and she has her valuables ready to carry in case she has to evacuate.

"We don't know what will happen," she said.

In some parts of southwestern Lake County, flood levels around homes continued to rise Wednesday as water drained into them from higher ground. Some homeowners who have protested many years for flood-control projects are growing angry as they watch the rainfall flow into their yards and homes.

Dolores Jarchow, resident of Williams Park Subdivision near Wauconda counted the six inches of water in her rain gauge and knew she and neighbors were in for trouble.

"We're flooding now," she said after two days of sunshine. "Where is this water going to go?"

While it won't help with the immediate problem, Republican Congressmen Philip M. Crane of Wauconda and Donald A. Manzullo of Egan are calling on the federal government to spend \$298,000 to finish floodgates at the Algonquin and McHenry dams on the Fox River.

"These new floodgates," Crane said, "are essential to prevent flood damage in the future."

Thomas Hohmeier of Deer Park wasn't waiting for help from the government as he spent Wednesday cleaning up the muck left behind by earlier rains.

"I've got sand bags ready," Hohmeier said. "And I'm sealing up the window in the basement with plywood so it is air tight."

Lake County's emergency service's office gave out 30,000 sandbags earlier this week and has another 50,000 ready to go, said Lt. Dempsey Leith, emergency services director for the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

"Mother Nature doesn't tell us what will happen," Leith said. "But you can try to be prepared as much as you can."

Staff writers Sandra Del Re, Bob McKee, Timothy S. Rooney, Dan Rozek and Larry Smith contributed to this report.

## Villages plan service, parade for Memorial Day weekend

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Area residents who want to honor veterans on this Memorial Day weekend can have their choice of a parade or a memorial service, or both.

In Buffalo Grove, AmVets Post 255 and American Legion Post 1247 will join with local Boy Scout troops for a memorial service at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 26, Knopf Cemetery on Arlington Heights Road, north of Checker Road. The public is invited and Buffalo Grove police will supervise traffic and parking.

The Knopf Cemetery Committee has invited Laurence Hall, vice president of Hendricksen the Care of Trees in Wheeling, to deliver the address.

Hall's company adopted the cemetery's Juniper tree thought to be more than 140 years old and cared for the tree until it had to be taken down last summer after being struck by lightning. Hall is a certified arborist who has lectured at several colleges and has been featured in Esquire magazine as Outstanding Arborist in the Chicago area.

In Wheeling, the AmVets' annual Memorial Day parade kicks off at 10 a.m. Monday. The parade will proceed northwest on McHenry Road (Route 83) from the Kmart parking lot at 780 W. Dundee Road to the AmVets Post, 700

McHenry Road.

Marching will be color guards from the AmVets, Knights of Columbus and various military groups, the Wheeling High School band, the Wheeling Police Department, Wheeling Fire Department and the Highlander bagpipers.

State Rep. Lauren Beth Gash and Village President Sheila Schultz will speak during a memorial service at the post between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served after the speeches and a gun salute to veterans. The public is invited to the post for the service and refreshments.

The Wheeling Park District's Aquatic Center, 327 W. Dundee Road, opens at noon Saturday, weather permitting. Trudy Wakeman, special events coordinator, said the park district will have giveaways for the first 100 people in attendance on opening day.

The pool will be open on weekends and holidays from noon to 8 p.m. until June 8, when the regular season begins. From June 8 to Aug. 18, the Aquatic Center will be open noon to 8 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and noon to 9 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and holidays.

The Buffalo Grove Park District will open the Willow Stream pool at 600 Farrington Drive from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, weather permitting.

## Buffalo Grove and Wheeling to remember their veterans



Legion Post 1247 will participate in the ceremony.

Meanwhile, other veterans will be remembered in graveside ceremonies will be held at 6 a.m. at the Wheeling Township Cemetery and at 6:45 a.m. at Memory Gardens Cemetery & Mausoleums, 2501 E. Euclid Ave.

Also Monday, Wheeling's annual parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the Kmart at 780 W. Dundee Road. The parade will travel north on Route 83 to McHenry Road and west to the post, 700 McHenry Road, where a memorial service is planned following the parade.

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

War veterans will be on the minds of people in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling today.

A parade and a Memorial Day observance will be some of the activities held today to honor American service men and women.

In Buffalo Grove, for instance, a ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Knopf Cemetery to remember the sacrifices of veterans, especially two area natives, said Blanche Kloman, a member of the Knopf Cemetery Committee.

As with each Memorial Day ceremony held at the cemetery on Arlington Heights Road, north of Checker Road, James Ritzenthaler, a private first class in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Robert Stahl, a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, will be honored. Both, originally of Prairie View, died in World War II, Kloman said.

"We honor them every year because they are part of the community," Kloman said. Members of Buffalo Grove's AM-VETS Post 255 and American

# Floods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

22 in Lincolnshire.

Meanwhile, farmers could lose as much as \$60 an acre—and consumers could feel it in their pocketbooks—because the recent rains have kept farmers from getting all the corn crop planted by the traditional May 10 deadline, said Larry Harris, manager of the 1,400-member McHenry County Farm Bureau.

"The water needs to recede within 48 hours, or the crops could jig up under it will just drown," Harris said. "Unless you're a fish, you can't live under water."

"Another inch of rain, and we might be back where we started Monday."

Richard Stoxen, who farms 1,200 acres of mostly corn and soybeans near Harvard, said he is "not close to getting back into the field to plant the soybeans."

"Everybody is getting pretty anxious and nervous," said Stoxen, who grows the crops to feed beef cattle.

Anxious and nervous also described the feelings of many homeowners as they continued to pump out their basements and cast a wary eye toward weather forecasts for more rain.

At 1 a.m. Wednesday, the Des Plaines River crested at a depth of 8.3 feet at Gurnee, according to Tom Cummings, disaster manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The river crested in Des Plaines at a depth of 8.7 feet at 10 p.m. Tuesday, he said.

That is welcome news for residents of the flood-plagued Libertyville North Estates subdivision, where for the past few days vol-

unteers and homeowners have fought off the raging river with sand bags and sump pumps.

For the most part, they prevented the muddy water from fouling their living rooms, though most crawl spaces and a few garages were soaked.

But with weekend rain a possibility, many homeowners also spent the day fortifying their makeshift dikes.

On Sturn Road in unincorporated Lake Zurich, most of the 11 flooded houses in a low-lying subdivision were finally dry, said Lt. Dempsey Leith, director of emergency services for the Lake County Sheriff's Department. Almost all of the families were back in their homes.

In McHenry County, flood waters kept Illinois Highway 176, a major east-west artery, closed north of Union on Wednesday afternoon where the Kishwaukee River overflowed, McHenry County sheriff's police said.

In Wheeling, waters were slowly receding, and once-flooded roads were reopened Wednesday morning, as were all three runways at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, said village attorney Jim Rhodes. Holmes Middle School reopened Wednesday, but St. Joseph the Worker School remained closed for a third day.

In Des Plaines, Golf and Central Roads between East River Road and Des Plaines River Road were closed all of Wednesday and were expected to be closed for at least part of Thursday, said George Stevenson of Des Plaines' emergency management agency.

Tribune reporter Desiree Chen contributed to this article.



Mt. Prospect public works employee Dave Boesche checks on water level in a storm sewer on River Road on Wednesday as pumps water to the Des Plaines River (background).

# Des Plaines River levels drop more than a foot despite rain

5-24-96

By BILL O'BRIEN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

**"Things are looking good for the moment. The water is starting to recede."**

— Craig G. Anderson  
Wheeling Village Manager

Residents and businesses along the Des Plaines River began to feel some relief Thursday from widespread flooding, but officials weren't making any predictions about today's outlook.

Despite a half-inch of additional rain, the river level actually fell more than a foot on Thursday, said Don Meseth, coordinator of emergency services for the Des Plaines area.

In fact, many area roads that had been closed earlier this week were reopened as the water continued to recede.

Both Golf and Central roads in Des Plaines were reopened. The only road that remained closed was Campground Road, which travels from Miner Street and the river through the Methodist Campgrounds to Algonquin Road.

In Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights, officials reopened River Road from Camp McDonald Road north to Milwaukee Avenue.

Upstream in Wheeling, all roads and schools previously closed were also reopened, and life was beginning to return to normal for about 12 homeowners who received flood damage.

Additional rain is forecasted today, but the good news is that the river can accommodate more — but not too much, officials along the waterway said.

The key is how much falls within a given period.

"We can withstand another inch, maybe even two inches, as long as it doesn't come down in one big bucket," said Scott T. Shirley, director of public works for Des Plaines.

About a dozen Des Plaines homes and businesses — mostly along Big Bend Drive and Busse Highway — continued to experience some minor flooding in basements and garages.

Some of the flooding, however, was due to seepage from saturated ground and not standing water outside homes, Shirley said.

For the first time this week, Palwaukee Municipal Airport was fully operational, said airport manager Fred E. Stewart Jr.

The airport early Tuesday closed two of its runways because they were partially submerged, but receding water enabled officials to open one Wednesday and the other Thursday.

Most of the residential flooding in nearby Wheeling occurred along Buffalo Creek, which feeds into the Des Plaines River.

"Things are looking good for the moment. The water is starting to recede," said Village Manager

Craig G. Anderson. "(But) we'll be keeping an eye on things."

In Mount Prospect, Village Manager Michael E. Janonis said crews spent Thursday pumping out some of the village's sewers.

"This rain isn't a big deal," Janonis said. "We're just keeping an eye on it."

Janonis said a flood control project whereby the village installed gates that can be locked to prevent river water from entering sewers near the Woodview subdivision has helped.

Prospect Heights City Engineer Howard Killian said the city removed all of its water pumps in area sewers, and nearby ponds are down to normal levels.

Daily Herald Staff Writers Bob McKee and Larry Smith contributed to this report.

## WEEKLY DIGEST

### Wheeling to auction surplus items

Wheeling will have its annual village auction at 10 a.m. June 1 at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Among the items to be auctioned off are computers, camera equipment, animal traps, Christmas decorations, lots of bicycles and even a wedding dress. For information, call the village at 459-2600.

Century 21 5-30-96

Jerry Crimmins

hours, said Wagner. Ways, blocking air traffic for two in the intersection of two run- impact, and the plane came to rest right wheel was blown by the 2:38 p.m. The tire on the plane's when the accident took place at which runs northwest-southeast, on the airport's main runway, ing from the south for a landing. Wagner said the plane was com- Lane Transportation Inc.

Luzin of Chicago, an employee of and the truck driver as Donald P. as Robert K. Tamers of Gurnee State Police identified the pilot tried no passengers.

a capacity of eight people, but car- FAA spokeswoman. The plane has service in Waukegan, said an ated by D.B. Aviation, a charter door, said Wagner.

The aircraft is owned and oper- operated the truck's overhead nism in the roof of the truck that and ripping out the spring mecha- root of the truck, making a hole

The plane's right wheel hit the un- hurt. The truck driver was also

didn't buy it," he said. airport. "They were lucky they Aviation Administration at the occupants, were lucky not to be and co-pilot of the plane, the only No one was injured. The pilot aviation officials said Wednesday.

roof, but the plane landed safely, and made a hole in the truck's westbound truck on Palatine Road Wednesday afternoon struck a waukee Municipal Airport coming in for a landing at Pat-

Heights: A twin-engine plane

Wheeling and Prospect

lands safely

truck, then

Plane hits

overnight

Northwest

A DIGEST OF LATE NEWS REPORTS, COMPILED BY JERRY CRIMMINS

# Storm floods roads, homes, schools

5-23-96  
By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Heather Burns was one of about 60 Wheeling residents thankful that the American Red Cross set up a temporary shelter at the Wheeling Recreation Center early Tuesday morning.

Burns was awake at 2:15 a.m. Tuesday feeding her 7-month-old son, Colin, when police officers came to her home at 432 Meadowbrook and suggested she evacuate. Buffalo Creek had flooded into the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and water showed no signs of receding.

"If we didn't have the kids we could've stayed in the house," Burns said at noon Tuesday. Burns, her husband Michael and four children spent Tuesday morning sleeping on cots at the Rec Center.

The family dog, Betsy, stayed in the car at the center's parking lot.

"Tonight we're going to stay at my mother-in-law's in Winnetka. One night on a gym floor is enough," Burns said.

Tuesday morning, Burns tried to keep her children entertained as they waited to hear when they could return home. They took a walk along Heritage Park to view the flooding there and stopped at the library.

"It's a mess and something I don't want to go through again, but it's been a great adventure for the kids," she added. "I wish I could get a bird's eye view of what's going on."

As far as Burns knew Tuesday, no water had entered her house.

"The village put a pump in front of our house yesterday afternoon to divert the water back to the ditch, but after a while that was futile," Burns added.

Red Cross officials said many displaced residents



H. Rick Barman/Pioneer Press

Holmes Junior High School was like an island Tuesday afternoon, as this aerial shot looking west shows. Wolf Road (center of picture), was closed as is Highland Avenue on the right. Most of Heritage Park (top of photo) was under water.

were seeking other shelter for Tuesday night, but indicated they would be open as long as residents needed shelter.

Neighbors in the Meadowbrook West subdivision, Barbara La Hay, Opal Springer and Joe Hardig, spent Tuesday morning at the shelter

"We're waiting for the good word now," Springer said about being allowed to return.

"You don't like the situation, but you just have to bear with it," Hardig added.

All agreed the Red Cross was invaluable with the service it provided.

"They're doing a magnificent job feeding everyone and giving us a place to sleep," La Hay said.

The flooding that led to the evacu-

**'It's a mess and something I don't want to go through again, but it's been a great adventure for the kids. I wish I could get a bird's eye view of what's going on.'**

after being evacuated from their homes at about 2 a.m.

"They went door to door telling everyone to evacuate. I didn't want to leave. I said I had a dog, and they said to bring him along," La Hay said.

ations also caused other problems in the village.

A storm that passed through the suburbs late last week followed by sudden downpours on Monday caused Buffalo Creek to jump (Continued on page 29)



Tim J. Tufty/Pioneer Press

Wheeling resident Brenda Sanchez walks up her family's flooded driveway Tuesday morning to find a telephone.

## No one hurt when plane clips truck

BY CHRISTY GUTOWSKI  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-30-96

An airplane with two people aboard dipped too low Wednesday while approaching Palwaukee Municipal Airport and clipped the roof of a delivery truck on Palatine Road in Prospect Heights.

Federal Aviation Administration authorities and Illinois State Police investigating the accident believe a sudden shift in the wind caused the aircraft to lose altitude at 2:38 p.m. and brush the top of the truck. There were no injuries.

The wind shear caused the turboprop Rockwell International 690 twin-engine plane's back wheel to strike the delivery truck while it was traveling west in an express lane of Palatine Road just west of Milwaukee Avenue.

The aircraft landed with one damaged wheel at the airport, where it skidded west off the runway into a muddy ditch just four

feet away.

Wheeling Fire Department paramedics treated the pilot, a 41-year-old Gurnee man, and his co-pilot, a 25-year-old Schaumburg woman, at the airport. Officials said neither complained of any injury.

State police Sgt. Douglas Beardley said the two were coming in from Waukegan. No citations were issued.

The 32-year-old Chicago man traveling alone in the delivery truck also did not require medical treatment, officials said.

Assistant airport manager Michael F. Zonsius said air traffic was diverted to Palwaukee's second runway while the accident was investigated and the plane was being removed.

Damage was minimal to the plane and truck, according to police.

Daily Herald staff writer  
Dwayne T. Wong contributed to this report.

## July 4th activities planned

COUNTRYSIDE  
The Wheeling Park District and village continue to plan activities for the Fourth of July.

The day will start with a parade. Groups and floats are still needed. For information, call Village Hall at (847) 459-2600.

6-6-96  
That evening, the park district will sponsor family entertainment at the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. with fireworks beginning at dusk.

## Sheriff's 'swap crews' to clean Wheeling

COUNTRYSIDE 6-6-96  
Labor crews from the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program will work in Wheeling Saturday and Sunday as a public service to Cook County taxpayer. The program is made up of non-violent offenders charged with driving under the influence and other misdemeanor crimes who swap jail time for a community service sentence.

Under the supervision of sheriff's deputies, the crews work throughout the county on a variety of public works projects such as cleaning parks, viaducts and streets.



Chad Wire, brother Kyle and friend Eric Burns take the direct route through the flooding on Wolf Road Tuesday morning in Wheeling.

## ■ Flood *Continued from page 5*

its banks, forcing St. Joseph Catholic School and Holmes Middle School to close Tuesday.

Buffalo Creek, which turns into the Wheeling Drainage Ditch at the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks near Dundee Road, rose high enough to flood nearby roads, parks, schools and houses.

"Most of the flooding right now is located along Wolf Road," said Wheeling Public Works Director Robert Gray on Tuesday morning.

Gray had crews out throughout Monday night and Tuesday morning trying to minimize the flooding.

As of Monday night, Wheeling Road already was closed south of Dundee Road due to flooding. Tuesday morning, drivers also had to find an alternate for Wolf Road, which was closed from Dundee south to Jeffery Avenue.

Houses in the Meadowbrook West subdivision along Wolf Road were flooded, as were a few houses on Highland Avenue, he said.

At about 2:30 Tuesday morning, village employees began going door to door in the Meadowbrook West subdivision, located south of Dundee Road and west of Wolf Road, to warn residents of the rising floodwaters.

"People were encouraged to go, but not forced to go," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

About 60 residents who voluntarily left their houses were taken to Village Hall, then to the Wheeling Recreation Cen-

ter at 333 W. Dundee for the night. The American Red Cross provided cots and refreshments for the displaced residents.

"Right now it's kind of wait and see," Anderson said, not knowing whether roads would open Tuesday afternoon and when residents could return home. "The latest information we have is that the water is still going up."

"We were looking OK until last night (Monday) at about 10:30 or 11. That's when the Buffalo Creek Reservoir at Arlington Heights and Lake-Cook Road spilled over into Buffalo Creek and into the Draining Ditch."

When the water started to rise because of the spillover, Public Works crews hit the streets.

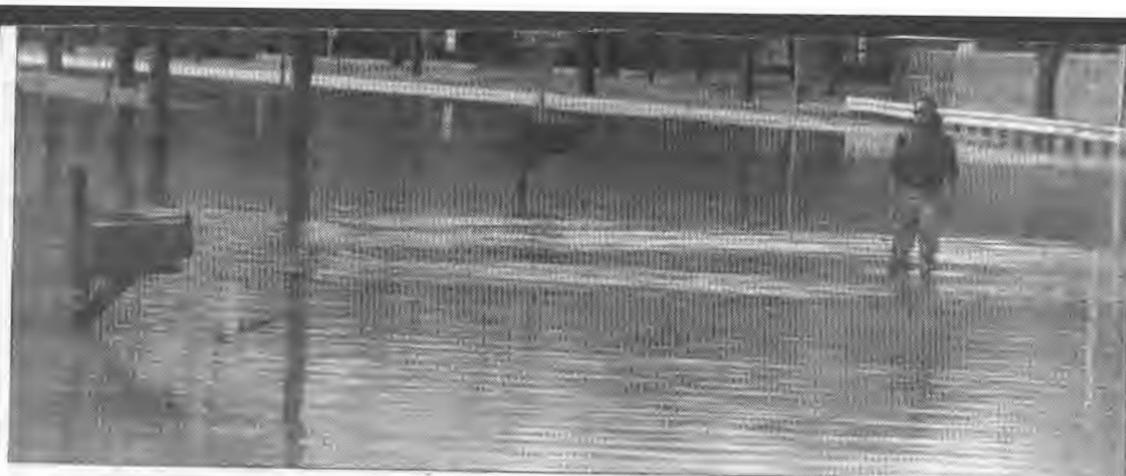
"Our crews have been barricading streets, delivering sandbags and pumping where we thought we could keep the streets open," Gray said.

On Tuesday morning, Gray said, water surrounded Holmes School at 221 S. Wolf Road and St. Joseph's School, 171 W. Dundee Road.

"I imagine they didn't want to put the kids in jeopardy," Gray said. "St. Joseph's is right adjacent to the Wheeling Drainage Ditch so any increase in that level would affect the school."

An answering machine at St. Joseph's informed callers that the school was closed Tuesday due to flooding, and may be closed Wednesday as well.

(Continued on page 30)



TCI cable technician Oscar Gonzales, walking restore service to customers until the water along Wolf Road in Wheeling Tuesday, can't recedes.

## ■ Flood *Continued from page 29*

"There hasn't been any water in the school at all," said Holmes Principal Tom Torchedlo.

Though Wolf Road was closed Tuesday morning, Torchedlo said, he thought the school could open and be accessed by Highland Avenue, but water flooded the parking lots.

"There's been no damage (to the building) and we're keeping our fingers crossed. We're pretty high and dry right now," Torchedlo said. Some teachers were working at the school Tuesday, while others worked from home, he said. He was uncertain when the school would re-open.

More showers are forecast

for this weekend and Gray is watching the rivers and floodwater in Lake County that eventually will flow through Wheeling.

"We're monitoring it constantly and trying to do what we can," Gray said. So far, the Des Plaines River has not flooded extensively, but Gray said his department is watching its level closely.

Residents who need sandbags to protect their homes can call the Public Works Department. Gray said he ordered more sandbags and expected to receive those Tuesday. The bags are being distributed on a need basis, he noted.

Rising water also caused

problems at Palwaukee Airport, where the Drainage Ditch weaves past runways on its way to the Des Plaines River. Airport administrators closed one of the airport's three runways. One runway was open Tuesday and another was partially open.

The partially open runway "is 5,137 feet. The northern 2,000 feet is closed, but aircraft can land or take off if they can do so without the additional 2,000 feet," said Michael Zonsius, assistant manager of finance and administration.

According to the last flooding report Zonsius received, the creek had crested as of Tuesday morning.

# Small airports land big dollars for upgrades

By Don Thompson  
Daily Herald State Government Writer

## SPRINGFIELD — Palwaukee

Municipal Airport in Wheeling is scheduled to receive more than \$3 million for projects including relocating an unsafe drainage ditch.

And improvements at West Chicago's DuPage Airport, Schaumburg Regional Airport and the Lake in the Hills Airport were among other projects announced Tuesday.

The Illinois Department of Transportation said it expects to complete the projects, but warned the plan is contingent on the federal government coming through with the expected funds, and on state and local matching funds remaining available as expected.

The \$168 million IDOT plan includes \$2.1 million to relocate the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, complete artificial grading and drainage projects, and prepare plans and relocate utilities for future projects at Palwaukee. The ditch needs to be

moved because it is too close to two runways.

"We're just tickled to death," airport Manager Fred Stewart Jr. said.

A replacement ditch will be dug this summer along the airport's northern border with \$1.7 million in money already allocated, with completion expected in late fall, he said. Next year's project will be to fill in the old ditch and construct a storm sewer system to drain the airport.

An additional \$870,000 is earmarked for upgrading the east general aviation area, and \$220,000 is to construct a southeast parking lot, including demolition of a building.

The IDOT plan includes more than \$11 million in additional improvements to the airport from 1998 to 2001, including \$4.4 million to construct, light and mark the east parallel and connecting taxiways for a runway and the north holding apron, and \$6.9 million to rebuild, widen, mark and groove the runway. No decision has been made when that money will be spent.

Officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport, traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring to lobby the Federal Aviation Administration to supply the federal money through the IDOT aeronautics program.

West Chicago's DuPage Airport is slated for \$775,000 in improvements, including \$325,000 to upgrade the Government Center parking lot and \$250,000 to upgrade taxiways.

It also is slated for more than \$2 million for improvements between 1998 and 2001, including a \$2.1 million project to upgrade two runways; and a \$230,000 project to install new guidance signs needed to comply with FAA standards.

At Schaumburg Regional Airport, \$321,000 is slated to construct a water main to provide fire protection to a new airport development, while \$582,000 is budgeted to extend the an access road and construct a parking lot. The projects are in conjunction with the village's construction of its locally funded \$1.8 million

terminal building beginning this fall, acting director of planning Tom Dabawer said.

An additional \$2.28 million is scheduled to be spent between 1998 and 2001 to construct, light and mark the terminal area apron at the Schaumburg airport.

At Lake in the Hills Airport, \$134,000 is budgeted to construct a west terminal access taxiway this year, while more than \$2 million is planned to buy land between 1998 and 2001 to extend a runway, relocate Pyott Road and build an entrance road and parking lot.

Among other suburban airports, Waikewan Regional is slated for \$3.6 million next year to upgrade a runway and construct a taxiway. An additional \$2.8 million in spending is planned from 1998 to 2001 to buy land in one of the runway's flight paths.

Aurora Municipal Airport is slated to receive \$726,000 to buy land to relocate Wheeler Road and build a new runway, and \$5 million between 1998 and 2001 to upgrade a runway.

# Mobile homes fighting high rent

5-23-96  
Wheeling to hear residents' concerns

By Bonita Brodt  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Some 20 years ago, Bob Hettinger and his wife, Elayne, decided to sell the three-flat they owned in Chicago. What appealed to them, and to their pocketbook, was a mobile home.

For \$26,000, they bought a nice one, a double-sized unit roomy enough to raise four children. They scouted around and eventually decided to anchor it to a 2,100-square-foot pad of land inside a mobile home community in Wheeling.

The monthly rent was \$80, water and garbage pickup included. A pretty good deal, they thought then.

Now Hettinger, a retired builder of elevators, explains it like this:

"Somehow, we're now paying \$470 a month for this small piece of land."

Extra for water. Extra for garbage.

"Basically," he said, "we're trapped."

They rent their land but they own their home, which puts the estimated 400,000 mobile home owners in Illinois in a tough spot when rents increase. Mobile homes depreciate rapidly in value, and it is next to impossible to move into one of the communities with a used home.

Hettinger said that even if he could move, he could not afford the \$10,000 he figures it would cost to dismantle and move his oversized unit. Buying a new one on a retirement income is not in the plans.

The Village of Wheeling is listening to the Hettingers, who have complained loudly not just on behalf of the 400-some people who live in the 50-acre Whippletree Village community but for other mobile-home owners who are finding themselves in similar straits throughout Illinois.

In June, Wheeling will open a series of public hearings to explore whether the mobile-home residents are being unjustly subjected to rent increases. And village officials say they are willing to consider becoming the first community in Illinois to approve special

SEE HOMES, BACK PAGE

# Homes: The 400,000 mobile home owners throughout Illinois rent their land, which puts them in a tough spot when rents increase.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rent-control legislation to protect mobile-home owners from being charged too much for renting their land.

Such action is not without precedent, said Craig Anderson, the Wheeling village manager. In recent years, he said, communities on the East and West Coasts have approved rent-control ordinances to protect mobile-home owners, who are often on low or fixed incomes and who have a limited ability to sell their unit and buy a new one in a place with lower rental costs without taking a real financial loss.

Although no other Illinois community has approved such a measure, one has come close. Residents in Park City, a mobile-home community near Waukegan, took complaints about increasing rents to city leaders. Though rent-control legislation was never officially approved, Anderson said that some issues changed have since the ruckus, the public hearings having the desired effect.

In Wheeling, however, the mobile-home owners and the village are in for a fight from the Capital Development Corp., the Lake Forest business that has owned and managed Whippletree Village since 1983.

"Our reaction is that we are really surprised, and we don't think this is necessary or appropriate," said William Lapelle, Capital's general counsel. "Rent control is a very bad concept. And I don't feel it's right for the village to impose rent control on one type of housing as opposed to another type. There are some constitutional issues here."

Hettinger, who for the last seven years has been president of the Mobile Home Owners of Illinois Association, said problems in his community are by no means unique. Particularly, he said, that is because there is a shortage of mobile-home communities, which puts land renters in a captive spot.

Many years ago, he said, those places tended to be owned and operated as mom-and-pop businesses. Then larger corporations began buying the properties, lured by prospect of low maintenance costs and the constant flow of rental cash.

Hettinger said that before Capital took over, rents increased by a manageable \$10 to \$15 when it came time to renew the yearly leases. But big rent jumps, he said, came with the extra costs of water bills and garbage pickups that residents long had paid with the rent.

"We have about 25 senior citizens here who just can't hardly make it," said Hettinger, adding that the extra costs come to about \$300 to \$400 a year. "We had people here this winter living with the lowest heat settings and sitting with no lights on."

Two years ago, the Hettingers and about 200 Whippletree Village residents went to Village Hall to protest rent increase and other conditions. A class-action suit was filed. Lapelle said a judge recently dismissed the suit because it had not properly stated a cause of action.

Regardless of that outcome, Wheeling officials have started to do homework on the rent issue. Whippletree Village land monthly rents, which are \$470 a lot, are the second-highest in the area. The most expensive, Anderson said, is a mobile-home community near Glenview that is scheduled to close.

Of particular interest, said Anderson, are the yearly increases. Village documents show that lots rented for \$266 in 1986, a price that included garbage pickup. The monthly rental cost jumped to \$470 this year, with garbage pickup now an extra cost.

"We're not saying these increases are unjust. We're saying that there is reason for us to look at this," Anderson said, adding that the village needs to understand what Capital Development provides as a service to its residents and at what cost.

But for those prices, Hettinger said, residents might just as well have invested in a condominium or a house.

## Serious fire safety issue

Herald 6-3-96

Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board trustees Anthony Carlin and Joseph Wolfe swore to serve the best interests of the fire district where they were appointed. In 16 months, they have publicly stated and written their desire to provide the city of Prospect Heights with a municipal fire department at the expense of safety and dollars for the residents of the WTRFPD.

In 1995, the board hired two consulting firms to assess the needs of the district. Twenty-four thousand dollars was spent. The recommendation was that the nearest fire station service the needs of the district. Contrary to the consultants, the board voted to change the service area in Prospect Heights from a two-minute response time by Wheeling Fire Department to an eight-minute response time by Prospect Heights Rural District. Carlin and Wolfe are satisfied that there is an average response time of four to six minutes in the district.

The additional four- to six-minute travel time from the Prospect Heights fire station could mean the difference between life or death.

On April 16, Carlin and Wolfe voted to change more of the district's service area. With the exception of the Buffalo Grove neighborhoods, all residences in the WTRFPD south of Dundee Road will be served by the PHRF-PD. They say this is necessary because of expenses. In 1995, the board approved a budget to pay Wheeling an estimated \$548,000 to provide service to the majority of the district. On April 16, Carlin and Wolfe voted to pay Prospect Heights an estimated \$717,000 to provide service to less of the district than Wheeling had been covering. Is this the new math?

Tina Dean  
Brian Jeffrey  
Wheeling

# Wheeling mulls law for mobile park rent control

5-17-96  
By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are considering adopting an ordinance that might limit increases in mobile home park rents.

But because Wheeling would be the first community statewide to have such a policy, village officials want to make sure they do their homework so that the ordinance can withstand lawsuits.

This is why the village plans to conduct a public hearing, which could be held next month, so that all concerns about the issue are known.

"If we are going to be the first in the state, we have to make sure we do it correctly so it stands up," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

In a Monday night committee meeting, trustees discussed information staff members have gathered about the issue, such as Wheeling's mobile home rates and how they have increased in the past, after residents complained about their rents increasing without explanation.

"What we want is justification," said Elayne Hettinger, a resident of Whippletree Village Mobile Home Park.

Hettinger said that she has inquired why her rent was increasing and was told "none of your business" by the owners, Lake Forest-based Capital Development Corp. Hettinger and other present and former residents of the park have sued the company.

Some residents say that rents are increasing dramatically, making living in a mobile home as expensive as owning a home.

Information presented to the board Monday nights shows that since 1987, the annual increase in lot rentals at Whippletree have been higher than the rate of inflation. This is also the case at the village's other mobile home park, Fox Point, since 1993.

While discussing the issue Monday, Village Attorney James A. Rhodes in a memo to Village Manager Craig Anderson said that some mobile home rent control ordinances have been challenged by courts. But those policies were upheld in communities where the town showed facts why the measure was needed.

Rhodes told trustees that hearing everyone's concerns about the issue would be the best way to supply this information, revealing what an ordinance should include and if there is a need for one.

# Dispute over sewer may kill Target proposal

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countyside*  
5-30-96

A Target store proposed for the Horcher family farm property, across from Sam's Club on Old McHenry Road, may generate \$460,000 in sales tax for the village of Wheeling each year, but trustees remain hesitant to go forward with the project.

The village Plan Commission has already voted to recommend against changing the property's zoning from residential to commercial.

Developers for Target met with trustees May 20 to decide whether they should continue with the proposal and what type of deal could be worked out with the village.

A major sticking point, which Village Manager Craig Anderson described as a "deal breaker," is whether the developer would front the money to install a gravity-type sanitary sewer system along the frontage of the 14.5-acre site.

The sewer upgrade has been in the village's budget for years, but the village has never been able to obtain easements from the Horchers to proceed, said Village President Sheila Schultz. The gravity sewer is expected to

## Proposed Target site

Wheeling village staff is working with Centrum, developers of a proposed Target store, to negotiate how sanitary sewer service should be installed and who should pay.



Source: Village of Wheeling

Pioneer Press/LRK

serve future residential development proposed for the Horcher farm.

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club

are serviced by a standard lift-station sewer, which is a pump station that lifts sewage to a desired height so the force of gravity allows it to

flow into a wastewater treatment plant. If Target convinced the village to install that type of sewer, the cost would be about \$20,000.

With a gravity sewer system, however, the cost would rise to \$800,000 because the pipes would have to be buried about 30 feet deep to provide the adequate slope needed to service future residential developments on the west end of the Horcher farm.

"The whole property slopes toward the creek, but the sewer has to go (lower) to the east while property slopes (higher) to the west," said Mike Klitzke, director of Community Development. "It's got to go very deep. It will be shallow at the west end and deep at the east."

With a gravity sewer, waste flows through underground pipes using only gravity and whatever internal pressure is maintained.

"If it were a normal sewer line, we wouldn't be having this discussion," said John McLinden of Centrum, developer for Target.

"We propose the village bring sewer service to the entrance. We would pay for an extension along the front of the Horcher property to Weiland. We would then get reimbursed (by the village)

from sales tax. It's a critical part of this deal."

Trustees requested that Anderson meet with Centrum representatives to try to come to a reasonable solution.

Schultz, though, said she does not favor a special agreement with Centrum. McLinden noted that the village could recapture some of its lost sales tax revenue from the future residential developments.

"I think the Horchers are pillars of this community and went to great lengths to develop this property properly," said Trustee Bob Heer. "I feel we should move forward with this project. I wouldn't want to see us lose a major commercial retailer for this site."

Heer favored a meeting with Centrum and the village to come to an agreement on a gravity sewer. "I would like to see us explore it more. I think we can recapture (our cost) not only with tax dollars, but with employees as well."

Target would employ between 150 and 200 workers, McLinden said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato noted that retail appears to be dead on Milwaukee Avenue and that a Target store on the Horcher property may encourage residents to shop within the village.

# Mobile home dwellers protest rising costs

6-11-96

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Many people who live in Whippetree Village Mobile Home Park moved there because they thought it would be affordable.

But with rising rents and unexpected fees, residents Monday told Wheeling officials that they thought wrong.

"I've been there for two years and I want to move," said Carol Dobbs, who told the village board that the monthly rent she pays for a plot to park her home — \$470 — has

climbed too high for her to afford.

Dobbs was one of several residents who spoke at the public hearing held to air problems residents have with the village's two mobile home parks: Fox Point and Whippetree.

The meeting was held as part of the village's consideration of adopting an ordinance that might limit increases in mobile home park rents.

All of the concerns officials heard from the more than 90 people who packed the village board's chambers Monday night related to Whippetree.

Though there were some complaints about the park's upkeep, such as street maintenance, the overwhelming concern regarded the cost for rents and fees.

The owners, Lake Forest-based Capital Development Corp., increased rents higher than the annual rate of inflation, residents say.

For instance, rent that was \$380 in 1992 is now \$470.

Another concern is that within the last three years, residents were charged additional for water, sewer and garbage collection, said Robert Hettinger, a Whippetree resident

and president of the Mobile Home Association of Illinois.

These fees, Hettinger said, used to be included in rent, which also increases annually.

Hettinger said that the rents are one of the main reasons why people are displeased with where they live. He added that of the 413 lots, 54 of the homes are for sale.

Phil Wolan, an attorney representing Capital, opted not to comment, saying the company will do so at a hearing at 8 p.m. June 24 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

## Trailer park rents anger its residents

Wheeling: Dozens of elderly and disabled residents of a mobile home park in Wheeling voiced complaints about rent increases to village officials Monday night in the first of two public hearings on the matter.

After a second hearing, scheduled for June 24, village staff will compile the testimony from the two meetings and consider possible actions, said village attorney James Rhodes. He said those actions include the possibility of the first ordinance in Illinois designed to cap rents in mobile home parks.

Residents of the 413-unit Whippetree Village mobile home park on Illinois Highway 83 in Wheeling testified not only to soaring rents over the last 10 years, but also alleged other questionable practices, like charging tenants high service fees for shoddy repair work and leaving holes in a fence that surrounds a detention pond.

"I feel like I'm in a sinking hole," said Whippetree resident Teresa Guardi, who is one of about 50 residents trying to leave the park but have been unable to sell. "Someone has got to stop this."

Phil Wolan, an attorney for the real estate company, Capital Development Co., that owns the park said he would testify on his client's behalf in the second public hearing. Most of the Whippetree complaints were "misunderstandings," he said.

The problem, say residents, is a shortage of trailer park vacancies, which has left the owners of their park free to raise rents to the second-highest rate in the entire Chicago area, according to village research.

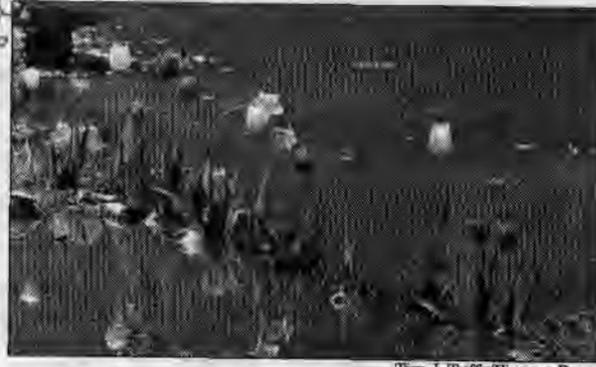
Village research shows that lot rents at Whippetree have gone from \$255 per month in 1986 including garbage pickup to the present rent of \$470, not including a monthly waste collection tab of \$40. Add in monthly payments for the purchase of a trailer and most residents at Whippetree are at a level where they could pay rent for apartments.

Patrick O'Toole

# Residents begin clean-up after flood

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
5-30-96



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

About 14 years ago, Wheeling resident Pete Sanchez stood in the street outside his home, cleaning up after a flood.

Last week, his 14-year-old daughter, Brenda, repeated that scene.

Piles of items ruined by flood waters lined Wheeling streets last week as residents who live along the village Drainage Ditch began cleaning up after the flood. As they cleaned, though, residents continued to watch the skies as rain began falling Thursday and Friday, with more expected over the Memorial Day weekend.

"We had about 3 feet of water in the garage and about a foot in the laundry room," Pete Sanchez said of his home at 147 S. Wolf Road, after the ditch flooded last week. Luckily, the family's new carpeting was not ruined.

"I'm so lucky we didn't get any water in the carpet," Sanchez said.

**Tulips are reflected in the water that flooded a front yard along Wolf Road, near Heritage Park. The area was hit heavy by flooding as a result of last week's rains.**

Readers who saw the *Countryside's* flood coverage in the May 23 issue, may recall the picture of

Brenda Sanchez. Her father appeared in a similar *Countryside* flooding photo in the July 29, 1982, issue.

Though waters had receded by late last week, Sanchez was still wading through 2 to 3 feet of water in his back yard.

"I've got little carp in my back yard, probably from the Des Plaines River," he said. "The fish are happy."

The fish may be happy with their new home, but the Sanchezes had a big job ahead of them cleaning up the water that managed to seep into their garage and house.

"It's pretty much cleaned now," Sanchez said. "I pulled everything outside and hosed it off."

Despite living so close to the Drainage Ditch, Sanchez said, he doesn't expect flooding.

"I've seen three floods in 16 years I've been here," he said.

Michael Klitzke, director of Wheeling's Community Development Office and village "flood expert," (Continued on page 22)

## Water restrictions in effect *COUNTRYSIDE*

Wheeling's water restrictions are in effect from May 15 to Sept. 15. Non-essential water use is banned between noon and 6 p.m. daily. The restrictions are required because the village uses Lake Michigan water. 6-13-96

## Garbage messes up neighborhoods

Wheeling residents are reminded that garbage is not to put at the curb until the evening before collection day, according to village ordinance.

This ordinance assures a cleaner appearance for Wheeling neighborhoods and minimizes the possibility that garbage and recyclables will be blown about the neighborhood.

## Eastern European restaurant to open

Wheeling trustees recently granted approval for a restaurant that will serve Eastern European food and beverages in a vacant retail space at First Colonial Commons Shopping Center, 834 S. Wheeling Road.

The carry-out, sit-down restaurant plans to serve foods of Russian, Polish and Hungarian heritage, said Village Manager Craig Anderson. One reason Wheeling was chosen for the restaurant is because nearby residential areas have 20 percent residents who are newcomers from Eastern Europe, according to testimony given at a Plan Commission meeting.

said geography is the main reason why Wheeling flooded last week.

Buffalo Creek, known as the Wheeling Drainage Ditch in the village, begins in Lake Zurich and travels 28 miles before reaching the Des Plaines River, Klitzke said some communities did not flood because they have higher elevations than Wheeling.

"The south part of Wheeling is very flat once (the creek) gets past Dundee Road all the way to the airport," he said. "The water flows faster up north in Buffalo Grove, but when the ground flattens out, the water rises more. It really kills us where it starts to flatten out."

The Buffalo Creek Reservoir, located in the forest preserve at Arlington Heights and Lake-Cook roads, did a good job of controlling the flooding, until the reservoir filled and water began spilling over. Usually, the flow of the water is controlled as it is released into the creek from the reservoir by a pipe.

"As long as the reservoir was not filled, we were reaching a stable level," said Klitzke, who credited the reservoir for limiting damage from the flooding to about a half-dozen structures. All that were flooded have flooded before, he noted.

"We didn't have any surprise areas," he said.

Most of the flooding was south of Dundee Road, with Wheeling and Wolf roads closed due to the high water.

"This is the first flood we've had in the 10 years the Buffalo Creek Reservoir has been in place," Klitzke said. "The reservoir really saved us. It significantly reduced our damage."

"It worked exactly like it's suppose to," he added, though it might be difficult to convince residents the reservoir eased the flooding.

As rain began to fall on Thursday, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village was monitoring the ditch.

"We're keeping an eye on everything and making contingency plans. Our concern would be any heavy rain, but so far, so good," Anderson said.

Wheeling Park Director Karop Bavougian flew over local parks on May 21 to assess the damage. Heritage Park and Chevy Chase Golf Course were hardest hit by the flooding.

"Part of Heritage are still underwater," Bavougian said Friday. "The golf course is probably the biggest concern because it's expensive to replace the greens."

Park officials are still estimating the amount of damage the flooding has caused.

Bavougian said cooler days helped control the damage.

"If it were hot, it would have heated up the standing water and boiled the grass," he noted.

Closed since May 17, it did not appear Chevy Chase would be dry enough to open during the Memorial Day weekend. Roger Christiansen, superintendent of clubhouse services, did not expect the course to open during the holiday weekend.

Finance Director Tom Busby said the holidays aren't necessarily a busy day for golfing, as most golfers choose to spend the afternoons with their families.

"Like any weekend, though, it depends on the weather," Busby said.

For now, the park district is calculating its losses for insurance purposes. It is unknown how much of the damage insurance will cover.

## Family hopes TV show helps lead police to woman's killer

By BOB McKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



Jamie Santos

at (800) 535-7867. One portion of the investigation the police have been public about is a 911 recording of a man who led police to Santos' body. The caller is not believed to be a suspect — the police have none — but he is considered to be a key to the investigation.

The Santos family of Arlington Heights doesn't necessarily like talking about the murder of their daughter, Jamie. Nor do they enjoy telling people about the pain they have endured during the more than four-year investigation into who suffocated the 27-year-old in her Wheeling apartment.

But the family wanted to tell their story again for an NBC television show in hopes that the national attention will conjure a memory or prick a conscience which will help in finding their daughter's killer.

"It's a double-edged sword," said Jamie's mother, Dorothy Santos. "It's hard, but you have to do it." The morning show "Real Life" expects to air a story in two weeks about the Oct. 28, 1991, murder of the exotic dancer and the investigation, which has included searching for a mysterious male caller who phoned 911, leading police to Santos' body in her Arlington Club apartment.

"After 4½ years, this family has no answer and no closure," said Glen Dacy, an Arlington Heights free-lancer who produced the story for the show. "Here's an unsolved murder ... and nobody can get any answers, not that it's the police's fault."

The Wheeling Police Department has investigated the murder since it occurred, reviewing the entire investigation repeatedly when the case hits a dead-end, said Chief Michael Haeger.

In fact, that continual review of the case in the past year has made it one of the most active times in the investigation because new leads have surfaced, Haeger added. He would not comment on the new leads.

To also bring forward people who might know what happened to Santos, Cook County Crime Stoppers, at the behest of Wheeling, recently created a \$1,000 reward for an anonymous tip that leads to the solution of the case. Tips can be left

The tape will be played as part of the seven-minute "Real Life" story, which police hope will turn up either new leads or the caller.

"Maybe this will attack the conscience of the person or person involved," Haeger said.

The family hopes so. "There's no closure when you don't know who killed your daughter," Dorothy Santos said.

The family agreed to participate in initial reservations spurred by the way some of the media in the past concentrated on Jamie's job as an exotic dancer, said Dorothy Santos.

"Let's put it this way — there's not a lot of sympathy for a stripper," she said.

Santos has been described by her family as caring, energetic, headstrong and generous. The former Buffalo Grove High School student worked at a nursing home as a teen.

The "Real Life" story is expected to be broadcast the week of July 1.

The show is aired at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday on WMAQ-TV, Channel 5.

# Police join forces for 'Special' cause

By HEATHER PINGEL

STAFF WRITER

*Courtesy*

Dozens of local police officers will cruise through the area Sunday — not in their cars, but on foot, carrying a Special Olympics torch.

About 2,500 officers from law enforcement departments throughout Illinois will split the 17 legs of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise funds for the athletes of the Illinois Special Olympics.

The local leg of the run starts early Sunday at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee. Officers from the Buffalo Grove and Lake Zurich departments will carry the torch for a two-mile stretch on Milwaukee Avenue between Aptakisic and Lake-Cook roads.

**‘The 11th running of the torch will cover a total distance of 1,500 miles from all reaches of Illinois.’**

Buffalo Grove Sgt. Steve Balinski, who is coordinating this leg of the race, expects about 15 of his officers to run Sunday. The Buffalo Grove and Lake Zurich departments should get the torch at about 9 a.m. from Lincolnshire officers at Aptakisic Road.

Buffalo Grove and Lake Zurich officers will pass the torch to Wheeling officers once they reach Lake-Cook Road, Balinski said.

“We’ve been doing this for eight years now,” Balinski said of the Buffalo Grove department. “We ask each officer who’s running to come up with \$50 to contribute for the sponsorship.”

Seven Special Olympians from the northwest suburbs are expected to run with the officers on their two-mile stretch, he added.

## Foot patrol

Wheeling police detective Larry Carmody said he expects about 20 officers to run alongside him during Sunday’s run. Wheeling officers carry the torch from Lake-Cook Road to Hintz Road, where they pass it along to Prospect Heights police, he said.

Officers make personal donations to the Special Olympics and also solicit donations from others, Carmody said.

The most unusual part of the run is when the Wheeling officers cross Dundee Road.

6-6-96  
They run through the intersection backward.

“I’m not sure why,” Carmody said.

This, the 11th running of the torch, will cover a total distance of 1,500 miles from all reaches of Illinois.

Runners from all 17 legs will converge June 14 in Normal to hand off the “Flame of Hope” to Special Olympics athletes at Illinois State University’s Hancock Stadium.

Balinski plans to be in Normal that day. Once a Special Olympian lights the cauldron at ISU, the games are declared open. About 3,000 athletes will continue three days of competition and celebration.

During the Olympics, Balinski and other officers from around the state will wear their police uniforms and hand out medals to all Special Olympians who participated in the games.

“It’s a wonderful, humbling experience,” said Balinski, who has been going to Normal for the Special Olympics for the last three years.

In addition to the run, Buffalo Grove police officers sponsored a bowling event last weekend and the department’s Explorers group recently solicited donations at local grocery stores.

Balinski said the Buffalo Grove department ranked either second or third in the state last year for raising the most money for Special Olympics. The department donated \$6,000 last year, he said.

“In Illinois, the torch run has come a long way in 10 years, raising money to help conduct training and competition for the athletes of Illinois Special Olympics,” said East Dundee Police Chief Joe Pena, co-director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run. “Last year, the Illinois Torch Run raised \$423,000.”

Woodridge Police Chief Steve List, co-director of the Illinois Torch Run, said this year through the involvement of more officers and sponsors, the group hopes to raise more than \$500,000 to help the 20,000 athletes of the Illinois Special Olympics.

The Illinois Special Olympics is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for athletes with mental retardation or closely related developmental disabilities.

To get involved in Law Enforcement Torch Run activities call Tom Warnick at the Illinois Special Olympics (309) 888-2551 or call your local police department’s non-emergency number.

Cheri Bentrup contributed to this report.

# Still time to step up for July 4th parade

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

6-13-96

Wheeling’s Fourth of July parade is only three weeks away, and though about 40 participants already are registered, more are always welcome.

“We’ve gotten an excellent response,” said Catherine Peterson, administrative assistant for the village who is helping to organize the parade. “I think we’re up to 40 participants — bands, floats . . .”

Local scout troops, the park district, senior pavilion, AmVets, fire and police departments and several neighborhood groups already have registered to march in the parade or submit a float. The Fast Break Freestyle Trick Team of Chicago will perform bicycle tricks along the route, and the Spirit of ’76, a Colonial color guard and drum and fife corps from Lake Zurich, will march.

The only group not largely represented is Wheeling’s business community, Peterson said.

“It’s a great opportunity for them to get their name out,” Peterson said of businesses that participate. Marchers are encouraged to hand out candy or advertising fliers, but nothing can be thrown to the sidelines, she said. “It’s not too difficult to put together a float,” she added.

Two businesses, Koeppen Farms and Wa-Pa-Ghetti’s pizza, plan to march in the parade.

“We haven’t missed a year yet,” said Joe Mastro, owner of Wa-Pa-Ghetti’s. Mastro’s family decorates a truck for the parade and has the company’s pizza mascot march. Some years they have handed out balloons and coupons. They’re not yet sure what they will do this year.

“We have a lot of fun with it and look forward to it,” Mastro said. “This is where you make your living, this is where you want to be involved. We’re very involved in the community. It’s well worth the effort.”

Jackie Pollack, executive director of the

Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber is participating in the parade with a decorated truck belonging to Tom Todd Chevrolet. Local banks, a travel agency and Priester Aviation also have participated in the past.

“As far as I know, the business community will be represented,” Pollack said. “I’m anticipating the usual.”

Businesses and groups wanting to participate in the parade can call Peterson at Village Hall, (847) 4598-2612, for the one-page application.

This is the first July Fourth parade in Wheeling in three years.

In 1994, the parade was moved to Founders Day in late June to celebrate the village’s centennial. The parade remained on Founders Day last year, with village officials hoping more bands and groups could participate on a day other than July Fourth, when many juggle several events.

Trustees late last year voted to reinstate the traditional Independence Day parade.

Working cooperatively with the Wheeling Park District, residents are invited to the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, at 6:30 p.m. that evening for family entertainment. Ronnie and the Rockets will perform a variety of music beginning at 7:30 p.m. The fireworks display begins at dusk over Heritage Park, adjacent to the Recreation Center.

“The idea is for people to come to the parade, then go home and do their picnics, their barbecues,” Peterson said. “Daylong activities are something we’re working toward. We were directing our efforts to the parade this year.”

In years past, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church held its annual FamilyFest during the July Fourth weekend. The parish canceled the festival this year citing financial reasons.

The parade will be filmed by TCI, the village’s cable provider, and later aired on the local cable access channel, Peterson added.

**‘We’ve gotten an excellent response.’**

# Final adjustments approved for library expansion plan

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

6-13-96

Construction on the addition to Indian Trails Library is expected to begin in early October, now that Wheeling trustees have approved the site plan and variances for the project.

Voters in November approved a \$3.8 million referendum to allow the library at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road to build a 14,000-square-foot, two-story addition on its south side. Last week, trustees approved zoning variances needed for the library’s special use and height.

The maximum height for a building in a residential area is 30 feet, but the library will be 31 feet 11 inches tall to match the existing building.

When the rooftop heating/air-conditioning units are screened from view, the height rises to 39 feet 6 inches.

The addition will be built over an existing employee driveway, connecting the front parking lot to a rear employee lot. Once the work is under way, Administrative Librarian Kenneth Swanson said, employees would access their parking lot by going around the north side of the building.

Three parking spaces will be eliminated with the construction, but library and village officials believe the remaining 175 spaces are adequate to serve employees and the public.

“Although they’re losing a few spaces, they seem to have adequate parking there,” said

Village Manager Craig Anderson. “It’s nice to know people are using the library and they need the additional space.”

Swanson said the Indian Trails Library District, which serves all of Wheeling, some of Buffalo Grove and a small portion of Prospect Heights, has 59,789 residents.

The new addition is expected to open in January 1998, Swanson said. At that time, administrative offices will be moved to the upper level, but most of the first and second floors will be for public use, he said.

“We do need more seating, no question about it,” Swanson said. “We need the seating for people who come to do homework, a business project or just want to sit and leisurely read a magazine or newspaper.”

## RAIL: Bus service may run parallel to new commuter line

Continued from Page 1

for the future.

At the O'Hare stop — actually in Rosemont — passengers will be able to hop on a bus to the terminals. That stop won't have parking or a station for regular commuter use, Knapton said.

The new train also will stop in River Grove, where riders can transfer to the Milwaukee District West line to Itasca, Schaumburg, Elgin and other western suburbs. The new line is somewhat of an experiment for Metra.

"No one has started a new commuter rail line in Illinois since 1928," Knapton said.

Metra will offer the same discount packages for 10 tickets and monthly passes that it offers on other lines. Transfers will cost \$36 a month to CTA trains and \$30 a month to PACE buses.

All 11 communities with stops on the line agreed to the \$1.50 parking fee, said Mark Fowler, the Northwest Municipal Conference's transportation director.

Parking at stations on other Metra lines ranges from 50 cents in some South suburbs to \$2 in Barrington, Knapton said.

The number of parking spaces

will vary between stations. For instance, Wheeling's station will have 530 spots, while Prairie View's will have 90. Fowler said the lots were built based on the estimated number of riders each station is expected to attract.

Though some stations probably won't be completed by the Aug. 19 opening of the North Central Service line, all the lots are expected to be finished by then, Knapton said.

At first, the line will have three morning rush-hour trains heading downtown and three evening rush-hour trains heading north. It will also have an early afternoon round-trip train, he said.

Metra plans to run seven coaches with about 150 seats each on the trains, he said.

Metra is working with PACE to set up bus service parallel to the new commuter line, Knapton said.

That way, people who miss the three suburb-bound North Central trains in the evening could still get home. Riders could take a Milwaukee District West train to Franklin Park and then continue by bus to the station where they left their car, Knapton said.

"When the trains aren't running, the buses will be," he said.

Graphic



# A rider's guide to the new commuter rail line

By JON MARSHALL AND BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

6-7-96

The parking lots and platforms for the new North Central Service commuter line are being readied. The first day of service — Aug. 19 — is rolling closer.

Now, for the nitty-gritty.

How much is it going to cost? And how convenient is it?

You can expect to pay between \$7 and \$11.60 for a round-trip ride from the Northwest suburbs to Chicago if you use the North Central Service rail line.

Add another \$1.50 to the cost of your trip if you park at a station along the line, slated to open in August on the Wisconsin Central's freight tracks.

The line will give many commuters new choices.

For instance, commuters from Buffalo Grove and Wheeling who used to rely on the Arlington Heights station can now board trains in their own villages.

That will save driving time, and there's a bonus: The new line will have fewer stops en route to Chicago than the Northwest Line.

But convenience comes at a price. A monthly pass for the new Buffalo Grove and Wheeling stations will cost \$105.30, compared with \$94.50 for the existing Arlington Heights stop.

That's because Arlington Heights is slightly closer to the Chicago station, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said. All suburban commuter lines are divided into zones, with fares for each zone based on the distance from the station in Chicago.

"The more you ride, the more you pay," Knapton said.

On the new North Central line, the highest monthly pass to downtown Chicago will be \$156.60 from Antioch, the line's last stop.

By Prospect Heights, the last stop before O'Hare International Airport on the new line, the monthly pass falls to \$94.50. A Des Plaines station is planned

See RAIL on Page 10

### How riders will fare

Fares for a one-way ticket to downtown Chicago on the new North Central Service commuter line and comparisons with existing railways. The new line is due to open in August using Wisconsin Central tracks.

Zone	New North Central line	Northwest line	Milwaukee North line	Ticket
K	Antioch	Woodstock, McHenry	none	\$5.80
J	Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach	none	Fox Lake, Ingleside, Long Lake	\$5.45
I	none	Crystal Lake	Round Lake, Grayslake	\$5.05
H	Libertyville/Prairie Crossing, Mundelein	Cary, Fox River Grove	Libertyville	\$4.65
G	Vernon Hills, Prairie View	Barrington	none	\$4.30
F	Buffalo Grove, Wheeling	Palatine	Lake Forest	\$3.90
E	Prospect Heights	Arlington Park, Arlington Heights	Deerfield, Lake-Cook Road, Northbrook	\$3.50
D	O'Hare transfer	Mount Prospect, Cumberland, Des Plaines	Glenview, Golf	\$3.15
C	River Grove	Dee Road, Park Ridge, Edison Park	Morton Grove, Edgebrook, Forest Glen	\$2.75

■ Monthly and 10-ticket packages also will be available

■ Travel within a zone costs \$1.75, between two zones \$1.95, between three zones \$2.75, between four zones \$3.15, between five zones \$3.50, between six zones \$3.90 and between seven zones \$4.30.

■ Parking at all stations on the line will cost \$1.50



**ROCK SOLID**

Construction crews began pouring concrete for the new Wheeling train station last week. The depot is expected to open on schedule — in mid-August. For more on the station's progress, turn to ...

6-13-96 PAGE 5

# Depot construction chugs along

Despite a brutally wet spring, work at the Wheeling train station is on schedule and should be completed by mid-August.

6-13-96

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

An unusually wet spring has construction crews taking full advantage of sunny days to build Wheeling's commuter train depot.

The depot, being built on Town Street along the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks, will serve the North Central commuter line expected to begin service Aug. 19. The line will bring commuters from Antioch to River Grove, then into Chicago's Union Station.

The \$2.5 million project will cost the village of Wheeling about \$1.1 million, with other costs associated with road improvements near the station being covered by grants already received from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The improvements include the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Town Street and Wheeling Road.

In addition to the depot, a kiss-and-ride facility, Pace bus turn-around site and parking lots are being constructed, said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Despite recent rains that flooded parts of

the village, construction is rapidly progressing.

"It seems to be moving along real well. I haven't heard of any significant delays because of the weather," Schultz said.

She added that the depot's central location could make the stop even more attractive to riders than initially anticipated.

"I'm glad to see it's going to be visible from Dundee Road," Schultz said.

Metra has estimated that Wheeling would be the largest stop along the new commuter line, with 650 riders daily by 1998 and 900 by the year 2010. As construction on the depot continues, Schultz said, the number of inquiries to Village Hall about train service increases.

"There is the potential for so many people to walk in nice weather," said Schultz, noting that park pathways will connect many neighborhoods to the depot. "Some stations (along the route) are not as accessible to residential areas."

Encouraging residents to walk or ride bicycles to the depot also would cut down on vehicular traffic, she said.

Metra recently announced that the commuter train will make eight stops a day at stations along the northwest suburban route. The North Central line will have three southbound trains during the morning rush and one midday. Those heading from Chicago will stop in Wheeling once midday

(Continued on page 14)

**'It seems to be moving along real well. I haven't heard of any significant delays because of the weather.'**

**Village President  
Sheila Schultz**



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

A backhoe operator finds things a bit sloppy during construction of Wheeling's train station on Town Street along the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks. The North Central commuter line is expected to begin service from Antioch to Chicago Aug. 19.

and three times during the evening rush.

Pace, the suburban bus service, has announced plans to parallel the North Central line so commuters won't be stranded at depots, Schultz

said. "Something else we'll want to take a look at is businesses van-pooling" so employees are picked up at the depot and shuttled to their Wheeling workplaces, she said.



A statue of Jesus oversees a classroom full of elementary-age children, many of whom will move to other parochial schools next year now that St. Joseph the Worker School has closed. Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pileri

# Wheeling loses a 'home'

## St. Joseph school shuts doors for good

6-8-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

On Friday morning, as they and their predecessors have every school day for 37 years, the children of St. Joseph the Worker School in Wheeling sat together and celebrated Mass.

And before they left for home and summer vacation, the children gathered around a new tree in the schoolyard, and asked God to keep it safe. Then they buried a time capsule.

These children will not be back next year. St. Joseph the Worker School has closed forever.

And even though the church remains strong, with more than



A group of students charges outdoors for their last gym class of the school year.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pileri  
Cathy Heer, who started third grade at St. Joseph on Sept. 9, will feel the loss.

"It's like losing a parent," said

See SCHOOL on Page 6

# SCHOOL: Falling enrollment forces closure

Continued from Page 1

1959 — the day the new school opened. It had been lovingly built with help from Wheeling families like hers.

"No matter where I went, where I lived, it was always a solid base. I could always come back here."

On Friday, Heer watched the children troop out for the last time. She is a St. Joseph school secretary, and her daughter just completed kindergarten there.

The school opened at 171 W. Dundee Road with 430 children. This was a time when there wasn't much in Wheeling — a few subdivisions surrounded by farm fields, some businesses on Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and Walt Whitman Elementary School.

St. Joseph's was created out of a desire by local families to have their children attend a Catholic school. It grew to become not only a source of religious education, but a contributor to the community.

Wheeling's longtime Village President Sheila H. Schultz, has had a close association with St. Joseph parish and school, where she took her daughter, Kathy, to attend second grade the first day it opened.

She said the school became a place that not only involved the children, but entire families.

"It was a whole center of life for the families whose children went to school there," Schultz said. All seven of her children attended the school and she remains a parishioner of St. Joseph the Worker Church.

In the early days, parents helped the fledgling school by doing clerical work, coaching



St. Joseph the Worker first-graders Gregory Cappis, left, and Michael Bauer scrub down desks during the last week of school.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pileri

sports teams and working as aides in the classroom and out on the playground.

This built a bond among people, Schultz added.

"You still feel that," she said. "There are a lot of memories there."

In fact, a sense of unity — and a desire to maintain that — inspired Principal Robert C. Mocek when first arriving there seven years ago to create the school's motto: "The School We Call Home."

The school also had a relationship with the community, even throwing Wheeling's annual party.

For 13 years, St. Joseph parish and school hosted Family Fest, one of the Northwest suburbs' biggest summer festivals. The fest drew upwards of 150,000 peo-

ple each year from throughout the suburbs.

But increasing costs and competition from other festivals spurred the church to scuttle the event this summer. Though uncertain, Mocek doubts that the fest will return.

St. Joseph's parish, despite the changes, remains strong, said the Rev. Fred Brandstrader.

"The rest of the parish will be fine," Brandstrader said.

The school's final enrollment of 130 students is an indicator of why St. Joseph's closed — rising costs and shrinking revenues. Parents were told in a January letter that the school would close. It had first tried to stay afloat by discontinuing the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. But it wasn't enough.

The area, school officials have

said, isn't generally affluent enough for parents to afford to send their children to parochial school. St. Joseph's charged an annual tuition of \$1,778 — for an education that cost the school \$2,500 per pupil to provide.

Meanwhile, attendance in nearby Catholic schools, such as St. Mary's School in Buffalo Grove and St. Alphonsus Liguori School in Prospect Heights, continues to be strong.

In its last days, the school continued to operate as if it would remain open, not dwelling on the inevitable, Mocek said.

"It was important that we finished strong," Mocek said.

In fact, Mocek said the unity of everyone pulling together during the tough, final year, made for some of the best days.

"It was kind of the best times I (had) here because everyone was together in the same difficult situation," Mocek said.

Though the busy end of the year kept the minds of teachers and educators busy, Heer expected that reality would sink in as they were leaving for the last time.

"It's really going to hit people," Heer said. "You would always come back (in the fall). But you are not coming back."

St. Mary's School will be one of the schools to where St. Joseph students will transfer, with others going to St. Alphonsus.

Though going to a new school will be a change for the children, they will be introduced to St. Mary's students, said Principal Carol Anne Jarecki. And teachers will keep an eye out for them so that they make a smooth transition.

"Transferring is never easy," Jarecki said. "But I'm sure they'll be fine."

# New 911 program aims to aid victims

6-18-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After a person calls 911, it usually takes between four and six minutes for help to arrive.

But the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center is now training its dispatchers to instruct callers how to help people who suffered a heart attack, are choking or in another life-threatening situation until crews arrive.

"This will (turn) that time of ... waiting to a productive period of assisting the victim," said Chief Jay Reardon of the Northbrook Fire

Department, coordinator of the training project. The center handles 911 calls for fire departments in Northbrook, Wheeling, Prospect Heights and four other suburbs.

The emergency instruction is part of a new method of dispatching being taught to the Glenview-based center's 14 dispatchers.

This will instruct dispatchers to answer calls and ask questions about an emergency according to specific guidelines, instead of just remembering what to ask, said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac.

MacIsaac said this will provide

crews that are responding to an emergency with better information and more quickly.

While dispatchers will begin to follow the new guidelines starting next month, they will begin giving medical instructions in the fall, officials say.

Starting next year, dispatchers also will be trained to better determine what type of equipment to send to an emergency. Officials say this will ensure the proper equipment is always sent.

The center was able to afford the training through a \$20,000 contribution from LaSalle Bank NI, which

thought the project was necessary. "Each one of our customers could be impacted by this," said bank spokesman Chris Hartweg.

Providing medical instructions while crews respond to emergencies has been successful in other suburbs.

Northwest Central Dispatch Center, for instance, has been giving medical instruction since last June to callers from Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Palatine and Prospect Heights, said Doug Edmonds, executive director of the organization.

# Feds agree to fund airport ditch

6-20-96  
After initial requests for assistance were rejected, federal transportation officials have agreed to fund drainage improvements at Palwaukee Airport.

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Palwaukee Airport officials breathed a collective sigh of relief when they learned that the U.S. Department of Transportation will fund \$1.6 million of the ongoing construction project to relocate the Wheeling Drainage Ditch away from runways.

Federal Transportation Secretary Federico Pena announced the grant June 11.

"We have worked closely with Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun and Congressman Dick Durbin on the relocation of the drainage ditch at Palwaukee Airport," Pena said in a statement. "This investment will provide for greater safety while making air travel in the region more efficient."

The village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights, which own Palwaukee, recently purchased the former Twin Drive-in Theater property in order to relocate the 15-foot-deep ditch away from the run-



El Rick Bamman/Pioneer Press

Recent spring flooding at Palwaukee Airport proved a grim reminder that drainage work at the facility is badly needed. The

federal government recently announced it would help pay for drainage ditch relocation at the airport.

ways. Moving the ditch is just one phase of a long-range improvement plan at Palwaukee.

"It looks like our efforts are paying off, literally," said Anthony Altieri, chairman of the Palwaukee Airport Commission.

Earlier this spring, several village and airport officials went to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and lobby for funding of the Palwaukee project.

"The ditch is extremely close to the main runway," Altieri said. "We felt it

was a safety issue and they, the Federal Aviation Administration, felt it wasn't a safety issue" when funding was initially denied.

"We certainly couldn't fully afford to fund it ourselves," he added. "I'm sure it would have eventually happened, but it would have been years before we could stockpile enough reserves. This will allow us to dig the ditch and divert the water. It allows us to continue with our planned improvements."

The next financial hurdles the air-

port will address include how to fill the old ditch and how to create drainage for the airport once the ditch is moved.

The airport once again will be looking for federal funding when commissioners decide to build a taxiway parallel to the main runway.

"That's another safety issue. It would help with movement of the aircraft," Altieri said, noting that planes on the taxiway now cross the runway to reach their hangars.

(Continued on page 12)

## Company seeks tax exemption

6-20-96  
Plaza Tool and Mold Co., which plans to build a 5,000-square-foot building on Century Drive in the Palwaukee Business Center, has requested a tax exemption from the village of Wheeling.

Trustees held a public hearing on the matter at the June 17 Village Board meeting.

The company intends to move its mold and die cast manufacturing operation from Niles to Wheeling.

Read Scott-Martin, a spokesman for Moseley-Braun's office, said the senator met twice with local officials in her Washington office and received numerous calls from northwest suburban mayors, including Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford, about the necessity for Palwaukee to receive the federal funds.

Moseley-Braun then took their sentiments to Pena in a personal meeting.

"Palwaukee is the third busiest airport in the state," Scott-Martin said. "It's important for bringing jobs to — and keeping jobs in — the northwest suburbs, which is the fastest growing region of the Chicago area."

Without Palwaukee, he said, O'Hare Airport would have dangerously high levels of air traffic.

"She (Moseley-Braun) agreed with the mayors and the manager of the airport that this is a safety issue," Scott-Martin said.

Schultz met with Braun, Sen. Paul Simon and Congressmen John Porter and Dick Durbin in March prior to the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C., to request the \$1.6 million to fund the ditch relocation.

"The senators and congressmen were so responsive. It was clear this was a safety issue," Schultz said. "It worked out well."

# Trustees hear Whippetree complaints

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

6-20-96  
*Countryside*

Residents of the Whippetree Village trailer park on Old McHenry Road had their chance to comment on unjustified rent increases at a recent public hearing, and the development's owner will have an opportunity to answer those charges when the hearing resumes Monday.

The possibility of enacting rent controls for trailer parks was brought before Wheeling trustees by Whippetree residents in November 1994. At that time, several residents filed a class-action lawsuit, which has since been dismissed, against the park's owner, Capital Development Co. of Lake Forest.

If Wheeling approves an ordinance setting rent controls, it would be the first such legislation in Illinois and

could serve as a guide for other communities contemplating similar action.

At the initial public hearing held June 10, about 100 residents crowded into the council chambers to sound off about high rents, poor maintenance, difficulty in selling their mobile homes and minimal services offered by the management company.

Though attorneys representing Capital Development Co. were present at that hearing, trustees decided to continue the hearing to 8 p.m. June 24 in the council chambers.

"Their representatives were ready to speak, but we thought it would be best to continue the hearing to another night," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Written comments from residents can be accepted at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, through the end of June, he said.

After Monday's hearing, Anderson said, "The (Village) Board will have to decide what they want to do. I don't anticipate this being resolved at least until early July."

Trustees may decide to require trailer park owners to justify rent increases or to cap rents. They may also consider other measures they believe would help Whippetree residents, Anderson said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said the Village Board has been looking at problems in Whippetree since residents brought their complaints to the village over a year ago. Trustees scheduled the public hearing so they could listen to residents' concerns first-hand.

"I think we do have to take a look at what kind of justification we can get for them," Abruscato said. "We haven't heard both sides yet, but we've been looking at it for a while."

Rents at Whippetree reportedly range from \$450 to \$470 with garbage and water fees extra, she said.

"I think the hearing went well and the people presented their concerns well. They deserve to have us take a look at it," Abruscato added.

Village President Sheila Schultz agreed.

"It's really sad, the problems they have," Schultz said. "Our main interest is what we can do with rent controls, but they have other problems with the management company."

Likely action by the Village Board would most likely require the owner to justify any future rent increases.

"If we do confer that there is a need (for rent justification), it doesn't seem very onerous for a management firm to do that. It would reassure the residents," Schultz added.

## Mobile-home park owners to comment on rent control

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-24-96

Mobile-home park residents had their chance to complain to Wheeling officials about what they view as high rent increases.

Now the owners of the mobile-home park will give their side.

Tonight, Wheeling officials will hold a second public hearing about complaints officials have heard from residents of Wheeling's two mobile-home parks, Fox Point and Whippetree Village Mobile Home Park.

The meetings were designed to help officials decide whether to approve a proposed ordinance that might limit monthly rent increases in mobile-home parks. Wheeling would be the first community in the state to have such an ordinance.

In the first hearing, held earlier this month, residents filled officials' ears with their concerns for about two hours.

All complaints came from Whippetree residents, and, although some were about such things as poorly maintained streets, most were about rent increases.

The residents say that the cost to rent the land on which

their mobile homes are parked increases more than the rate of inflation. Rent that was \$380 in 1992 has climbed to \$470 now, residents say.

Tonight, officials will hear comments from the owners of the two mobile-home parks, including Lake Forest-based Capital Development Corp., which owns Whippetree. An official at Capital Development refused to comment Friday. "The board needs to hear both sides and to decide if this is the thing to do or not," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz, regarding the proposed ordinance.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. tonight at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Trustees could decide as soon as tonight whether a rent-control ordinance is needed, Schultz said.

Some of the issues that trustees will consider are the fairness of rent increases and how easy it is for mobile-home owners to move.

"If the majority of the board felt there would be meaningful advantage to put (an ordinance) in affect, they would go forward," Schultz said.

## Wheeling residents get help dealing with flooding woes

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-24-96

Wheeling Township wants to help some residents of unincorporated areas find solutions to flooding problems.

That's why the township is hosting a series of meetings with residents and state and county officials.

"People want to know who to call in times (of trouble). ... They don't know where to go," said township Highway Commissioner John Ayers.

About 20 representatives from agencies including the Cook County Board, the county building and zoning department and the Illinois Department of Transportation, will first meet with owners of about 50 houses wedged between Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove.

That meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the township office, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, in Arlington Heights.

Some homes in the "Dunlow" area — south of Dundee Road, west of Buffalo Grove Road, east of Golfview Terrace and north of the Arlington Heights border — were flooded by last month's rains.

Also, some streets in the

neighborhood, such as Ellen Drive, were submerged, Ayers said.

Ayers said the area is flood prone because it is low-lying and because a 10-inch drain pipe that serves the area isn't big enough.

Hopefully, residents will find out which agency to contact, during the meeting, Ayers said.

"We're just trying to come up with some answers and solve the problems," he said.

In July, the township plans to hold a similar meeting to address flooding problems in the Forest River area, which is south of Kensington Road, north of Gregory Street and west of River Road.

Ayers said the 55-house area adjacent to Mount Prospect experiences flooding when the nearby Des Plaines River rises.

The officials, including a representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are certain to be questioned about a drainage culvert that frequently backs up into the neighborhood, according to Ayers.

Ayers said the meetings were arranged after residents complained to the township about flooding.

## Work on train station right on track

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-21-96

Buffalo Grove is almost finished with a station where residents will be able to take a new commuter train to get to work.

Now, the village is finalizing the arrangements to make sure commuters are awake and ready to go when they get there.

Village officials are negotiating a contract to lease out a counter where coffee and doughnuts will be sold to commuters at Buffalo Grove's station on Metra's new

North Central Service line.

The business, which will be run by Buffalo Grove resident Nicole Riedel, will be small and is primarily intended to provide a service to riders, said Village Manager William Balling.

The cost to lease the space, the length of the lease and specifics of the agreement still are being negotiated, Balling said. The talks are expected to be finalized next month.

Balling added that the counter probably will just serve morning commuters on weekdays.

Riedel was one of six people to submit a proposal for the lease.

Other stations, such as Wheeling's, also plan on providing coffee service for the line, which will begin shuttling commuters between Antioch and Chicago on Aug. 19.

And though Buffalo Grove is still working on its station, it is expected to be finished in about two weeks, Balling said.

But a rainy spring prevented work on the station's parking lot.

"It was too soggy," Balling said.

Crews must wait until the ground dries before paving the lot, which might be finished in July, Balling said.

Meanwhile, neighboring Wheeling is one of the communities along the line that won't have its station completed by the time trains begin to run. It is expected to be completed by early fall, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

But the Wheeling station will have its parking lot completed by Aug. 19 so commuters can begin taking the train from there.



# New Horizons

## Children's center redefines daycare

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

With more parents working and with time spent with the family becoming increasingly more difficult to manage, the Horizons Children's Center in Wheeling is broadening its appeal to those with little time on their hands.

By offering more programs for parents, as well as their children, Horizons is becoming much more than your typical day-care facility.

One of those new programs to begin in August will allow parents to participate in an aerobics class while their children are under the care of Horizons' teachers.

Tentatively, it is expected that parents could drop off their children at Horizons in the morning, go to an hour of aerobics at the center, then head to work. Or, they could do the aerobics after work but before the children have been dismissed from class.

"It's really hard as a parent of a preschooler to fit everything in," said Director Suzan Sclove. "You just don't have a whole lot of time."

Computer classes for adults also are being planned, as are a number of programs to entice at-home parents to bring their children to Horizons for socialization and education.

Those classes will include story times, art projects, dance classes and gym time. Not only do they give the care-giver a chance to run errands or relax, they teach children how to interact with others.

Another program recently started at Horizons offers the center as emergency back-up child care. This allows an employee of a participating company to go to work even when the baby-sitter calls in sick. The program is made possible through an arrangement between employers and the center.

"The employer has that desk filled for the day and the parents have emergency care," Sclove said.

### Positive change

Horizons Children's Center has come a long way in its 22 years. Founded by Sclove in 1974, the program began with four children being cared for in the basement of a Northbrook church. Four years later, the center purchased its present facility, a former elementary school at 3316 Schoenbeck Road in Wheeling.

"I felt there was a need for the

working parent to have quality education for their children," Sclove said. "It's very important for all of us to become as proactive as we can to support what we believe in."

To Sclove, that meant investing in children.

Horizons, a nonprofit agency that serves children from 6 weeks to 12 years old, currently enrolls 192 children, 30 of whom have special needs such as attention deficit disorder.

"A lot of places aren't equipped to integrate them," Sclove said of special needs children.

At Horizons, those children are integrated into the regular classrooms. Whether the child has Down's syndrome or is deaf, he is accepted by his classmates, Sclove said.

"They see it as just part of their lives," said Sclove, who believes social integration for children should begin as young as 3 years, before the child's differences negatively impact his self-esteem. "When the children

grow up with the differences, they accept them.

"We've been very open to having staff who are challenged as well. We don't mind having a senior citizen who is in a wheelchair come in to volunteer in a classroom. We think it's good for the children to sit on their lap and hear a story. It's real positive for everyone," Sclove added.

The center also welcomes children from different economic and racial backgrounds. Seventy-five percent of the parents pay full tuition to the school, while others receive financial help from the Department of Children and Family Services. For low-income parents, a sliding tuition scale is available.

"Everyone has the same opportunities here," Sclove said.

### Sharing and caring

Another way the center acquaints children with differences in others'

backgrounds is to invite parents to share their holidays with the classes.

"It doesn't matter whether it's a Buddhist holiday or Christmas, we want the parents to come in and explain the importance of their holidays," Sclove said. "One parent explained Halloween to the children because they celebrate it differently. It's a very important part of our multicultural emphasis."

Within Horizons' walls, 13 languages are spoken. Children come to the center from 21 area communities including Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Lake Zurich, Mount Prospect and Palatine.

"It puts the children at such an advantage to have a positive attitude toward people who are different from them," Sclove said.

### Building potential

In addition to an appreciation for  
(Continued on page 24)



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

**Suzan Sclove, director of Horizons Children's Center in Wheeling, uses a hand puppet to entertain 17-month-old Tommy Stomper of Buffalo Grove. The center offers children a unique multicultural learning environment in addition to accredited day care.**

# Union Hotel property deal still in the works

By Cheri Bentrup  
Staff Writer  
6-27-96

The village of Wheeling is proceeding with its purchase of 7.8 acres of property where the Union Hotel once stood along Milwaukee Avenue for the construction of a townhouse community.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the purchase contracts are being reviewed by the village attorney, the four land owners and the townhouse developer. A price for the land, which is in the village's tax increment financing district, has been negotiated, but Anderson would not comment on that amount until the purchase is completed.

"We're diligently working on that," Anderson said of the agreement. "We'd like to get it done as soon as possible."

The property has been a point of controversy in the village since plans for the townhouses were announced early last year. Nearby residents have fought to keep the land undeveloped and even approached the Wheeling Park District about purchasing the land.

The Park Board decided against buying the land, but Wheeling Elementary School District 21 has indicated it intends to purchase 1.9 acres of the site to keep as a play field for students at nearby Whitman School, 133 Wille Ave.

"The village will purchase all of the property then sell it to the developer and part to the school district, or we'll sell it all to the developer, who will then sell it to the school district," Anderson said. Whether it makes a difference in which entity sells the property to the school district is unknown at this time, he said.

"We have agreed in principle to buy the land," said District 21 School Board President Arlen Gould, adding that no purchase price has been determined.

"We feel it's important to preserve open space at that site."

In April, village trustees approved plans for a 40-unit townhouse development to be built on the former Union Hotel site, 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., by Realen Home Developers Inc. of Inverness. The development is expected to be called Union Square.

Trustees are hoping this development will begin to improve the appearance of Milwaukee Avenue and increase retail sales as it will allow residents to live within walking distance of nearby shops and restaurants.



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

**Three-year-old Shade Lawal, of Hanover Park, competes in a potato sack race during the recent Spring Festival at Horizons Children's Center in Wheeling.**

among the agencies that offer financial assistance to the program. Much of the center's toys and furnishings also are donated.

A variety of grants and volunteers also help keep the center's costs down. For information about Horizons, contact Sclove at (347) 459-1617.

## Center Continued from page 7

others, Sclove's goal for every child who walks into Horizons Children's Center is to learn how to solve their own problems.

"The most important thing we can teach the children is problem-solving," Sclove said, noting that children who work out their own problems develop self-esteem. "Our aim is for each child to reach his potential."

The school-like setting of the center helps the children reach that potential, Sclove said. Even the infants' classroom has a lesson plan tacked on the wall that includes hand clapping, blowing bubbles and pat-a-cake.

"This is where it all begins," Sclove said of the infants. Older children learn to use computers and make craft projects.

Teachers are expected to plan their lessons around their students' interests. In one class, Sclove said, a child brought in a letter that sparked a discussion of the postal system, mail carriers and the inner workings of a post office.

"The teachers observe the children, and then make the lesson plan. It's an emerging curriculum. It emerges from what the children are doing," she said. "It's subtle learning, but it's educational. That's where the children's curiosity led them."

"We're more like a school that happens to offer full day care," she added.

Horizons is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Only 3 percent of child-care centers in the nation have received this accreditation.

Because the center is nonprofit, money is always a factor when it comes to providing quality programs. Most of Horizons' budget comes from tuition, but Wheeling Township, the village of Wheeling and the United Way are

## Trailer park owners defend firm's record

6-28-96 - *tribune*

**Wheeling:** Attorneys for a real estate company that owns and manages a 413-unit mobile home park in Wheeling defended their record at the second of two public hearings held by the village this week to explore rent control.

Phil Wolin, an attorney for Deerfield-based Capital Development Corp., said the real estate company takes only a fair profit for its investment in Whippletree Village on McHenry Road. Wolin said space rentals at the subdivision, which have increased from \$255 to \$470 during the last 10 years (not including extra costs for water and garbage pickup), have gone up only to keep up with rising taxes and maintenance costs.

Though the verbal phase of the hearing has ended, the hearing will remain open until July 12 for people to submit written testimony. Village Attorney James Rhodes said he plans to present options to the Village Board at an Aug. 12 workshop meeting of trustees.

Dozens of residents of Whippletree, many of whom are elderly and disabled, said that while rents have increased, maintenance and service by a former on-site manager deteriorated. One woman described the management as a "reign of terror" in which some residents were afraid to approach the manager.

Capital Development has since hired a new manager who has improved the relationship with tenants, they say.

# Library expansion set for October

6-26-96  
By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The project to add more space at the Indian Trails Public Library in Wheeling is moving forward.

Now that the expansion plans have been approved by Wheeling officials, library officials expect to begin construction this October, said administrative librarian Ken Swanson.

And though the expansion will take more than a year, construction is not expected to preclude patrons from checking out books

or cause any other major inconvenience, Swanson said.

But Swanson said the library, located at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road in Wheeling, might be closed for a week after the 14,000-square-foot addition is completed, which is expected in early 1998. The time will be needed for materials and offices to be moved into the new section.

"It shouldn't interfere that much," Swanson said.

Voters last November approved a referendum to raise their tax rates by 3 cents per \$100 of

assessed valuation to pay for the \$3.8 million project.

The two-story library that serves Wheeling, and parts of Buffalo Grove and Prospect Heights, now is 30,900 square feet.

Some Wheeling village officials believe the expansion is necessary to accommodate the continued growth of the area.

"It is bursting at the seams," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "So, (the expansion) will allow for a better resource of the community."

Wheeling's village board earlier

this month unanimously approved plans for the addition, enabling the project to move forward.

The two-story addition will provide more spaces for books and other library materials and staff, Swanson said.

For instance, the first floor will be used partially to provide more room for the children's section. A new computer lab also will be added on that floor.

Meanwhile, the second floor will be used to provide more work space for staff members, Swanson added.

# Wheeling ponders rent-control law for mobile home parks

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owners of Whippletree Village Mobile Home Park in Wheeling say that it needs to annually raise rent to keep its head above rising taxes and costs of maintenance.

But residents questioned just how much Capital Development Corp. is spending to maintain the park at McHenry Road and Route 83 and

how much it is keeping as profit. "We know what Capital is about; it's about capitalism," resident Flo Miller told Wheeling trustees Monday night.

The cracked driveways and poorly plowed streets that Miller complained about were just some of the concerns voiced by many of the more than 80 residents who packed a second public hearing about complaints at the mobile home park, as

well as financial issues. The hearings were held to help trustees to decide whether or not a rent-control ordinance for mobile home parks is needed in Wheeling.

The village would be the first town in Illinois to have such an ordinance. But Lake Forest-based Capital believes that it would be wrong of the village to impose such an ordinance and that rent increases reflect the hike of taxes and costs of

increased an average 5.5 percent, with property taxes increasing about 10.6 percent annually, Wolin said.

Wolin added that more than \$1 million in improvements on such things as streets and sewers have been done in the last 10 years.

The village board will review all the information and will probably decide whether or not a rent control ordinance is needed at 8 p.m. Aug. 12 in village hall, 255 West Dundee Road.

maintaining the park. "We agree that housing costs have gone up, but everything goes up," said Philip S. Wolin, an attorney representing Capital. "The profit of the park is not substantial."

Rent, now \$470 for a plot on which to park a mobile home, has increased at an annual average of about six percent between 1987 and this year.

During that same period, annual increases in operating expenses have

## 92-foot antenna OKd near airport

Tribune 7/22/96

■ **Wheeling:** The Village Board Monday night passed a special-use permit and approved a site plan to erect a 92-foot high communications antenna.

American Telephone and Telegraph Wireless Services Inc. plans to build the structure in the parking lot of an area zoned industrial west of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Because of the proximity of the airport, the company must also get approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Anderson also said the number of requests the village will receive for such towers from a variety of sources is expected to increase in coming years. He said the village will have to monitor whether the requests are intrusive to residents.

Patrick O'Toole

## Wheeling 7/21/96 Tribune

■ The Village Board will discuss approval of a property-tax exemption to Plaza Tool & Mold Co., a bid for the automated parking collection system for the Commuter Station West, McDonald's restaurant sign code, a telecommunications antenna/tower, rezoning of property, the preliminary plat denial and approval for Horcher Farm subdivision, and Palwaukee Municipal Airport concerns at 8 p.m. in the Administration Building council room, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

# Owner: Trailer park needs to make a profit

After hearing complaints over rent increases at the Whippletree Village mobile home park, the owner of the property reminded Wheeling trustees and residents that the development is not intended to serve as subsidized housing.

Courtesy  
By CHERI BENTRUB  
STAFF WRITER  
6-27-96

With a shake of his head, Bob Hettinger chuckles when he recalls the \$85 rent payments he once made when he moved into Whippletree Village mobile home park 21 years ago.

Now his housing doesn't seem so affordable.

"They keep adding increases when they decrease the services," Hettinger said of Capital Development Co. of Lake Forest, the owner and operator of the Wheeling trailer park. Today, Hettinger pays \$470 a month for the lot on which his double-wide trailer sits. Garbage and water fees are extra.

Rent is just one item on a list of complaints residents have about Whippletree Village, a 407-lot mobile home park on Old McHenry Road.

Hettinger also claims residents who want to sell their mobile homes independently are in competition with Capital's on-site sales office, which has offered incentives like a month's free rent to those who purchase new homes.

"Everyone says if you're not happy, just pick up and move. Where am I going to go? Where would I move it to?" he asks.

Hettinger's comments were reiterated throughout the continuation of a public hearing Monday for a possible rent control ordinance being considered by Wheeling trustees. Whippletree residents had their say at a June

10 public hearing, and trustees continued the hearing Monday so Philip Wolin, an attorney representing Capital Development Co., could respond to the complaints.

Many of the residents' concerns seem to have been resolved in the last eight months since new on-site managers were hired. Other problems appeared to be based on misunderstandings of the complex's rules, including who can use the complex clubhouse and who is responsible for maintaining landscaping.

As for rent increases, Wolin said the company tries to accommodate residents by spreading the increases out over time. But, he

**"Everyone says if you're not happy, just pick up and move. Where am I going to go?"**

added, the company does need to make a profit.

"Management is not running a subsidized housing development, but a profitable housing development," Wolin said. "This development does not make a substantial profit."

Over the last 10 years, Wolin said, rent increases averaged 6 percent a year.

Trustee Bob Heer said many of the complaints seemed like ordinary landlord/tenant problems that could have been quickly resolved by on-site managers.

"You have common people with common problems. I think it's a shame we have to come to this level," Heer said. "A lot of these problems could have been worked out with management and we wouldn't be here tonight."

## Profit

Continued from page 5

Trustee Wayne Wisinski agreed, saying the root of the problem could very well be a lack of communication.

"After the testimony tonight and that of two weeks ago, it's painfully apparent to me there's an issue of rent control, but more so, there's an issue of management-resident relations," he said. "These issues have been festering for a while."

Wisinski volunteered to meet with a committee of residents and management to work out any remaining disagreements. Many of the issues, he said, have been addressed by the new managers.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the public hearing will remain open until July 12. Residents who want to submit written statements about Whippletree to Village Hall must do so by that date.

Rhodes estimated it would take 30 days to compile all of the testimony for trustees. A tentative workshop to discuss the testimony was scheduled for Aug. 12.

## Reality or perception?

*Countryside 6-20-96*  
**Wheeling/** At a recent Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees meeting, certain members of the board and the village president expressed opposition to the development of a Target Greatland store in the village. The developer offered to front the money for a sewer system as an interest-free loan to the village. They ignore a village-projected income of \$1.6 million over a two-year period, in addition to paying off the sewer cost of \$800,000 from this enterprise. While they thumb their noses at this obvious great income to the village treasury, they ignore the taxpayers' and residents' interests, possibly in favor of a perceived continuing protection of a small, singular, special interest group; or, is it a perception?

That same Village Board majority approved a Mobil Oil gasoline station and a McDonald's hamburger drive-in to be built on land that belongs to a special interest group that also owns the property that Wal-Mart and Sam's Club now are located and which would be in competition with the Target Greatland store. The majority members of the board chose to ignore obvious falsehoods presented to them during the meeting, falsehoods that they knew were such. The representative of Mobil Oil stated that Mobil owned the land the station was to be built on. When it was pointed out to him that the

## LETTERS

land, in fact, was owned by the special interest group, and not Mobil, he backtracked and said he "thought" it was owned by Mobil. Surprise! The special interest group is the same one that is perceived to be receiving the protectionist activity of the majority of the Village Board; or, is it a perception?

Citizens of Wheeling, look around you! Retail businesses in Wheeling are disappearing! Hardly any "flagship" or "anchor" stores remain. Sportmart recently departed and K-Mart reportedly is soon to do so. What incentive is there for retail business people or firms to locate here when strip shopping mall after strip shopping mall, laid helter-skelter throughout the village, are grossly vacant? What incentive is there for them to remain?

Businesses, both retail and industrial/commercial, are great contributors to a municipality's reputation, image and tax base. Where is our tax base going when this administration and its impotent committees, commissions and Community Development Department continue to harass and drive businesses away, as they have done for some years now? Several industrial businesses elected to go to Vernon Hills. A well-known steak house restaurant went to Buffalo Grove. But this board smiles at yet another fast food hamburger drive-in! While Wheeling withers, business-

wise, Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire and Vernon Hills prosper.

Only when the respective majority board members, committees, commissions and departments are awakened from their lethargic slumber by the dictatorial stare of the Village Board President, Sheila Schultz, do they sputter to life. They stumble and mumble, and completing that, in concert with stare, they seem to melt back into a puddle of inactivity and unpracticality, except when anything arises concerning the perceived special interest group. Then they speak loudly, clearly and directly in concert with the required dictatorial presidential stare; or, is it a perception?

While all of the ignoring of the best interest of the people of the village of Wheeling goes on, the loss of business and the pooh-poohing of large sums of dollars into the people's treasury from businesses, such as Target Greatland, by certain members of this board and the village president, it is interesting to note that last year these same officials had to withdraw \$1.5 million from the reserve fund of the village treasury! But do not despair! It is perceived that they do spend, actively, great effort and energy in protecting the interests of a singular, special interest group; or, is it a perception?

This is, after all, the village of Wheeling, not the village of Schultz; or, is it a perception?

**Thomas J. Conte**  
 (Continued on page 14)

## Palwaukee's flights rattle residents to the north

*7-9-96*  
 not enter O'Hare International Airport's air space to the south, which acts as a "brick wall" that they can't go through, Stewart said.

"The only avenue they have is to come from the north," Stewart said. "It's unfortunate, but that's the way it is."

Though it was uncertain what is the frequency, Stewart said that the planes do use the southern end of the runway, but must head to the north to avoid O'Hare's air space.

But Rogers said the northern end is more popular.

In fact, Rogers said it is common for air controllers to direct planes to use the northern end of the runway for take-offs and landings during the same day.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said that the village will inquire with the Federal Aviation Administration, which directs the use of the runways, about the airport's flight patterns.

**"I would like the community to be treated like an equal."**

— Wheeling resident William Rogers

"I don't know why Wheeling has to suffer this way. ... I would like the community to be treated like an equal," said Rogers, who also is a member of the joint airport commission. "All I'm asking for is parity."

The airport's main runway is its busiest and is popular with jets because it is the longer of the three, 5,000 feet long, said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart.

Many flights fly over the northern end of the airport because they can-

*7-9-96*  
 Palwaukee Municipal Airport is the state's third busiest airport. And William Rogers says that he and other Wheeling residents who live to the north of the airport know it, too.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't have traffic over my house," said Rogers.

Rogers Monday night told Wheeling's village board that he expects to be rattled now and then from the sound of a jet — he lives just to the north of the airport's main runway.

But Rogers claims that most of the flights that land or depart the airport, more than 200,000 annually, do so over Wheeling to the north, with very little flying over the south in Prospect Heights. The airport straddles both villages and is jointly owned and operated by both.

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

# Opponents to march against town-house development plan

*7-7-96*  
 BY BOB McKEE  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's not over until it's over. With that idea in mind, a group of Wheeling residents who oppose a development that will bring town houses to open land will march on village hall tonight to illustrate their frustration.

"We are looking to say, 'Hey, look, we are still here,'" said Mary Mozal, president of Save Precious Acreage for our Children & Community to Enjoy, or SPACE.

The group opposes a project that will bring 40 town houses to a majority of 7.6 acres that once housed some businesses, including the Union Hotel, at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The residents say businesses instead of homes should be built on the property because open land is adjacent to Walt Whitman Elementary School and that used by children to play could be saved.

Some village officials see the development as the best way to improve the area that fronts Milwaukee Avenue while preserving some land for open space because 1.9 acres will be sold to Wheeling Township Elementary District 21. At 6 p.m. SPACE will march from Whitman school at 133 S. Wille Ave. to Wheeling's village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, to deliver petitions with about 900 residents' signatures protesting the development, said Mozal. Between 25 and 50 people are expected to march.

Although the project was approved by Wheeling earlier this year, Mozal said, the group is protesting because the village, in an economic development move, still is negotiating the purchase of the land from four owners. The land then will be sold to the project's developer, Realen Homes Inc., which will sell 1.9 acres to the school district.

"It's not a done deal," Mozal said.

## Letters Continued from page 10

### Reasonable people

*6-20-96*  
*Countryside*  
**Wheeling/** The Countryside recently paraphrased Sheila Schultz as saying that "the sewer upgrade (for the proposed Target site) has been in the budget for years" (So where's the money now?) "but the village has never been able to obtain easements from the Horchers to proceed." This makes the Horchers sound like the bad guys.

I've known the Horchers for some time and they are reasonable people, so I asked them about this. Wheeling sent them a letter asking them to sign over rights to a portion of their property for free with construction to occupy their business driveway during what is their busiest season. That made the deal unmanageable.

Then in a meeting the finance manager threatened that Wheeling would condemn the property if the Horchers wouldn't give it to the village. (Isn't stuff like that the job of the village attorney?)

But the thing that seemed to upset them the most was that this request for free land came about a week after Wheeling forcibly annexed

their farming operation. Wheeling didn't notify the family that the farm was about to be grabbed. Then they slapped the most restrictive zoning available on it since no one was at the annexation meeting to ask if property which was zoned county commercial could keep its commercial zoning for existing commercial concerns.

They were annexed and rezoned residential so the farm falls under the village's amortization law which says that anything nonconforming to its zoning must be gone by Jan. 1, 2003. So the only thing they can keep after the date without special permission from Wheeling is their house.

Wheeling slapped the Horchers in the face and then asked for a big favor.

Sheila's come a long way since her interview in "Wheeling through the years," where she said it will be sad to see our last farm go.

Isn't it nice to live in America where when you have a home and business you don't have to worry about the government taking it away.

**James Wood**

# Weather derails depots, but train set to roll

By Lisa Black  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Even if they don't build it, the trains will come.  
That could be Metra's new motto when it begins operating the North Central Service line from Antioch to Chicago's Union Station on Aug. 19.  
While the trains are expected to start on schedule along the former Wisconsin Central rail line, the passengers may not find a station—or even a parking lot—to

greet them.  
In Vernon Hills, riders would have to slog through 750 to 800 feet of construction to reach the train platform, assuming they found a place to park their car, said a frustrated James Doyle, assistant village manager. Village officials only a week ago awarded a contract to build a train station and parking lot within 180 days, he said.  
Round Lake Beach is more typical of the towns preparing for a

new train stop.  
"We will have a beautiful parking lot and a station that's two-thirds of the way completed," said David Kilbane, village administrator.  
In at least half of the 11 towns along the route, rain has been the culprit, delaying construction because of muddy conditions.  
"The rain is really messing us up—up and down the line," said Michael Klitzke, director of community development for Wheeling.

who expects that the village's 513-space parking lot will be ready by August.  
"I don't know what the situation will be with the station. Our main goal is to have the parking in place."  
Metra officials say it won't matter.  
The trains will stop at every designated station site, which includes Antioch, Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Prairie

View, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Prospect Heights, O'Hare Airport and River Grove.  
"Most of the stations are being built or will be ready by Aug. 19," Metra spokesman Tom Miller said.  
"If one or two of the stations aren't yet ready, the platforms are ready and the train will stop there, nevertheless. Just because the station is not done, that doesn't mean the train can't stop."  
The stations' main function, at

this point, is to offer riders shelter. No tickets will be sold from any of the new stations, although ticket booths may be added later if ridership is high enough, Miller said. One-way tickets may be purchased in the train, and monthly and 10-ride tickets are available at Union Station or by mail.  
The eight trains traveling the line are expected to provide for 5,400 rides daily. Most of the passengers likely will be commuters

## Stations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the finishing touches on its station.  
In Vernon Hills, Doyle attributes much of the delay to the village's dealings with the Illinois Department of Transportation, which must approve a traffic signal and turn lanes at the train station's entrance on Illinois Highway 45, just east of Deerpath Drive.  
"We've been working on this project, literally, seven years," he said. "Until we get the parking lot done and traffic signal at the entrance, it will not be safe for people to use."

lage officials, however, are just now accepting bids for the station depot, which probably won't be finished until year's end, village engineer Philip Perna said.  
"In the interim, when service is started up, when we don't have a depot, people will go straight from their cars to the platform and take the train," Perna said.  
Those towns having the least difficulty in preparing for train service include Prospect Heights, which worked with a private developer to establish a station within an existing building, and Lake Villa, which is completing

## Village tries to get to bottom of park residents' complaints

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Whippetree Village Mobile Home Park residents have complained to Wheeling officials their rent is too high.  
However, residents in public hearings last month say there are more problems, such as maintenance of the park and how management has dealt with their complaints in the past.  
But while Capital Development Corp., which owns the park, says it has always tried to address complaints and is now improving how it does so, some officials think many of the problems possibly could have been handled before.  
"A lot of the stuff could have been alleviated (before)," Trustee Robert J. Heer said. "I think it is a shame that we have to come to this level."  
The village has conducted the hearings to discuss relations between residents and the owners of Wheeling's two mobile home parks: Whippetree and Fox Point. The information gained from the meetings will be used by officials to decide whether a rent-control ordinance is needed in the village.

All of the discussion has revolved around the complaints of Whippetree residents, primarily regarding rent increases and fees.  
But it is also "painfully apparent" that there has been a problem with relations between park management and residents, Trustee Wayne J. Wisinski said.  
Some residents have told village officials that repairs, such as replacing missing street signs, are slow to be made and past park managers haven't been receptive to complaints.  
But the Lake Forest-based Capital does address residents' concerns, such as when it hired new managers in January and recently remodeled the club house, said Philip S. Wolin, an attorney representing the developer.  
And Capital is reviewing ways to address complaints that were raised during the hearings, Wolin added.  
For instance, in the past month a log has been created to keep track of residents' complaints and the company is considering the possibility of creating a council of residents to serve as a liaison between tenants and management, Wolin said.

## Store plan may pose conflict, board warned

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's village board has been warned that a trustee might violate a conflict of interest law if it agrees to pay part of the cost of sewer work for a proposed Target store.

Trustee Patrick Horcher could be guilty of a conflict of interest if the village would sway from its normal policy and help connect 15 acres his family owns to sewers, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

Based on legal advice, Horcher said he is not in jeopardy of violating the law. But he wonders why the concern was raised.

Anderson said, "At this point it is just bringing the issue to light and letting (the board) mull it over."

Chicago-based Centrum Properties Inc. wants to build the store and the village to pay part of \$1.7 million worth of necessary work to connect the land on the south side of McHenry Road, east of Weiland Road, to Wheeling's sewer system.

Although installing necessary infrastructure is usually the responsibility of the developer, Wheeling officials have been negotiating with Centrum on ways to jointly fund the sewer work because the builder says it is too expensive to afford.

If Wheeling pays for part of the connection, Horcher might violate a state law because he could benefit from village assistance that is necessary to complete the project, said Anderson, based on a village attorney's opinion.

Horcher, who has abstained from voting on the project in the past, says he wouldn't be guilty of wrongdoing if the board agreed to build part of the sewer because the village would be repaid from other businesses and homes in the surrounding area that connect to the sewer in the future.

But Anderson said Centrum would still benefit by the help.

The board now has to decide whether the concern is valid before making any further decisions on the project, said village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said, "We have to be sure that we don't give the appearance of impropriety."

## Wheeling fills its first human rights commission

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is a community whose residents are of diverse cultures, economic backgrounds and ages.

And to help its residents better understand the differences and learn to respect them, the village created a human rights commission that will start taking shape this month.

"We're talking about people," said Eloise B. Frye, one of five members named to the commission Monday night.

The village created the commission last September to provide residents with a voluntary forum to work out discrimination problems, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

One of the factors that spurred the group's creation was a case last year in which residents felt they were discriminated against in a restaurant because of their race.

The commission was created to provide a better forum to resolve such situations, Schultz said.

If the group can't mediate a problem, they could inform people how to take legal action, Schultz said.

Being a good mediator and listener were some of the qualities the village looked for in its commission members. Aside from Frye, the commission will include Edwina Greene, Susana Layug, William J. Maloney and Paul Safyan.

The commission this month will start working with the village board on how the group will operate, Schultz said.

This will include going to other communities and seeing how other human rights commissions work.

Other communities that have such commissions include Rolling Meadows, Wilmette and Skokie.

Though it will be a vehicle of recourse for discrimination cases, the commission is also seen as a way to educate the community about diversity, Schultz said.

"(It is) a place for them to come to see what the policy is and what the standard is for Wheeling," Frye said.

Frye said that there isn't a problem with discrimination in Wheeling but creating the group helps the village be prepared in case any situations arise.

## Residents plan protest march

Members of SPACE (Save Precious Acreage for Citizens and Children's Enjoyment) are planning a protest march to Wheeling Village Hall beginning at 6 p.m. July 10 at Whitman School, 133 S. Wille Ave., Wheeling.  
Gary Cohn, spokesman for SPACE, said the group is marching to protest the proposed development of townhouses on the former Union Hotel site on South Milwaukee Avenue. The development also would eliminate play space for nearby Whitman students, although Wheeling School District 21 has agreed to purchase 1.9 acres of the 7.8 site.  
Trustees approved the proposal in April, and the village is now working to purchase the property, which is part of Wheeling's tax increment financing district. The village will then sell the land to Reagen Homes of Inverness, which plans to build the townhouses.  
Residents who want to join the march can meet at Whitman School at 6 p.m. Wednesday or contact SPACE at (847) 685-7622. *COUNTRYSIDE-7-4-96*



Wheeling High School alumni Steve Cacchione shows his colors while marching along Dundee Road in the annual Fourth of July parade.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

## Car spins into crowd watching fireworks in Wheeling park

A car spun out of control late Thursday night in Wheeling at the end of the village's fireworks show and injured eight people.

The car ran into a crowd of people about 10:30 p.m., hitting a bench full of fireworks-viewers in Heritage Park and trapping one person under the car.

While details were sketchy, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the victims were transported to four area hospitals. Three people were in critical condition and three were listed as serious, while two others were not seriously injured. Authorities were not releasing the identities of any victims, pending notification of relatives, MacIsaac said.

Authorities also were not releasing the name of the driver, who was in police custody Thursday.

Police are continuing to investigate the accident.

## Village spends \$27,000 to fix collapsed sewer

7-6-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A broken Wheeling sewer line kept crews working for about 20 hours straight recently and will result in an unforeseen cost of about \$27,000.

Crews last Saturday made an emergency repair on the 240-foot section after it was realized during a test earlier in the week that the pipe had deteriorated, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Village workers were testing the sewer line on Milwaukee Avenue, between Prairieview Lane and Edgewood Drive, because a subdivision is being built nearby and they wanted assurance that it was capable of handling the load.

But during the test, Anderson said, sewage backed up through a manhole and a further inspection revealed that the 240 feet of sewer had collapsed. It is suspected that the age of the 8-inch pipe, installed in 1966, and pressure from traffic on nearby Milwaukee Avenue contributed to the deterioration.

Usually, it takes the village about 60 days to seek a contractor for such a project. But the village wanted to repair the sewer line quickly because sewage had been leaking into the ground and six new homes in the nearby Equestrian Grove Subdivision were about to be connected to the system.

"This was a situation where that couldn't wait that long," Anderson said. "We didn't feel that we could wait 60 days. ... We felt we had to move rather quickly."

Though the broken pipe allowed sewage to seep into the ground it did not create a health hazard because the amount was limited, with the line only used by two businesses, Anderson said.

The village hired Lo Verde Construction Co. to replace the damaged section of pipe. The \$27,000 for the cost will come from money earmarked for preventative maintenance on other sewers, work that will now be delayed.

It took between 5 a.m. last Saturday to about 12 a.m. Sunday for Lo Verde to complete the repair.

## Old-fashioned Fourth set in suburbs

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7/04/96

Celebrating the Fourth of July will be a thing of the past.

Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Long Grove residents will celebrate the holiday the "old-fashioned" way, with parades, village parties and fireworks.

Long Grove residents, for instance, will be treated to a free party at Buffalo Grove Creek park with a folk singer and carnival games for children.

"We want to promote ... that (sense of an) old-fashioned festival in the village," said Long Grove

Trustee Maria Rodriguez. The event will be held between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. today at the park off of Old McHenry Road, north of Robert Parker Coffin Road.

The festivities will begin in Wheeling with a traditional parade composed of more than 50 groups.

Since this year marks the Wheeling Fire Department's 100th year of operation, retired Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen will be the grand master, said Catherine Peterson, a Wheeling administrative assistant. Koeppen, who will lead the parade with a procession of fire trucks, served as the department's chief for more than 30 years when he

retired in 1990, Peterson added.

The parade begins at 11 a.m. at K-mart, 780 W. Dundee Road, and travels east to Sportmart, 240 E. Dundee Road.

At 6:30 p.m., the Wheeling Park District will host about two hours of entertainment at its recreation center, 333 W. Dundee Road, before the fireworks show begins.

Meanwhile, Buffalo Grove will host a concert of patriotic music performed by the Glenview Concert Band.

The concert will start at 7 p.m. at the Rotary Village Green on Buffalo Grove Road, north of Old Checker Road, and conclude with a fire-



works show at dusk.

## Wheeling police looking into string of car burglaries

By VINCE GALLORO  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7/05/96

Wheeling police said Thursday they are investigating 11 car burglaries and one attempted car burglary that occurred Monday night at three underground apartment garages.

There were four auto burglaries and one attempted auto burglary in the garage of a build-

ing on the 200 block of Oak Creek Drive. Thieves attempted to enter a 1993 green BMW. Burglars broke into a 1993 Honda, and three other unlocked vehicles were burglarized: a black and red 1991 Mazda, a tan and red 1987 Avanti and a tan and green 1994 Chrysler. Three stereos, each valued at \$300, were taken, and the BMW sustained damage of about \$1,000. The dam-

age to the Honda is estimated at \$200.

Windows were broken on a 1995 black General Motors pickup and a 1987 white Nissan parked in the garage on the 300 block of Wood Creek Road. Damage estimates were \$400 for the pickup and \$300 for the Nissan.

At the apartments on the 200 block of Wood Creek Road, five cars were broken into. The top of

one car, a black and gray 1990 Chevy Corvette convertible, was sliced open, causing \$2,000 damage. Windows were smashed on the other four cars, a black 1995 General Motors truck; a green 1995 Jeep; a 1994 Ford sport utility; and a 1978 Volvo. Taken collectively out of the five cars were golf clubs valued at \$1,350, \$270 in compact discs, a \$150 cell phone and a \$250 compact disc player.

## Tragic end to festive day

As fireworks ended at about 10:20 p.m. Thursday at Heritage Park in Wheeling, Norman J. Jahnke, 83, of Wheeling began to drive away. According to police his car accelerated out of his parking space, eventually injuring seven people and killing Gustavo Del Real, 11, of Chicago.

**3.** Eleven-year-old boy is fatally hit and 3 of his family members injured, while sitting on curb watching fireworks to the east.

**5.** Car hits group of four people sitting on van bench. Bench gets caught up beneath moving car and eventually brings it to a complete stop on grassy incline.

Crowd watching fireworks

**1** Jahnke's 1986 Buick Electra accelerates out of parking space

**2** Parked car is hit and small tree is knocked down as car continues to accelerate over an island.

**4** Still accelerating, car careens off parked van.

Parking lot exit

Firework display to the east.

Daily Herald Graphic/Maria Caposieno Choronzuk



Source:  
Wheeling  
Police; Daily  
Herald  
interviews

"You try to do whatever is safe for your children and when something like this happens, there's nothing you can do."

— Sofia Williams of Wheeling



This was the aftermath at Wheeling's Heritage Park Thursday night when a car careened out of control after a fireworks display, killing an 11-year-old Chicago boy who was visiting area relatives.

Associated Press Photo

# A night of joy, then terror

Wheeling comes together to seek comfort following deadly accident at fireworks gala

By AMY CARR  
AND JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

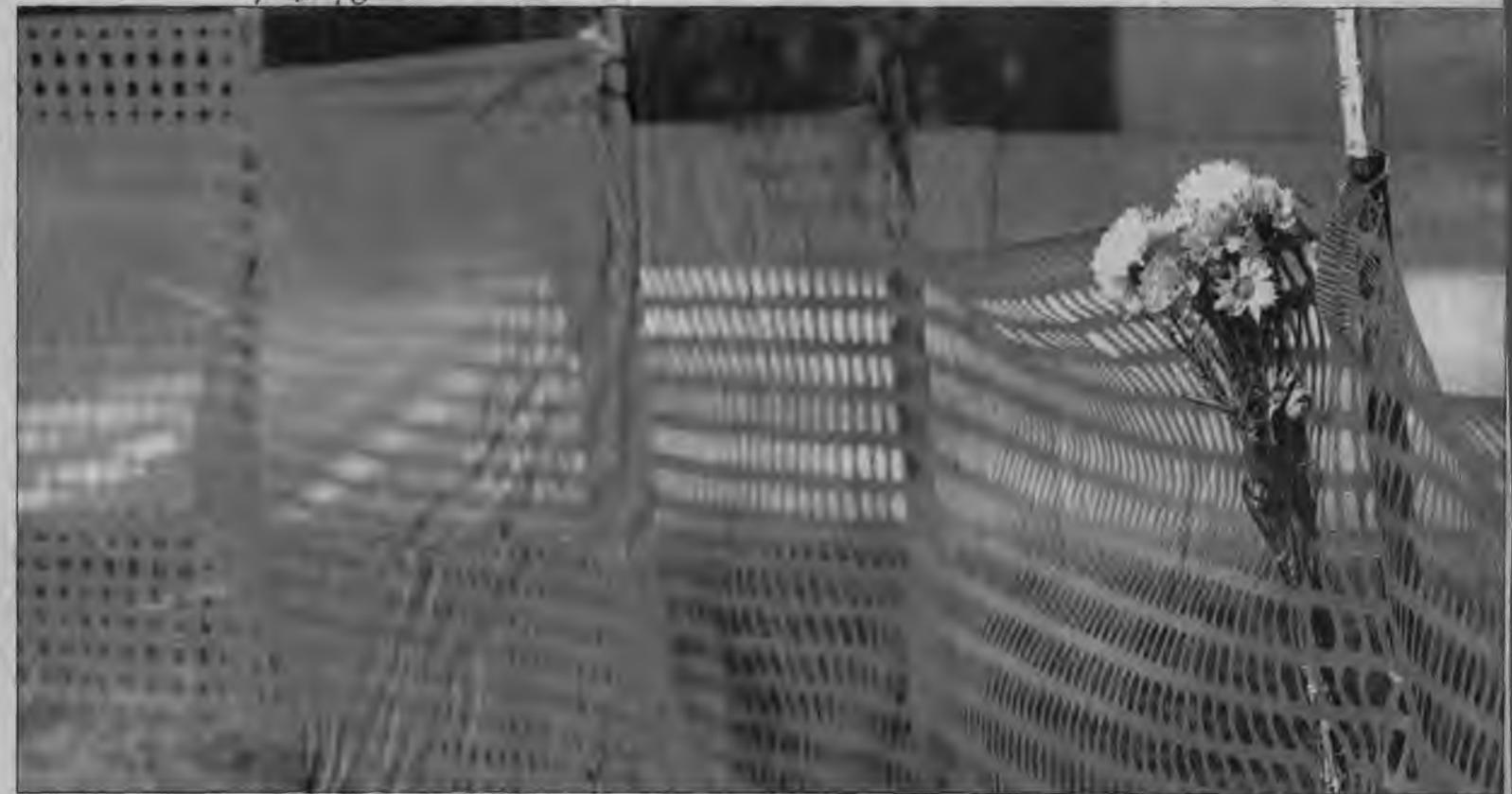
They returned Friday night looking for answers to a tragedy that took the life of an 11-year-old boy.

Twenty-four hours after the Fourth of July celebration was marred by sudden horror, passers-by returned to Heritage Park in Wheeling to leave flowers, teddy bears and an American flag.



Gustavo  
Del Real

Inside the community center, a group of about 30 residents met behind closed doors to talk about the trauma that lingered after Thursday night's accident when a car careened out of control into a crowd of spectators at the park. "It just touched the whole community," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who sat in the



Flowers mark the accident scene Friday at Wheeling's Heritage Park, where an 11-year-old Chicago boy was killed Thursday night.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

room with counselors who were there to help people sort out their emotions.

"We don't face tragedy like this every day," said park district

board Vice President Bill Mattes. "It's a tragedy, we'll try to deal with it the best way we can and we'll get through it."

There was a certain irony the

accident happened amid the serene setting of the village's Fourth of July fireworks display. Perhaps nothing says community more than that scene.

Families sitting under the stars, staring up at the sky "ooing" and "ahhing" in delight: It is a portrait

See CAR on Page 7

Wheeling resident who was dragged 10 feet and then trapped u

By AMY CARR  
AND JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

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Gustavo  
Del Real

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See CAR on Page 7

Continued from Page 1

Americana.

But what traditionally is a celebration became the ultimate test of community in Wheeling, where a perfect summer holiday instantly was transformed into a night of horror.

A freak accident turned a parking lot filled with glee into an emergency triage area scattered with even injured spectators and an 11-year-old boy near death. In a split second, those who had gathered to party found themselves performing first aid, counseling one another and digging through their trunks to find anything to assist in the rescue effort.

The nightmare began moments after the village's fireworks concluded when 83-year-old Norman J. Jahnke of Wheeling stepped into his car, started the ignition and placed it in gear.

What police said happened next is undisputed: The engine in Jahnke's 1986 Buick Electra revved and the car accelerated forward. It glanced off a parked car, rolled over a grassy stand and struck four spectators.

The car then careened off a tree and hit four others as they sat peacefully on a portable bench. The car dragged the bench and one of the injured victims for about 10 feet before coming to a rest at the top of a grassy incline.

In all, the vehicle hit eight people and three cars. A ninth person, Sal Dominguez of Prospect Heights was hurt while helping the injured victims, but he declined treatment, police said.

"In the same moment as the last fireworks (fired) ... there was screaming. It was very confusing," said Jorge Munante, a 40-year-old Wheeling man whose car was the first auto struck in the mayhem.

The timing could not have been worse.

"The road (Dundee Road) was just a mass of people and a mass of



cars and the police and fire departments were trying to get in and it took a while," said Rob Wortman, a Wheeling resident who was at the scene minutes after the accident. "It was the worst possible time this could have happened."

Exactly why the accident occurred remains a mystery. Police said they are still investigating whether the accident happened because of mechanical failure or driver error.

"He (Jahnke) just indicated he started the car and it accelerated for an unknown reason," Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said. "Witnesses in the area said they heard an increase in the vehicle's RPM's."

Jahnke's car was equipped with handicapped license plates, but he did not suffer from any impairment that would limit his ability to drive and had, in fact, been issued a new driver's license less than two weeks ago.

Jahnke submitted to a breath, blood and urine test Thursday night and no traces of alcohol were found. No charges have been filed against the man, but an investigation by the Wheeling Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office is ongoing, Haeger said.

"I don't think there was any intent for this to happen," Haeger said. "It was just a very tragic accident."



Visiting the site where a boy was killed are Steve Friedman and daughter Rachel, of Buffalo Grove. They were not at the fireworks show but wanted to pay their respects.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

For the family of 11-year-old Gustavo Del Real, the evening was nothing short of a nightmare. The Chicago boy had come to Wheeling on Thursday to spend the day with relatives. Hours later, he was dead.

Del Real, who was pronounced dead at 11:58 p.m. at Northwest Community Hospital, didn't stand a chance, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said.

"Being low and being a small child," MacIsaac said, "he was more susceptible to injuries."

For the people who were walking back to the Park District Aquatic Center parking lot, at 327 West Dundee Road, the images were startling.

"There were three people laying on the ground on one side and my husband saw one man just laying in blood and we thought he wasn't going to make it," Sofia Williams, of Wheeling, said. "I have an 11-year-old myself. It's just hard. You try to

do whatever is safe for your children and when something like this happens, there's nothing you can do."

Those who found themselves in the midst of the chaos tried to make themselves useful.

Wheeling police Cpl. Thomas Lorenz was assigned to keep spectators away from the railroad tracks during Thursday's fireworks. He was the first to arrive on the scene.

"There were people laying every place and every victim had someone taking care of them," Lorenz said. "They (spectators) were doing what I would have done. They were stabilizing people and putting pressure on the wounds, comforting them, providing aid and keeping them from going into shock."

The help from area citizens, including at least one anonymous registered nurse, made it possible for Lorenz to turn his attention to 53-year-old Kathleen Arbor, a

Wheeling resident who was dragged 10 feet and then trapped under Jahnke's car.

Firefighters eventually removed Arbor out from under the car, thanks in large part to rescuers who rushed to the trunks of their cars and returned with numerous car jacks, witnesses and firefighters said.

Schultz said she was encouraged by the community's ability to pull together at a time of crisis.

"It (July 4) is a real community, community day and this accident seems to strike particularly hard," Schultz said. "The response of the village personnel — that they could respond so quickly — makes me feel very good."

Paramedics, police and volunteers set up a triage system at the scene to treat the injured. It took them about 30 minutes to get all of the victims treated and into ambulances, MacIsaac said.

About 30 firefighters and paramedics responded to the accident, including units from the Buffalo Grove, Vernon, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Glenview and Northbrook fire districts.

Counselors were on site to help those who were traumatized by what they saw. A community debriefing was held Friday night with counselors from the police department, Wheeling Park District and Omni Youth Services to further help those who witnessed the accident.

Wortman did not attend the debriefing, but said he spent time talking about the accident with his 11-year-old son, Eric, who was bothered by what he saw.

"We talked about it when we got home," Wortman said. "What bothered us was that none of these people were moving ... It makes me feel a lot more protective of him."

Daily Herald staff writers Bob McKee and Dan Rozek contributed to this report.

# Beautiful weather can't ease the pain town feels following holiday tragedy

7-7-96

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Families swam, splashed and shouted as business returned to its usual fun self on a sun-blessed Saturday at the Wheeling Park District's Aquatic Center.

But in the center's parking lot some paused for a somber moment at a small shrine in memory of 11-year-old Gustavo Del Real.

People built the shrine this weekend out of stuffed animals, flags, flowers, a candle and a ceramic angel.

It stood near the spot where a car crashed into a Fourth of July crowd watching fireworks at Heritage Park, killing the Chicago boy and injuring seven others.

John Valenti of Wheeling was one of those who stopped to reflect on Thursday's tragedy as he drove by the shrine.

"When you're a father ...," Valenti started to say, then stopped, choking back tears. "It hurts."

Gustavo's uncle, Ramauldo Gallegos, of Palatine, and Kathleen Arbor, of Wheeling, remained in critical condition Saturday at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

The condition of Margarita DelAngel of Buffalo Grove was upgraded Saturday from stable to fair at Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview.

Police are still investigating why Norman J. Jahnke's 1986 Buick Electra plowed through the crowd.

Jahnke, 83, of Wheeling said he put his car in gear as usual and doesn't know why it raced through the parking lot, rolling over a grassy island, knocking down a tree, banging into three vehicles and hitting the eight fireworks spectators.

Investigators say they plan to perform tests next week on Jahnke's car. No charges were filed against him as of Saturday.

The accident remains fresh on the minds of many in the area, even those who didn't witness it, Barbara Kamish of Wheeling said as she walked to the aquatic center Saturday with her 9-year-old daughter, Shana.



Mourners and passersby continue to add mementos Saturday to a memorial for Gustavo Del Real, the 11-year-old Chicago boy who died when struck by a car after Wheeling's fireworks display at Heritage Park.

Daily Herald Photo/Joel Lewnan

"You know it happened," Kamish said. "You can't help but think about it."

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said she plans to discuss the possibility of setting up a memorial fund for Gustavo's family at the Wheeling Village Board's committee of the whole meeting Monday night.

A wake for Gustavo will be held from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at 10240 Ewing Ave. on Chicago's Southeast Side.

A Mass for Gustavo will be held 9 a.m. Monday at Our Lady of

Guadalupe Church, 3200 E. 91 St. on the Southeast Side.



## Gustavo Del Real

his abdomen, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. Gustavo was unconscious when he was rushed to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights shortly after the 10:20 p.m. accident, said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith S. MacIsaac.

Gustavo was pronounced dead at the hospital at 11:58 p.m., according to a hospital spokeswoman.

On Friday, family and friends were left asking why. His mother, Irene, sobbed quietly in her house. "What am I going to do without my son?" she kept asking.

The boy was about to enter sixth grade at Phil Sheridan School in Chicago. Gustavo enjoyed typical 11-year-old activities: playing outside, eating pizza and watching cartoons.

Relatives said they'll also remember him for his calm and caring demeanor. Gustavo often looked after his three younger sisters.

"He was the most beautiful son," his father, Lamberto, said. Although the family was left asking why such a tragedy happened, they weren't trying to pin the blame on anyone.

"It was an accident that you can't explain," said Jesus Gonzalez, Del Real's uncle. "The driver wasn't at fault, they said he wasn't drinking."

Funeral arrangements for Gustavo are pending.

Daily Herald staff writer Jim Allen contributed to this report.

# 11-year-old Chicago boy was calm and caring, relatives say

By BOB MCKEE  
AND ALICIA ROSCO  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



Gustavo Del Real spent his last moments trying to calm his brother. The two were hit by a car while watching a fireworks display in Wheeling. When Gustavo's brother, 13-year-old Luis, stood up and saw the wreckage, he was confused.

"What happened?" Luis asked. Younger brother Gustavo reassured him everyone would be all right. "Nothing happened Gaby, I'm fine," his 11-year-old brother said as he lay on the ground.

Those would be his last words. Luis' brother, Gustavo Del Real, died about 1 1/2 hours later in the hospital.

The 11-year-old and his brother, Luis, had made the trip from Chicago's South Side Sunday to visit relatives in the suburbs.

Thursday, Gustavo, his brother and some relatives took in the Independence Day festivities.

During the day he played in the yard with neighbor children in the Pine Tree Apartments in Palatine.

But what Gustavo, nicknamed "Tavito," really looked forward to was seeing the fireworks in Wheeling later that night. And if his enjoyment of the show equaled his expectations, the last moments of Gustavo's life were happy.

"I saw them right before they left. Oh man were they excited," said Al Aguirre, 37, a neighbor of Ramauldo Gallegos, the boy's uncle, on Spruce Drive in Palatine. "They were just playing out there yesterday. Oh, God."

Gustavo and Luis, of 8821 S. Houston, were visiting Gallegos, 23, and family friend Margarita DelAngel, 60.

The group and DelAngel went to watch Wheeling's fireworks at the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center, where they were struck from behind by Norman J. Jahnke's car while sitting on a curb. The four were all injured.

Gustavo suffered multiple injuries that included a lacerated spleen and excessive bleeding in

# 83-year-old's driving sheet 'excellent,' police say

7-6-96

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nothing in Norman J. Jahnke's driving record showed any signs of trouble.

Jahnke, 83, of Wheeling had no tickets over the past five years.

And 11 days ago he passed a behind-the-wheel driver's test.

Jahnke's car plowed through a Fourth of July fireworks crowd Thursday night, killing an 11-year-old boy and injuring seven.

Police are still investigating whether the accident occurred because of mechanical problems or human error.

"He has an excellent driving record," Wheeling Deputy Police Chief John Popadowski said.

Jahnke's red 1986 Buick Electra plates indicate he is disabled, but the state is not allowed to reveal what disability he has, said David Urbanek, spokesman for Secretary of State George Ryan. The car bears license plates labeled "NORM2."

The only restriction on Jahnke's license is that he needs to wear glasses, Popadowski said. Investigators are not sure if he was wearing glasses at the time of the accident, Popadowski said.

Neighbor Florence Radowski said Jahnke suffered a stroke about two years ago but shows few ill effects from it.

"He's doing fantastic. He's not even using a cane anymore," said Radowski, who has lived near Jahnke for about eight years.

She said Jahnke went through extensive physical therapy almost every day in the months following the stroke. Radowski said Jahnke's mental capacity was not affected by his stroke.

"He's as sharp as a tack," she said, adding she often saw Jahnke and his wife driving through the neighborhood.

Jahnke volunteered after the accident to take blood, breath and urine tests to show he had no alcohol or drugs in his system. All of the tests turned out negative, Popadowski said.

Police released Jahnke after questioning him. As of Friday no charges were filed against him. Investigators said they will examine Jahnke's car in the next few days to see if it has any mechanical problems.

Jahnke declined to answer reporters' questions Friday.

Daily Herald staff writer Dan Rozek contributed to this report.

## Injured in the crash

Three people hurt in the crash remained hospitalized Friday. Those injured and their conditions are:

- Ramauldo Gallegos, Palatine, listed critical at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge
  - Kathleen Arbor, Wheeling, listed critical at Lutheran General
  - Margarita DelAngel, Buffalo Grove, listed stable at Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview
- Those released:
- Gregory Stavros, Wheeling, Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines
  - Fred Solway, Wheeling, Holy Family
  - Allison Solway, Wheeling, Holy Family
  - Luis Del Real, Chicago, Glenbrook

Source: Wheeling Police Department, hospitals

# Parties, parades spark exciting Fourth

7-10-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Long Grove residents celebrated Independence Day in style, with parties and patriotic parades.

Wheeling's Fourth of July parade was like a giant block party.

"You saw your neighbors, you saw the kids," resident Christine Dolgopol said. "It was just a super, super parade."

The parade seemingly had a little something for everyone in the community, with 50 entrants representing diverse interests, observers said.

For instance, traditional entrants such as the Wheeling Fire Department led the procession that included trick bicycle riders and martial artists.

Residents also took much interest, with crowds gathered along a 1½-mile-long stretch of Dundee Road bigger than any other past Fourth of July parade, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

"From the beginning to the end ...there were lots and lots of people," Trustee Robert J. Heer said. Meanwhile, large crowds also

gathered to take in Independence Day festivities in Buffalo Grove.

The village, at its Rotary Village Green, hosted a concert of patriotic music performed by the Glenview Concert Band and a fireworks show.

"There were people all over the place," Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said. "It was one of the best shows we've seen."

Long Grove's festivities did not attract as many people as hoped for, but it was enjoyable, Long Grove Trustee Maria Rodriguez said.

About 100 people turned out at the village's free party, with an "old-fashioned" theme including a folk singer and carnival games in Buffalo Creek Park, Rodriguez said.

The idea of the first-time event was to create a community-oriented atmosphere, opposed to one that was more commercial, she said.

Rodriguez said she thought the event even went well, but is not certain if it will be held next year.

She added that an event sometimes has to be held a few times before it becomes well attended.



Members of the Wheeling Senior Pavilion wave to parade-goers.

Photo for Pioneer Press by Jerry Dallego

## Parading in the Fourth

7-11-96

A beautiful summer day brought out droves of residents to watch the Wheeling Fourth of July parade.

"It was very well-attended," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "I think the crowd was one of the biggest I've ever seen."

After two years of sponsoring parades on Wheeling's Founders Day in late June, the village returned to a July Fourth parade this year.

The route had been changed slightly from previous years, starting at Knart, heading straight east on Dundee Road to Sportmart. In past years, the parade went east on Dundee but turned south on Wolf Road to end up in Heritage Park.

"That may have helped us pick up a few more people," Anderson said.

Crowds that lined the street saw a variety of floats and community groups, listened to emergency vehicles sound their sirens and listened to several bands, including the Wheeling High School alumni band.



Photo for Pioneer Press by Jerry Dallego

Three-year-old Katie Kalmes shows her patriotic spirit by waving a flag as the Wheeling Fourth of July parade passes her along Dundee Road.

Thursday, July 4, 1996

WHEELING

5

Your  
Local

# NEWS

## Marshaling in the Fourth

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

For years, Wheeling homeowners and business owners depended on volunteer firefighters to protect them.

When the emergency siren sounded, men from all over the community converged at the old fire station, located where the water tower now stands near Center Street and Milwaukee Avenue, and raced to the blaze aboard a fire engine.

"The volunteers were the backbone of this village for many years," said Bernie Koeppen, who started his volunteer service with the Wheeling Fire Department in 1947. "There was a lot of pride in what the fellas did."

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the local Fire Department. To recognize the centennial, the village has selected Koeppen to serve as grand marshal for Wheeling's Fourth of July parade.

Koeppen was chief of the Wheeling Fire Department since 1954, when his peers elected him. He was then hired for the full-time position by the village in 1969. "That's when they started paying me," he laughed.

Koeppen retired in 1990, but he still stops by the Fire Department occasionally to check in and to talk with Keith MacIsaac, the current chief.

"Bernie and I have mulled over things I have thought about changing. He gives me the historical perspective of why things are the way they are," said MacIsaac, who was hired away from the Lake Zurich Fire Department about a month after Koeppen retired.

With 43 years of service, Koeppen has a wealth of history to share. Much has changed since Koeppen fought his first fire.



Tim J. Tufty/Pioneer Press

The Wheeling Fire Department will figure prominently in the village's July Fourth parade as Bernie

Koeppen, a fire chief for 36 years, leads the way as grand marshal. For more, turn to page 88.

"At the time in 1947 when I started, if you lived in the town and you worked in the town, you were asked to volunteer," Koeppen said. "It's something you just owed to the community. Someone had to do it."

Emergency calls were handled by local telephone operators, who worked out of the old bank

building at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. The operators would sound the siren, and the volunteers would stream to the fire station.

Though the department now has more equipment and more firefighters, Koeppen said, fighting a blaze is basically the same as it was in 1947.

(Continued on page 13)

## Student hit by car at London School

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

To some parents and administrators, the inevitable happened at London Middle School recently, as a child leaving his summer school classes was struck by a car driving in the bus lane.

Parents driving in the bus-only lane is a continual problem throughout the district, Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said as he reported the accident to District 21 School Board members at their June 20 meeting.

DesCarpentrie said a parent drove into the bus lane at London School, 1001 W. Dundee Road, to pick up a child from summer school when

the car struck another middle school student at 12:15 p.m. June 19.

No one was seriously injured, and the student escaped with only a few bruises.

The bus lane, which runs along the front of the school, is limited strictly to bus traffic. Signs are posted directing parents into the parking lot, just to the north of the bus lane.

"The student was leaving the building and crossed between buses" when the car bumped the child, said Chris Willeford, assistant principal

at London School.

"It's potentially very dangerous if we get people who don't follow directions," Willeford said.

Since the accident, Willeford said, school officials have printed more signs and

posted them in the parking lot.

"We've even put out some hurdles with signs on them. It's unfortunate. We were very lucky it didn't get any more serious than a bump," he said, noting that a major-

ity of parents do obey the bus lane restrictions.

On one rainy occasion, DesCarpentrie said, he saw a parent enter the bus lane and drive onto the sidewalk to drop off a child under the school's sheltered entrance.

At that time, there was a bus in the bus lane so the parent should have realized it was not a student drop-off area, he said.

"I don't know how much worse it can get to have parents drive up to the doors," DesCarpentrie said. "Drivers have to stay out of the bus lane."

Board members Norman Kurtz and Phil Pritzker suggested that a barricade be put up so parents cannot enter the bus lane.

"The kids know it's a bus lane and don't watch for cars," Kurtz said.

One parent at the meeting said the bus lane should be more clearly marked. She said parents who are dropping their children off for summer school classes may be unfamiliar with the school and may not have known the bus lane existed.

"It's a problem at all of our sites," said Board President Arlen Gould. "It's something that's a perennial problem. (People who violate the bus lane are) certainly a minority, but it affects everybody."



# WHEELING COUNTRYSIDE

July 4, 1996

The Wheeling Countryside wants your news.

Here's who to contact and how to get in touch with them.

Mail all correspondence to:  
Wheeling Countryside  
291 N. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL  
60004

To send your news by fax, call 797-5151.

To visit our online service on the Internet, go to <http://www.pioneerlocal.com>.

Be sure to include your name and telephone number on all correspondence.

• Sports	Kevin Reiterman 317-3590
• Food	Betty Nicolai 486-7345
• Arts and entertainment news	Martin Bartels 797-5102
• Community news tips, photos	David Kirkpatrick 797-5100
• Letters to the editor	
• Obituaries	Susan Parker 797-5100
• Weddings and engagements	
• Births	
• Clubs, organizations, support groups	
• School and campus news	
• Religion news	

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## WEEKLY DIGEST

### July Fourth activities planned

Buffalo Grove residents are invited to the Rotary Village Green, just north of the post office on Buffalo Grove Road, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday to listen to patriotic music performed by the Glenview Concert Band. The free performance is part of the ongoing Rotary Village Green Concert Series.

Before the concert, the Buffalo Grove Veterans of Foreign Wars will post and retire the colors in a brief ceremony. Lou Malnati's restaurant will have pizza available for sell.

The fireworks display, sponsored by the village, Hamilton Partners and the tenants of the Buffalo Grove Business Park, begins at dusk. Fireworks also can be viewed from Willow Stream Park at 651 Old Checker Road and the Buffalo Grove Golf Club, behind Village Hall.

The Buffalo Grove Park District's Aquadome pool at Buffalo Grove High School will be closed July 4. However, Willow Stream pool at 600 Farrington Drive will be open noon to 6 p.m.

In Wheeling, a Fourth of July parade begins at 11 a.m. at the Kmart, corner of Dundee and Elmhurst roads, then proceeds east on Dundee to Milwaukee Avenue. Fireworks begin at dusk at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road.

### District 102 expands math program

The Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 School Board recently adopted the University of Chicago's Everyday Mathematics Program for fifth-graders at Meridian Middle School this fall.

The University of Chicago program was adopted by the third and fourth grades in fall 1995 and by kindergarten, first and second grades in fall 1994.

The program is said to strengthen students' "number sense" and mental math skills and provides opportunities to apply skills previously learned.

The program also integrates math into other curriculum. It also is a "spiraling" curriculum where previously learned skills are reviewed in new situations. A study program also allows children to practice their math skills at home with their parents.

One advantage of adopting the University of Chicago math program for fifth grade is that it is consistent with what students already have learned in their previous classes, administrators said.

### Residents plan protest march

Members of SPACE (Save Precious Acreage for Citizens and Children's Enjoyment) are planning a protest march to Wheeling Village Hall beginning at 6 p.m. July 10 at Whitman School, 133 S. Wille Ave., Wheeling.

Gary Cohn, spokesman for SPACE, said the group is marching to protest the proposed development of townhouses on the former Union Hotel site on South Milwaukee Avenue. The development also would eliminate play space for nearby Whitman students, although Wheeling School District 21 has agreed to purchase 1.9 acres of the 7.8 site.

Trustees approved the proposal in April, and the village is now working to purchase the property, which is part of Wheeling's tax increment financing district. The village will then sell the land to Realen Homes of Inverness, which plans to build the townhouses.

Residents who want to join the march can meet at Whitman School at 6 p.m. Wednesday or contact SPACE at (847) 685-7622.

### School district transfers interest income

Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 recently transferred \$287,000 of interest income to the education fund from the building, transportation and working cash funds. The board also transferred \$475,000 of principle from the working cash fund to the education fund. Charles Cohen, assistant superintendent for business services, said these are routine transfers at the end of every fiscal year.

# Driver's friends looking to help accident victims

Rotary Club colleagues of Wheeling resident Norman Jahnke say they want to help the victims of the tragic Fourth of July crash that killed a Chicago boy.

By CHERI BENTRUP

Leaders of the Winnetka Rotary Club plan to meet tonight to decide how they can help the victims of the fatal crash that occurred after Wheeling's Fourth of July fireworks display, fatally injuring one boy.

The driver of the car, 83-year-old Norman J. Jahnke of Wheeling, is a long-standing member of the Winnetka Rotary Club. As of Monday, Wheeling police had not charged Jahnke in the accident.

Jahnke, of 1400 Ashton, told police he started his car and put it into gear when it suddenly accelerated into the crowd gathered after the village's fireworks display at the Aquatic Center, 327 W. Dundee Road.

"That's what Rotary is all about, helping others," said Don Van Arsdale, president of the Winnetka chapter. "Our main motto is 'Service above self.'"

Upon hearing of the tragic accident, Van Arsdale said, it was his first instinct to try to help the families of the victims in the crash.

An 11-year-old Chicago boy, Gustavo DelReal, was killed from injuries sustained in the 10:20 p.m. accident.

Three Wheeling residents, Fred Solway, 38; Allison Solway, 33; and Gregory Stavros, 41; were treated at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines and released. Fred Solway was reached at home Monday, but declined to comment on the accident. Thirteen-year-old Luis DelReal of Chicago was treated at Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview

and released.

Still undergoing treatment for injuries as of Monday evening were Ramauldo Gallegos, 23, of Palatine, and Kathleen Arbor, 53, of Wheeling, who were both listed in critical condition at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

A hospital spokeswoman said both were being treated for multiple fractures. A Buffalo Grove woman, Margarita DelAngel, 60, was in stable condition Monday at Glenbrook Hospital.

Wheeling police are still investigating the accident and don't expect any quick answers as to why Jahnke's car suddenly jumped into the crowd.

"We're still trying to make arrangements for an engineer to come out and take a look at the car," Wheeling Police Deputy Chief John Popadowski said.

Van Arsdale said the Winnetka Rotary Club is still waiting to see exactly how the organization can assist the victims.

"We want to see if anything else is being done in town for the victims' families that we can contribute to, or we can decide to do something on our own," Van Arsdale said. "A couple of the other board members have already talked to me, asking what we can do. My first thought was to do something to assist the families."

Wheeling police said Jahnke has a good driving record.

"His driving record, according to the Secretary of State, was clean with no convictions in the past 12 months," Deputy Chief Popadowski said.

A man who answered Jahnke's home telephone Monday would not identify himself. He did say, however, that he was directed by an attorney not to comment on the accident.

# WEEKLY DIGEST

Countrywide 7-11-96

## Assistant village manager honored

Ingrid Velkme, assistant village manager of Wheeling, recently received the Special Service Award for 1996 from the Illinois City Management Association. Velkme was given the award for her volunteer services with the Latvian-American education organization.

The award is given for outstanding association or professional accomplishments or to recognize significant personal activities or accomplishments including private interests, family interests, acts of heroism, charitable acts or social accomplishments.

## Target vote put on hold

A vote on approving the construction of a Target store on the Horcher farm on North McHenry Road has been postponed until the Village Board's Aug. 5 meeting. Trustees were prepared to vote on the issue July 1.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Centrum officials, the developer for Target, requested the additional time on the day of the meeting and asked the board to postpone its vote until next month.

Trustees have concerns about bringing sewer service to the store and its surrounding residential zoning.

## Depot parking system OK'd

Wheeling trustees recently approved a \$23,695 expenditure to purchase and install an automated parking fee collection system for the Metra station's daily commuter lot along the west side of the Wisconsin Central tracks. Commuter service is expected to begin Aug. 19.

Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said the machines will accept the \$1.50 daily parking fee or a debit card which will initially be sold at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. This is a similar system to the one used in Des Plaines.

The two machines will service 200 parking spaces. "It's going to be a trial and error on our part, and on the part of the commuters," Fialkowski said of opening the depot next month.

## Residents to be charged new fee

Wheeling trustees are debating whether to add a \$1.70 charge to residents' water bills or their garbage bills. The charge per household is necessary to pay a bond debt for the construction of a new transfer station for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

The village began making the debt payments May 1, which will continue for 20 years, said Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

The village can more closely monitor water bills to ensure that the fee is paid, but Village President Sheila Schultz said it would seem more logical to tack the fee onto the garbage bills.

Fialkowski said the village may be able to wait until Jan. 1 to begin charging the fee. That would give the village time to notify residents of the increase.

## Subdivision work to begin early

Concord Development Co. was given permission to begin earthwork early on the Sienna-Avalon single-family and townhouse subdivision planned for property west of the ComEd right of way and between Old Willow and Palatine roads.

Trustees are expected to vote on approving the plan at the July 15 meeting. The work is being done at Concord's own risk to take advantage of favorable construction weather.

Trustees noted that Concord will reverse any work done to the site if the board does not approve the plan.

# Garage burglaries under investigation

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Countrywide

bushes then ran in, or it could be someone who lives there."

Popadowski suggests that owners keep their vehicles locked even when parked in a secure garage.

Several of the cars were unlocked while parked in the garage, but several others were entered through smashed windows.

Among the items stolen from the cars were stereo systems, compact disc players, golf clubs and a cellular phone. A \$275 bicycle chained to a rack in the garage also was stolen.

"You don't want to keep things in a car that will bring attention to it" such as cellular phones and portable stereo systems, Popadowski said. "In a lot of cases it won't help because they can smash the window and take it anyway, but if you have anything of value, don't keep it in plain sight."

Wheeling police are investigating a rash of burglaries that occurred overnight July 1 and July 2 in an underground parking garage at the Woodland Creek Apartments on the 200 block of Oak Creek Drive. In all, 12 cars were entered or damaged, police said.

Damage and loss ranged from \$5 in coins and a plastic clubhouse key valued at \$10 taken from a 1994 Chrysler LeBaron to \$2,000 for a slashed top on a 1990 Chevrolet Corvette convertible.

Entry to the garage is controlled by a pass key, but Wheeling Deputy Chief John Popadowski said officers are investigating several ways the offenders may have entered the facility.

"There are a lot of possibilities here," he said. "Someone we have hidden in the

# Village forms first human rights group

By Cheri Bentrup

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents now have a place to turn if they feel they have been victimized by discrimination.

On July 1, Village President Sheila Schultz appointed the five charter members to the village's new Human Rights Commission. They are Eloise B. Frye, Edwina Greene, Susana Layug, William J. Maloney and Paul S. Asyan.

"The Human Rights Commission is a new commission to the village to ensure all citizens of the village of Wheeling enjoy their rights," Schultz said.

Maloney, who is chairman of the Cultural Diversity Committee of the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" image-building project, said the commission has ample organizational work to complete before actually hearing any discrimination complaints.

"We haven't had our orga-

nizational meeting yet. We have to set up rules and procedures," he said.

Because discrimination complaints are formally handled through state and federal laws, the village's commission will have no legal authority. It can only offer solutions.

"If we fail, we would direct them to the state or federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission," Maloney said.

The recent controversy of rent and landlord problems at the Whipplee Mobile Home Park is one example of a case that could be handled by the Human Rights Commission, member Frye said.

"I think this commission will serve as a right hand to the trustees and give them more of an opportunity to do the things they were elected for," she said. "(Whipplee) is probably something the Human Rights Commission could have done and freed up" trustees' time.

# Village sees homey future for vacant site

By Cheri Bentrup

STAFF WRITER

As negotiations continue on the possible purchase of 7.8 acres on South Milwaukee Avenue for the construction of 40 townhouses on the former Union Hotel site, Wheeling trustees on Monday focused their attention on another portion of the village's tax increment financing district.

Trustees passed a resolution to hire Teska Associates Inc. of Evanston to serve as a consultant for 7.5 acres on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The targeted site is undeveloped land north of the Sportmart property at 240 E. Dundee Road and south of the Cook County high-rise that mainly houses senior citizens.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Teska will draft conceptual plans that the village could then market to developers. Trustees agreed to pay Teska \$4,900 for the firm's services.

"This would show what we're most interested in, based on discussions with the Village Board and (current) economic conditions," Anderson said.

For now, the village is focusing on mid-rise condominium or apartment buildings.

"Developers seem to be more interested in looking at an area if the community can say, 'This is what we want,'" Anderson said.

One of the conceptual plans may show a mix of retail and residential use, but the village is leaning toward a more residential future for the property.

"We don't think commercial use is really viable at the moment" along Milwaukee Avenue, said Anderson.

A prime example of that reality could be Sportmart. Though located on a heavily traveled corner, the business recently closed and the building is for sale.

(Continued on page 21)

Village leaders hope bringing a new residential development into a traditionally commercial area could help businesses by attracting new customers. Similar retail and residential mixed uses can be found throughout the downtown areas of many northwest suburbs, including Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and Skokie.

"Ultimately, we may still have the Sportmart property that could be used for commercial or office space. A successful residential development in this location could be an impetus for commercial buildings on that corner," Anderson said. "It might make that remaining acreage more attractive to a developer."

Trustee Judy Abruscato voted against hiring Teska, asking why village staff can't draft its own conceptual plans.

"I'm kind of hesitant to spend \$4,900 for someone to tell us to have a mixed development when that's what we've been discussing for the last year," Abruscato said. Trustees Bob Heer and Wayne Wisinski were absent.

Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said he will notify the board at a special meeting Monday as to when the conceptual plans can be expected from Teska.

# Village board may move to put meetings on cable TV

By Bob McKee

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials might get into show business.

It wouldn't exactly be Hollywood, but village board meetings televised on Wheeling's public access cable station.

The idea is under consideration by officials because broadcasting meetings is seen as a way to let residents who can't make it to village hall know what issues are being addressed by the board, officials say.

"I would be in favor of it because it brings accountability to the living room," said Trustee Robert J. Heer. "People will see how their trustees act."

Trustees are viewing tapes of two recent meetings and might decide by August whether meetings will be broadcast regularly on TCI of Illinois Channel 6. It would cost the village \$5,880 for 1-800 Mr. Video Inc. of Schaumburg to film the board's two monthly meetings.

"(The money) would be worth it for them to see how the meetings go," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Schultz said she was pleased with the two tapes and thinks residents would be interested in televised meetings.

If the board approves, Schultz added, the village would probably begin televising the meetings soon after the decision. It might take until the Friday after a meeting is held for it to be broadcast.

The taped meetings would be televised by village staff members with the use of new equipment that was recently purchased to improve its public access channel. Staff members are now training on the equipment, which was installed last month and cost less than \$10,000. While video tapes are not being aired, the equipment enables the village to post information such as what will be discussed at upcoming meetings and the phone numbers of elected officials.

# Villages tussle over land for gas station

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposed Amoco station would get its water and sewer service from Buffalo Grove.

The money would be made from gas pumps in Buffalo Grove, though most of the land where the station is targeted is in Wheeling.

So, Buffalo Grove thinks it would be easier and fairer if all the approximately four acres on the southwest corner of Lake-Cook and McHenry roads would become part of its village.

But even though Buffalo Grove would split the sales tax with the village, Wheeling officials say they don't agree with giving part of the village to their neighbor.

Doing so, said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, would not only mean losing land

and property taxes, but it is not certain that the village would always receive sales tax money from the property because the station may not always remain in business.

The station should just be located in one village because it would be too difficult to operate it from two, said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling. For instance, he added, the station would get its utilities from Buffalo Grove, but Wheeling would have to be responsible for storm water drainage.

"It makes sense," Balling said.

Buffalo Grove believes that it should get the business because the mini-mart and pumps would be located on what is now its land and it would provide sewer and water service to the station, Balling said.

Buffalo Grove is proposing to split sales tax generated from the station with Wheeling, but it would collect the property tax to pay for services, such as police and fire protection, it would provide, Balling said.

"We felt that would be a fair approach," Balling added.

Though Wheeling doesn't agree with giving the land to Buffalo Grove, it does support a gas station on land that now contains two old houses and a wood chip business, Schultz said.

Balling said the village must work out an agreement with its neighbor before the project can go forward.

The project could be spiked if an agreement isn't reached, Balling said.

But he believes that an agreement can still be struck.

# Wheeling police sound off on workplace

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is evaluating how much its police officers like their jobs.

The village and a private firm conducted a "morale survey" of the department's approximately 60 police officers and 21 dispatchers, records clerks and other civilian employees.

The survey was composed of about 100 multiple choice questions about such issues as work assignments, equipment, and communication between management and employees, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The surveys, created by Stanard & Associates and the village, were administered at a May department meeting, he said. Employees answered the surveys anonymously.

The village expects to get the survey results from the firm this month. The results will be presented to the department and ideas to address concerns will be discussed, Anderson said.

Village board members will also be presented with the results.

Anderson said the survey wasn't spurred by a particular problem, but the village has never conducted a survey of this scale with any department and wants to begin doing so, Anderson said.

"We have heard good things and bad things and this is one way to find out to see where we are really at," Anderson said. "Every once in awhile you need to look at yourself."

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said that with all organizations the department's size that "problems" exist. But when they arise, he said,

the department addresses them.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said it is routine for police departments to conduct such surveys.

Haeger said that in the past he has met with staff members and conducted other surveys to see what they think of the workplace. Anderson said employees also have a chance to comment about the department on their annual performance reviews.

The village had an opportunity to survey the department because Stanard was available and free, Anderson said.

Stanard, whose officials couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday, will use the information for a data base it is compiling. The village created the survey from those used for civilian employees, he said.

# SPACE launches fight for green ones

A local citizens group is doing all it can to preserve open space in the village, something members say is disappearing at a rapid pace. **COUNTRYSIDE**

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

7-18-96

Armed with nearly 800 petitions signed in opposition to a townhouse development proposed for South Milwaukee Avenue, about 40 Wheeling residents marched in protest last week from Whitman School to Village Hall.

Children and adults joined the march, which was sponsored by SPACE (Save Precious Acreage for Citizens and Children's Enjoyment), a residents' group which has been battling the townhouse project for over a year.

To many, though, the deal appears closed.

Trustees in April approved plans to build 40 townhouses on the 7.8-acre site at 134-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., where the Union Hotel once stood. Village staff is negotiating the purchase of the involved properties, which are located in the village's tax increment finance district.

Wheeling School District 21 plans to purchase 1.9 acres of the site to keep as a play area for nearby Whitman School, which the village has said is acceptable.

"We're doing everything we can to save it," said SPACE spokesman Gary Cohn of the open field and the mature trees on the site. Rather than build townhouses, the residents want a mix of retail and



A motorist on Dundee Road checks out a banner being carried by participants in a July 10 march to protest the building of townhouses in the village's tax increment financing district on South Milwaukee Avenue.

residential uses that would leave a three-acre play area for nearby Whitman School students.

On the night of the march, SPACE organizers unveiled a new proposal designed by a Des Plaines architectural firm.

The rough sketch shows retail stores along Milwaukee Avenue, with townhouses or condominiums above the stores. Resident parking would be underground, and a parking lot would be built for store customers. The plan leaves three acres on the

west side of the property as open space for the school or a park.

Village President Sheila Schultz was attending a meeting of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and was not at Village Hall when the petitions were dropped off.

"Their point is (that) it's not over until it's over," said Schultz. "They have repeatedly said they have a commercial developer (for the land) and we're

(Continued on page 22)

## SPACE looking for volunteers

SPACE, a group of Wheeling residents fighting a proposed townhouse development on South Milwaukee Avenue, is looking for volunteers to help save the play field at nearby Whitman School, 133 Wille Ave. Volunteers are needed to maintain a database of supporters, to make phone calls and to circulate petitions. SPACE also is starting an "Election 97" campaign for the Wheeling village president's race and needs volunteers for the above mentioned jobs. For information, residents may contact Gary Cohn, SPACE spokesman, at (847) 272-7737 or e-mail him at SPACE@wheeling.com.

## President awards scholarships

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz on Monday presented two Private Industry Council scholarships to Wheeling residents. Jennifer Sosin was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and Marge Fennell was given a \$500 scholarship.

## WOW van to visit Wheeling

The Cook County Department of Public Health's Mobile Adult Health Clinic, the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) van, together with Cook County Hospital's Mobile Mammography Unit, are scheduled to visit the Wheeling Resource Center, 251 N. Wolf Road, on Aug. 27.

Eligible suburban Cook County residents can receive physical examinations and/or mammograms. Appointments are necessary and can be scheduled by calling the Cook County Department of Public Health at (847) 818-2860 weekdays between 8:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. At the time an appointment is scheduled, financial

screening will be done.

Persons needing accommodation for a disability should contact (847) 818-2860 or TDD for the hearing and speech impaired at (847) 818-2023.

Services offered through the WOW van include health counseling, tests for anemia and diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol screening, tuberculosis testing, immunizations, urinalysis, self-breast exam instruction, pelvic exams and pap smears for women, and prostate and testicular exams for men. Additionally, mammograms will be provided for women 40 years of age and older.

open to that. We would look at a commercial developer but we haven't seen anything — no other proposals — in the past year."

SPACE organizers hope to show the alternate proposal to trustees soon.

"We have to get them to consider the alternate plan," Cohn said.

Since residents first voiced their opposition to the townhouses, Schultz said, the village has met with residents and School District 21 to work out an acceptable plan. During the year, the proposal was scaled down from 48 to 40 townhouses and a land purchase was verbally agreed upon by the school district.

"This is something the school is satisfied with," Schultz said of the district's plan to purchase 1.9 acres of the site to maintain as Whitman School's play area. "We feel the plan as presented is a good one, and the school district thinks it's a good plan."

Residents disagree, and say the village has not been open to looking at new plans.

"It's a matter of cooperation," said SPACE member Gary Hittleman. "We think they should have looked at a lot of different developers and be more sympathetic to the area."

Harvey Blender, a Center Street resident who has a child attending Whitman School, said the play area the school provides is "totally 100 percent inadequate."

He joined the July 10 march to "make people aware there are some injustices being hoisted upon them as a community and make them aware the students deserve to have space. This new plan is a much better use, with residential and the much-needed retail shops along Milwaukee

Avenue," Blender said.

"What's it mean to be a Tree City USA when you cut down the best trees?" he asked. "I'd like the village to take a good, serious look at this. This (protest) is not just a few people. It's not an aberration."

Lynn Pearson-Graham doesn't live near Whitman School, but she is concerned about the dwindling amount of open space left in the village.

"This is something the school is satisfied with. We feel the plan as presented is a good one, and the school district thinks it's a good plan."

"I've been a Wheeling resident for 36 years," Pearson-Graham said. "This is getting to be a bigger problem in the village. It used to be so beautiful here."

Schultz is eager for the TIF improvements to get under way and believes the townhouses would spruce up the appearance of Milwaukee Avenue and spur economic development. The residents who eventually move into the townhouses would be within walking distance of retail stores and restaurants.

"I understand people's reluctance to give up what's been a back yard for them, but people have a right to develop their property," Schultz said.

To that, SPACE member Mary Mozal said, "This is not somebody's back yard. This is a school yard."

# New garbage contract may bring change in services

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

7-18-96  
Wheeling trustees will be scrutinizing prices and services when they negotiate a new garbage collection contract to start in January, which could result in a change of service to residents.

The current contract with Waste Management North-west expires Dec. 31, but company officials have asked for first dibs to renew the contract before the village looks at other haulers.

"I feel we have a good service level and would like to sit down with staff and see if we can come to an agreement," John Boyer of Waste Management recently told trustees. "You always have the option of going out for bids afterward," if a contract is not successfully negotiated.

The key to negotiating a new contract is for trustees to decide what level of service they and their residents want, Boyer said.

Trustees need to decide if they want pick-ups once or twice a week, whether the yard-waste hauling season should change, and if the recycling program should be expanded. One trustee suggested giving senior citizens a discount.

Trustees on July 1 verbally agreed to seek proposals from area waste haulers, including Waste Management. They then would compare those proposals with a price list compiled by the Solid Waste

Agency of Northern Cook County about a year and a half ago.

Many municipalities use the SWANCC price list as a benchmark, Boyer told trustees.

"If you're satisfied with the current service, I'd recommend you use that as a benchmark. The choice is yours," Boyer said. "We have a service commitment to the village of Wheeling and have a vested interest in keeping that."

"I have no problem cost-justifying my expenses. We know we have to be competitive," Boyer said.

SWANCC determined in its study that Laidlaw Waste Systems, Inc. is the most economical hauler for Region 3, which includes Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights, Palatine and Arlington Heights.

But Boyer said Waste Management's prices compare favorably to Laidlaw for the same service provided.

"It's just a matter of matching service to price," Boyer said. "I'll make sure my prices are within the benchmark of SWANCC. Otherwise you can find a new hauler."

David Pinter, marketing general manager for Laidlaw, said his company is interested in serving Wheeling and plans to submit a proposal.

"Laidlaw is very interested in following through on the request for proposals process. Wheeling is a strategic community for us, geographically speaking," he said, noting that

neighboring Prospect Heights contracted with Laidlaw last year based on the SWANCC pricing.

Pinter said Wheeling, too, could save time by following the lead of Prospect Heights.

"The work of getting proposals has already been done by SWANCC," he said. "Many, many hours of work went into that pricing and it really saves staff a lot of time."

Since SWANCC lists Laidlaw as the most economical hauler for the Wheeling area, Pinter said, it will be interesting to see with what prices proposals are submitted.

"I would prefer Wheeling would bypass the (request for proposals) process and adopt the SWANCC pricing. We have to hope they can't come down to our prices," Pinter said. "Laidlaw really is a residential-based collection firm and we're more efficient. We're able to pass those cost savings onto the municipalities."

Regardless of which firm is chosen, Trustee Judy Abruscato wants to include two pick-ups a week for garbage collection in the new contract.

"Garbage lying there from week to week becomes a health hazard," as some residents don't bag their garbage or keep their trash bin lids shut, Abruscato said. "I've always liked the twice a week pick-up."

Residents have semiweekly pick-up during the winter months. In summer, Waste Management picks up garbage once a week and yard waste once a week.

## Wheeling human rights panel prepares its strategies

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-18-96  
A Wheeling commission next week will begin planning how it will work with the community on understanding and respecting its diversity.

The village's human rights commission will meet for the first time since it was created in September to serve as a voluntary forum to solve discrimination problems and educate residents about differences.

"How they are going to do that is what they will be working on," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

It is envisioned that the group will be a forum for people to voluntarily remedy discrimination complaints.

The commission probably would work to resolve issues of housing discrimination spurred by age or race, or help someone who wasn't given a job because of gender.

Where conciliation of a problem can't be achieved, the commission would provide information to people so they could seek a solution through legal means.

Schultz said the commission would also be a vehicle for the village to collaborate with other organizations, such as schools and churches, in promoting a better understanding of diversity.

And education might preclude discrimination problems in the future, Schultz said.

"The point is to create a good climate, not necessarily catching (someone) doing something wrong," Schultz said.

There are Cook County and state human rights commissions, but Schultz thinks that having one at the local level should provide people with a venue that is more familiar and has less of a backlog of cases.

"It gives people ... a local place to see if they have a valid complaint and provide some help," Schultz said. "It's dealing with our own people ... It's a good way of keeping in touch with what is happening."

## Schultz: Village on course with '2000 and Beyond' project

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

7-18-96  
Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz says a recent conference she attended confirms that the village is on the right track with its "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" project.

The village embarked on the strategic improvement plan in October 1995. Trustees hired Denniston Consulting Group of Naperville for \$22,000 to facilitate the project. Recommendations from the seven committees are expected shortly.

"It reinforced the idea that we'll all be better off by working together," said Schultz of the four-day Impact seminar in Flint, Mich. About 30 leaders from Illinois municipalities, schools, libraries and businesses participated in the community-focused conference.

"The end result is really a partnership concept when all of the entities people deal with in the community work together," she said.

Before the first "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" organizational meeting was held in October, village officials recruited an executive committee for the project enlisting leaders of

schools, churches, the Chamber of Commerce, Lexington Health Care Center and the Wheeling Park District.

Residents were encouraged to attend the initial two meetings, voice their concerns about the village's image and volunteer to work on a committee. The seven committees — economic development, marketing and image, education, infrastructure, government, community diversity/cultural integration and community services — were formed based on residents' comments.

Since November, the various committees have been meeting to brainstorm recommendations that can improve the village.

"The committees have already put in their preliminary recommendations," Schultz said. Currently, the Denniston Group is organizing the recommendations into a report that will be presented to the community, possibly as early as next month. Schultz is not yet sure in what manner that presentation will be made.

"Some of the recommendations will be handled by the village. Some will be handed out to the business community, the parks, the

(Continued on page 21)

## Project

Continued from page 8

schools and the library," she said. "It's very interesting to see how the observations emerging are very interconnected. It'll be exciting to see it pulled all together."

At the seminar, Schultz said, several types of community interaction were highlighted. For example, one high school also housed the community's senior center, allowing seniors to eat lunch with the students and interact with them on a daily basis.

"It covered the whole gamut of needs in the community — child care, literacy, churches," she said. "We may need to look at things differently than we had in the past."

Schultz said the recent trip was particularly beneficial in light of the approaching finale to the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" project.

"It was a very good time for me to go because so much of it fit in with what we're trying to do," she said. "It was fun, but a lot of hard work, too."

"We need to get into the mindset not of 'Somebody should do this,' but 'I can do this,' and that's what those involved in the project have been doing," Schultz added.

# Investigation continues into fatal Fourth crash

COUNTRYSIDE 7-18-96

Wheeling police have yet to determine what caused a fatal accident at the village's Fourth of July celebration. While they work to find an answer, others are reaching out to help the victims.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

As Wheeling police continue to investigate the fatal accident that occurred July 4, residents are collecting money to help the victim's family pay for funeral costs.

**‘It’s important to give money to the slain boy’s family, but it’s important to give to the others who were injured as well.’**

The village of Wheeling and the Wheeling Resource Center have set up a memorial fund for the family of 11-year-old Gustavo Del Real, who was killed when a car driven by Norman Jahnke, 83, of Wheeling, mysteriously lunged into a crowd gathered to watch the village's fireworks display.

Jahnke told police he started the

car and put it into gear when it suddenly leaped forward. He could not be reached for comment.

Police have been working with Jahnke's insurance company, General Motors and a private engineering firm to have the car tested for mechanical malfunctions that may have contributed to the cause of the accident.

"The car is still impounded," said Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes. "It'll probably be the end of this week or the beginning of next week" before all parties can schedule a time to inspect the car.

"That is the next step in the investigation. We'll have to wait and see if they can come up with anything," Hermes added.

Residents can make contributions to the Memorial Fund for the Family of Gustavo Del Real at Hoyne Savings Bank, 699 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling. For information about donating, contact the bank at (847) (Continued on page 22)

## ■ Crash *Continued from page 5*

459-1150.

"There were many requests coming in to the village as to what we could do," said Village President Sheila Schultz, adding that the Resource Center originated the fund and asked for the village's assistance.

Schultz and other village leaders attended Del Real's wake last week and offered their condolences to his family.

The Winnetka Rotary Club, of which Jahnke is a senior member, plans to give a donation to the victims, but members there are debating how that should be done.

Club President Don Van Arsdale said the Rotary wants to give a donation, but he said members prefer that it benefit all the victims, as well as the

Del Real family.

"It's important to give money to the slain boy's family, but it's important to

**‘It’s important to give money to the slain boy’s family, but it’s important to give to the others who were injured as well.’**

to the others who were injured as well," he said. Van Arsdale said he is checking with the bank and the village to determine whether the money will be divided among the victims, and if so, how.

# Village weighs cost of hiring officers

7-19-96

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is considering whether to accept a federal grant that would add more police to the village's streets but would also require money out of its pocket.

The village in May was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Justice Department that would pick up part of the cost of hiring two new officers.

Officials are now considering whether to accept the grant, which would require the village to pay about \$216,000 for both officers over a three-year period.

The village would then begin paying the entire salary amount in the fourth year.

The grant, for which the department applied, is part of the 1994 Crime Act that promised \$8 billion to departments, primarily to hire 100,000 officers by 2000.

The village's cost of hiring the two new officers is one issue that officials are certain to consider while deciding if the grant will be accepted, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The grant covers about 64 percent of an officer's salary and benefits for the first year, about 42 percent for

the second and about 20 percent of the third year, with the village paying for the remainder of the cost.

Over a three-year period, the grant would pay \$75,000 for each officer, with the village paying \$107,734 for each during the same time. The village after three years would be required to pay the entire salary and benefits of the officers, which in the third year is \$65,925.

Anderson said another issue the board will consider is whether the two officers are needed on the 60-officer force.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the two officers are needed in

the department and would be used to re-establish a full-time tactical unit. The unit is used for such problems as gang activity.

About 18 months ago, the department had to take part of the time of two tactical officers for street duty because emergency calls had increased, Haeger added. The third tactical officer was transferred to another division — the problem-oriented policing unit.

The board is expected to discuss whether the two officers should be hired at its committee of the whole meeting at 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

# Grant to help pay for Wheeling officers

7-29-96

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials this week decided to accept a federal grant and add two more police officers to the village's force.

The board in a 4-2 vote decided to accept a \$150,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Justice Department that will share the cost of hiring the officers.

The village during a three-year period will pay about \$216,000 for both officers, who are expected to be hired in September and possibly January.

Board members who wanted to

add the officers said the chance to add the officers and have the federal government pay for a portion of the cost was a good opportunity.

"We should take the two officers and the (grant) dollars," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "We should take advantage of it."

The grant is part of the 1994 Crime Act that promised \$8 billion to departments, primarily to hire 100,000 officers by 2000.

The grant covers about 64 percent of an officer's salary and benefits for the first year, about 42 percent for the second and about 20 percent of the third, with the village paying for the remainder

of the cost.

The grant would pay \$75,000 for each officer, with the village paying \$107,734 for each during that time. The village after three years would be required to pay the entire salary and benefits of the officers, which in the third year is \$65,925 for each.

Whether the village was hiring the officers because it needed them or just to take advantage of the grant was questioned by Trustee Patrick Horcher. Trustee Wayne Wisinski also supported hiring just one officer.

Horcher said that Wheeling probably didn't need both officers because originally the village

wanted to use half of the grant money to pay for an officer it recently hired and then add another to the 60-officer force. The grant could not be used to pay for an existing officer.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the two officers are needed in the department, which is gradually receiving more calls for help.

Haeger said the department plans to get the input of a citizens' advisory committee on what areas the extra officers should focus.

"We as the police have a perception of what we should be addressing," Haeger said. "But they may have a different viewpoint."



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Doug Loftus, of the Cook County Sheriff's Department, oversees members of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program Saturday as they work at the Wheeling Public Works garage. Only nonviolent offenders are eligible for a SWAP sentence.

## Escaping the joint by working the streets

**A Cook County program that keeps nonviolent offenders out of jail is also helping local communities.**

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER  
7-18-96

While many people choose to putter around in their yards on the weekend and enjoy the summer weather, others have little choice.

Those in the Cook County Sheriff's Work Alternative Program fall into the latter category.

Last weekend, the crews came to Wheeling. About 30 nonviolent offenders on board a Cook County Sheriff's Department bus were brought to the Wheeling Fire Department to receive their job assignments for a Saturday and Sunday of hard labor.

The offenders, convicted of various misdemeanor crimes, work off their sentences with labor-intensive, outdoor work instead of sitting in a jail cell.

### It's too crowded

The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program, called SWAP, was started in May 1991 by Cook County Sheriff Michael F. Sheahan as a way to relieve crowding in the county jail.

The program has grown every year, and more than 8,000 offenders participated in 1995, according to Bill Cunningham, a sheriff's spokesman.

"They have worked in almost every suburb in Cook County," said Cunningham. "We let the suburban leaders know we have this labor source available to them for no charge."

"It has helped a lot of communities defray labor costs and saves tax dollars because the



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Leftover from the late May flooding, sandbags are emptied Saturday by members of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program. The Cook County Sheriff's Department offers the crews as free labor to municipalities.

governments don't have to pay for the labor," he added.

The crews perform a variety of public works-type jobs, from collecting litter along the expressways to cleaning up after a parade.

This is the second time this summer Wheeling has used the SWAP crews, said Rich Kinzel, assistant public works director for the village. The first weekend was June 8 and 9, (Continued on page 19)

## Program *Continued from page 9*

and the crews are expected back Aug. 10 and 11.

### What a relief

"It's essentially a community service," said Kinzel. "It helps us out a great deal, picking up trash along the thoroughfares. It takes a lot of the burden of us."

Last weekend, Kinzel said, the crews picked up garbage, emptied sand bags used in the recent flooding of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and washed village vehicles.

**'It's great free labor. We really benefit from that.'**

"It's great free labor. We really benefit from that," he said.

Cunningham said the majority of the work crews have been sentenced to SWAP on charges of driving under the influence or possession of small amounts of illegal drugs. Only nonviolent offenders are eligible for the program. (The Sheriff's Department does not allow the workers or the deputies to be interviewed.)

"They have to be sentenced into the program by a judge, but many times, if the offender knows of the program, his attorney will request that sentencing," he said. "If someone is convicted of a

DUI, and the judge sentences him to 100 hours in the program, he comes to us and we examine his economic condition."

For those who need to work during the week, the program is flexible enough to allow the offenders to serve their sentence on weekends. The program operates all year, through the heat of summer and the chilling winds of winter.

### Good behavior

Though residents may be concerned about convicted offenders working in their communities, Cunningham said the program is problem-free.

"In the five years (the program has been in existence), we've never had any problem with the workers or with anyone trying to escape," he said, noting that the workers are supervised at all times by specially trained sheriff's deputies.

A study of the Cook County SWAP done two years ago showed that less than 5 percent of the DUI offenders sentenced to the program are ever again arrested for DUI, even though many of them come to the program with more than one DUI conviction on their record.

"I think a lot of judges feel if they can get them into the program, they won't be repeat offenders," Cunningham said.

## NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REPORT

### Dist. 21 officials irked by construction delays at elementary school

7-19-96

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 officials are upset by a delay in construction at Tarkington Elementary School they said resulted when Wheeling building inspectors demanded last-minute changes to the project.

District 21 officials Thursday said they were surprised by late demands to improve the school's meter and valve system.

Inspectors say the meter and valve system, which is one of the building's mechanical systems, should comply with village's building codes.

The demands, made late last week, have stalled work at the building at 310 Scott St. until the district can find a contractor to make the changes, school officials said.

"I think as a school board we ought to express our disappointment with the village over the communications so in the future the district can plan appropriately," said District 21 Board Member Norman I. Kutz.

District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said they had a tentative building permit for the project and weren't told previously the other improvements were needed.

The district is remodeling Tarkington's gymnasium and learning center, among other improvements.

That work is a part of a multi-

**"I don't think many of us are surprised. This happens all the time."**

— Cari Beecher,  
District 21 board member

year, \$18.7 million upgrade of District 21 schools.

The system changes the district has to make could cost an additional \$13,000. The building contractor for the Tarkington project won't continue its work until those changes are made, DesCarpentrie said.

He added that if the district were to sue the village, the litigation could delay Tarkington's Aug. 27 opening.

"We're up against a time commitment," he said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said late Thursday she was unaware of the matter but would look into it.

District officials said the village's elected officials probably weren't aware of the demands made by village inspectors.

DesCarpentrie said the village is treating the district the same way it treats commercial developers.

"I don't think many of us are surprised. This happens all the time," District 21 board member Cari Beecher said.

# Driver in July 4 crash won't face criminal charges

7-23-76

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

No criminal charges will be filed against the driver of the car that turned Wheeling's Fourth of July fireworks show into a tragedy, but he was given two traffic tickets.

Police found Norman Jahnke, 83, of Wheeling, didn't intend for his car to race out of its parking spot and into a crowd of spectators, killing a boy and injuring seven others. But he was cited with improperly starting his car and failing to

reduce speed to avoid an accident, said Wheeling Police Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes.

However, the family of 11-year-old Gustavo Del Real, who was killed after Jahnke's 1986 Buick Electra struck him while he sat on a curb watching the festivities, was not satisfied with the investigation's outcome.

"We're disappointed. We just feel there is a failure in the system," said Gustavo's aunt, Raquel Del Real, of the boy's hometown of Chicago. "He just didn't make a

traffic mistake, he injured a lot of people."

Since the July 4 accident, Wheeling police have been searching for the reason why Jahnke's car shot out of its parking spot at the Wheeling Park District Recreation Center and struck a parking island, a tree, three cars and eight people before



Gustavo Del Real

it stopped, pinning a woman underneath.

Jahnke said the car accelerated for unknown reasons after he put it into gear. Witnesses said they heard the car's engine race.

Police last Friday had the car inspected by a private engineer and representatives from General Motors to determine if a mechanical failure caused the accident, Hermes said. After three hours of checking the accelerator, carburetor, cruise control and brakes, the car was found to be, without

defects, he added.

But police still can't rule out that a mechanical failure occurred the night of the accident, Hermes said.

"They can't say for sure that (the accelerator) did stick or can't say for sure it didn't stick," he added.

Jahnke could not be reached for comment Monday.

Wheeling police initially sought legal advice from the Cook County State's Attorney about the crash, but later said they weren't planning

See DRIVER on Page 4

# No criminal charge in July 4 accident

7-23-76

By Tracy Dell'Angela  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

An 83-year-old Wheeling man will not face criminal charges in the accident that killed one Chicago boy and injured eight other spectators at a Fourth of July celebration, Wheeling police announced Monday.

Norman Jahnke told police that a sudden acceleration made him lose control of his 1986 Buick while he was pulling out of the

Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center.

His car hit a group of spectators who were heading home after a fireworks show, authorities said.

Gustavo Del Real, 11, of Chicago died of injuries when he was struck by Jahnke's car. Kathleen Arbor, 53, of Wheeling and Ramaulde Gallegos, 23, of Palatine remained in critical condition Monday at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge.

The car was inspected by independent engineers, who found no defects in the car, police said. An investigation showed that Jahnke had not been drinking or using drugs at the time of the accident and that he did not have a medical condition that would have impaired his driving.

Jahnke faces two traffic charges: improper starting of a parked vehicle and failure to reduce speed to avert a collision.

# expected in July 4 accident

Continued from Page 1

to seek criminal charges, said Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Kevin Moore.

And the office agreed, Hermes said, that the investigation had not revealed that Jahnke's actions warranted criminal charges.

"There was never any intent on his part," Hermes said. "We just had an unfortunate, tragic accident."

Meanwhile, two of the seven people who were hospitalized in the crash remain at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Gustavo Del Real's uncle, Ramauldo Gallegos, 23, of Pala-

tine, has been upgraded from critical to serious, according to hospital nursing supervisor Carol Knutsen.

The condition of Katherine A. Arbor, 54, of Wheeling, has improved from critical to fair, Knutsen said.

Jahnke must appear Aug. 30 in Cook County Circuit Court in Rolling Meadows.

The most Jahnke could possibly be fined for each of the two citations is \$500, Hermes said. It is not possible for Jahnke to lose his license or have it suspended, he added.

Staff Writer Dan Rozek contributed to this report.

# Village hires consultant to develop plans for land

7-19-76

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For about six years, Wheeling has tried to improve an eyesore in its old downtown.

But the right plan has yet to be presented, so Wheeling will show developers exactly what they want built.

The village is hiring a consultant to design a development plan for 7.5 acres on the west side of Milwaukee Avenue, north of Dundee Road.

Wheeling in 1985 established a Tax Increment Financing District to improve the property and other areas at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, the village's old downtown.

As part of its effort to improve the area, the village bought several parcels that compose the 7.5 acres that once housed a couple of homes and businesses.

The village since 1980 has tried to sell the now-vacant land to a developer. Although plans have been presented, officials didn't think they were appropriate.

"You certainly don't want to put up a new building that isn't successful," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

And officials think that having a proposed plan on hand might attract more developers because it will be known exactly what the village wants built on the land.

"When developers come they can exactly see what is wanted," Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said.

Officials are now considering a mix of residences and businesses, possibly including a four- to six-story building, built on the land.

In the event a developer proposes a desirable plan, the land will probably be sold. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The village board this week decided to have Teska Associates Inc. of Evanston draft three concept plans for the property for \$4,900.

Schultz said plans could probably be drafted by village staff but it might be more expensive.

But Trustee Judy Abruscato objected to spending the money because the village has already discussed building both homes and businesses on the land.

"I think we have enough information without spending the money," Abruscato added.

# 4 officers dispute sergeant's exam

7-23-76

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Four Wheeling police officers claim that part of a promotion exam was riddled with mistakes — chiefly how it was graded.

But the company hired to run the test to evaluate how candidates would perform as supervisors at the 81-person department says that the officers were judged fairly.

The disputes over the sergeant's exam mark the first time in 14 years that Wheeling police promotion test results were appealed, said Police Chief Michael Haeger.

Wheeling's police and fire commission this week heard more than three hours of testimony from the four officers and the president of Resource Management Associates, which specially designed and ran the test for Wheeling. Three of the officers didn't pass a portion of the exam and one did.

The part of the exam under scrutiny is the "assessment center," which is a series of four exercises that test for supervisory abilities in such situations as staff meetings and large crime scenes. That portion of the exam was taken by 10 officers in June. The officers' main con-

tention with the assessment center is how it was scored. For instance, Officer Mark McInerney said he was told by a test administrator that he failed the exam partially because he was supposedly unsure of himself, saying "if" too many times in one of the exercises. McInerney said he used the word "if" would not be a basis for a deduction on the exam and McInerney's grade was probably based on something else, said Charles Hale, president of the South Holland-based company.

He told commissioners the exam was run properly.

"I was there and I didn't see any mistakes made," Hale said. McInerney is joined by officers Michael Kirby, Joseph Dawson and Terry Glynn in the appeal. Glynn, who passed the exam, could not be reached for comment to explain why he is appealing.

Commissioners will review the guidelines for administering the test this week then decide if more information is needed before making a decision, said Village Attorney James A. Rhoades. The next portion of the process, an interview, will be delayed until a decision has been made on the appeals, Haeger said.

# Todd resigns from Wheeling board; Selander fills post

7-23-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

fill Todd's seat.

Todd, 38, said he is in the process of selling his home and will move to Schaumburg so that he can live in the same community as his mother and two sisters.

"It's strictly family," Todd said.

The eight-year resident has served on the board for three years and prior to that held a spot on the Wheeling Park District board for two years. Officials said Todd's departure will be a loss for the community.

"Some other municipalities will gain and it will be our loss," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

After being involved in bringing to Wheeling such things as the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center and Metra's new North Cen-



Bob Todd

tral Service commuter line, Todd said leaving the village "really hurts." "The toughest part is just leaving and not being involved anymore," Todd said.

Todd added that he plans to get involved in his new community.

Selander will serve the remainder of Todd's term, which ends in April.

Selander, who was elected to the clerk's position in April 1993, was nominated because of her knowledge of current village issues, Schultz said.

Schultz said the village needs to fill the clerk's position within 60 days.

In her new position as trustee, the 16-year Wheeling resident wants to help keep "the community moving forward."

Selander, who is a homemaker and mother of three children, said the fact she was selected for a position for which she failed to get elected should not be an issue because the board nominated her unanimously.

## WHEELING

### Trustee leaves village; board elects a successor

TRIBUNE - 7-24-96

When Trustee Bob Todd informed his colleagues on the Village Board that he was moving out of Wheeling and therefore would be resigning his seat, his lone request was that there be no gaps in service to the community.

So, at Monday night's meeting, the Village Board accepted Todd's resignation and elected Village Clerk Jeanne Duvall Selander to serve the remainder of his term.

Todd, 38, is moving to Schaumburg after three years as a village trustee and two years on the board of the Wheeling Park District. Todd said he plans to get involved in Schaumburg government and that it "hurts" to leave the village.

Todd said the board's biggest achievement during his tenure was securing commuter train service along the Wisconsin Central Railroad and the planned construction of a train station.

Selander, whose former job included compiling official minutes of board meetings, was sworn in on the spot.

Patrick O'Toole

# Sharp memory led to suspect's arrest

7-19-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Computer created 'lifelike' suspect sketch - Page 6

Richard Benbow was lounging around home Tuesday when he saw something on TV that made him jump into his work clothes and head for the office.

What the Wheeling detective saw was a remarkably detailed composite sketch of a man — mid-40ish, glasses, brown hair — who was suspected of abducting a teenage girl from the Woodfield Shopping Center parking lot and assaulting her.

Benbow hadn't seen a photo of Robert R. Koppa for about 1½ years.

But the composite, shown on a late morning WLS-TV, Channel 7, news program, nagged at a dormant memory. And then, "the light bulb went off," said the 30-year-old investigator.

It was that snippet of memory that led Schaumburg police only six hours later to Koppa's arrest. Koppa, 47, of Palatine Township, now is being held on charges he grabbed a 17-year-old Bloomingdale girl from the mall parking lot and sexually abused her in a secluded wooded area near Wauconda.

On Thursday, Benbow tried to explain how a mug shot he had seen briefly 18 months ago — amid probably hundreds he has seen in

his career — could come back to him when it counted.

"This type of person sticks in your mind," Benbow said. "He is a person I have tried to remember."

"As a police officer he is someone you should remember."

Koppa moved to unincorporated Wheeling after he was paroled in February 1995, having served almost 15 years for abducting and murdering a 15-year-old Chicago girl. His parole officer provided Wheeling police with a mug shot and other information.

After he moved into the community, Wheeling investigators found out everything they could about Koppa.

They knew what he looked like.

They knew Koppa drove a 1986 brown Trans-Am with a bent antenna and Bensenville vehicle sticker.

Most of all, they knew Koppa's record. Aside from the February 1980 murder, it included two years in jail between 1977 and 1979 for deviant sexual assault, and also serving time for sexually assaulting a woman in January 1980, and kidnapping a woman in April 1980.

"You look at his past record (and realize) there is a strong indication

it could happen (again) in the future," Benbow said.

At home on Tuesday, his suspicions rising, Benbow tried calling other Wheeling investigators to help him check it out. But everyone was out of the office.

So Benbow went into work about noon, three hours before his shift started, and looked at the Koppa information himself. It was Benbow's sixth anniversary as a police officer.

What Benbow saw at the station confirmed it for him. He quickly called Schaumburg police, fearful that Koppa might leave town if he saw his sketch on TV.

Schaumburg "jumped" on it, he said. Police were waiting for Koppa at his apartment at 5 p.m., and arrested him.

Seeing the sketch on TV wasn't luck, Benbow said.

If he hadn't seen it there, Benbow thinks he would have spotted Koppa later in a sketch at the station house or in the newspaper. And if he didn't make the connection, Benbow believes another Wheeling investigator would have.

Still, for his role in the case, Benbow probably will be recognized by the department, said Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes.

"We're kind of proud of him on



Detective Richard Benbow, 30, has spent his entire law enforcement career with the Wheeling Police Department.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

his good work," Hermes said. "Here's a guy that did his job ... Rich did a heck of a job just by remembering."

But police work, Benbow thinks, is about everyone just pulling together.

# Village gets grant for more cops

A federal grant will allow Wheeling to add two police officers to its current force, but the officers probably won't hit the streets until 1997.

By CHERI BENRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
7-25-96

Wheeling trustees on Monday voted to accept a federal grant that allows the village to add two police officers to its force.

But the decision to increase the Police Department's patrol power didn't come easily, considering the village had three options to consider in their debate on accepting the grant.

In addition to the option of accepting a \$150,000 grant to pay for partial salaries and benefits for two officers over the next three years, trustees also had the choice of accepting \$75,000 for the hiring of just one officer or rejecting the grant and hiring more officers only when the village deemed it necessary.

"The general sentiment of the board is that it would be nice to have additional officers, but you also must realize (that) this is an on-going expense for the village," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

The debate centered on the fact that Wheeling just hired a new patrol officer May 1. Although most two weeks later, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded the village the COPS Universal Hiring Program grant, funds from which are restricted to adding new officers to the

current force.

Police Chief Michael Haeger wrote the U.S. Justice Department asking whether the funds could be applied toward the salary and benefits of the officer hired May 1. That request was denied, but Haeger told trustees he would like to accept the grant anyway and hire two officers.

"For the 1996-97 budget year, we asked for four officers; we got one," said Haeger. "The year before, we asked for three or four more officers. We anticipate there is a need" for two additional officers.

Once the Concord townhouse and single-family development is built on the village's south side, Haeger said, he plans to realign patrol beats, creating six rather than the current five.

"It probably would be prudent to enter into a program to help us pay for that, as it appears he'll be asking for at least one more officer next year," said Trustee Wayne Wisniski, noting that he would have preferred to accept the grant for just one officer.

Trustees accepted the grant for two officers with Wisniski and Trustee Pat Horcher voting against the motion.

The goal of the COPS program is to put an additional 100,000 officers on the streets nationwide, in hopes that they will become permanent force members, a letter from the Justice Department stated. Haeger said the new officer would not be hired until late this year or early 1997.

# Metra gets towns ready for new line

## Safety at crossings is officials' concern

By Lisa Black  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

When Metra rail commuters show up at stations along the new Wisconsin Central line on Aug. 19, "safety teams" will be standing by, taking notes on how well the commuters adhere to railroad safety laws and documenting any dangerous patterns.

The teams of Metra staff, municipal leaders and police want to know where to target enforcement efforts in communities where it has been 40 years since the last passenger train rolled through.

The teams are among the safety precautions that began in January in preparation for the eight daily trains on the Wisconsin Central line.

The new North Central line will run from Antioch south, stopping in Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Grayslake, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights on the way to downtown Chicago.

Metra also plans to make presentations to students at 45 schools and has started training police and firefighters on how to respond to train accidents.

"We'll look at people's habits, the things people do and the chances they take," Dennis S. Mogan, director of Metra's Safety and Rules Department in Chicago, said at a briefing this week at the new Buffalo Grove station.

During the first week of North Central line operations, the safety teams will greet commuters with coffee, danishes and a two-minute videotape that will make it uncomfortably clear why one should not try to beat a train. The tape includes real-life footage of a pedestrian who was hit by a train, but it only shows the drama to moments before impact.

"It boils down to this: Leave the house 30 seconds earlier," Mogan said.

Safety teams have been visiting stations monthly and weekly

SEE METRA, PAGE 6

# Metra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for three years, he said.

This year, authorities have begun issuing warnings about a new state law that fines people a minimum of \$500 or assigns them 50 hours of community service if they are convicted of driving or walking around a lowered crossing gate.

The law was in the making two years ago but received heightened emphasis after the Oct. 25 accident between a commuter train and a school bus in Fox River Grove. Seven students died, and nearly two dozen were injured.

"The bus accident appeared to be the catalyst to get the communities more involved in enforce-

ment," Mogan said.

The safety teams also have taken steps to remedy dangerous situations, such as one at a school bus transfer site at a station on the Metra-Union Pacific North line. Students were crossing railroad tracks to get on another bus, Mogan said.

In another case, along the Metra-Rock Island line, commuters huddled in their cars in a parking lot on the opposite side of the tracks from the boarding platform.

Then, when a train appeared, people rushed to put their coins in the parking box, and then charged toward the train in a mad dash across the tracks as the train bore down on them, Mogan said.

"We moved the coin box to the other side of the tracks," on the boarding platform, to encourage commuters to cross the tracks well before the train arrived, Mogan said.

Safety also has been a concern to local police and fire departments unaccustomed to dealing with passenger train accidents.

In Wheeling, Police Cpl. Thomas Lorenz has helped Metra conduct classes for public safety officers from the 10 communities along the line. Six more classes are

scheduled Saturday.

The officers spend part of their time on a train, learning how to cut off the fuel flow and finding the valve to open train doors.

"This is going to be new to everybody," Lorenz said. "People aren't used to seeing commuter trains out here. They're used to seeing a headlight, and they know it's a freight train. Freight trains move a lot slower" than Metra trains.

Metra also sent letters to 34 school districts along the North Central line announcing its safety campaign, and it will give presentations at schools within several miles of the railroad tracks this fall.

In Lake Villa, School District 41 Supt. Alan Simon said he expects to work with the village on safety efforts. The Fox River Grove accident was a reminder of why they are necessary.

"It's a constant thing, but whenever there's an accident, you renew it," Simon said. "It heightens awareness."

For information about the North Central Service line and the accompanying Pace bus service, Metra has established a new phone line, 1-800-41-METRA.

# Area police officers in Atlanta for Olympics all OK after bomb explosion

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Kathy Casstevens got the phone call she wanted Saturday morning. It was her husband, Steven, calling to say he was safe. Anytime he's working, she can't help but worry a little.

On Saturday she had reason to worry a lot. Lt. Steven Casstevens, a Hoffman Estates police officer, is one of 30,000 security personnel working in Atlanta.

"Until he is home I will be concerned for his safety," Kathy Casstevens admitted. "I want him to return and I want our life to be

normal again."

Casstevens, 37, is supervising 39 people who are guarding the entrance to the Olympic Village, where the athletes live.

He's one of several local officers in Atlanta. Wheeling Police Officer Chris Parr, 33, another member of the security force represented by

48 nations, also was unharmed. She called back home Saturday to reassure her family.

Nancy Anderson, wife of Wood Dale police officer Jordan Anderson, said her husband called back to their Elk Grove Village home Saturday to say he was well.

Jordan Anderson is part of the security detail working the canoe-

ing venue. His wife said she was more concerned for her husband's safety in Atlanta than when he is on the job in Wood Dale.

"Wood Dale is a quiet town and a smaller town," she said. "Down there there is an element of people trying to disrupt everything."

# 'Wheeling 2000' gets ready for debut

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is almost finished with its road map to the future.

A stack of recommendations of what the community should do to prepare for the future has been gathered since October through the "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" project.

It is the fruit of the labor of about 100 people — including officials, business leaders and residents — who have met in hundreds of meetings to discuss such issues as government, economic development,

image and diversity.

The suggestions — among them forming an economic development corporation with a full-time director and creating a hotel/convention center near Palwaukee Municipal Airport — will be presented to the project's steering committee next month.

The suggestions will be given to the village, local school districts and the Wheeling Park District, where the actual work of turning the ideas into reality will be done, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

"It can be (the beginning),"

Schultz said. "It's a community effort; it will only happen if the community wants to make it happen."

The ideas were generated from nine committees that focused on such topics as government, economic development of commercial businesses and industry, community image and diversity. The ideas were given to the steering committee last month. The Denniston Consulting Group was hired by the village for \$22,000 to help in the process.

Though "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" is just an advisory program, the process yielded some

helpful information that probably will be put to good use, said Denise Kennedy, a participant in the process and a director with the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"I think the village will do something with this and this just won't be a stack of papers," Kennedy said.

If anything, the process gathered together a cross-section of the community and revealed different concerns and interests.

"We're going to get a better sense of where the community wants to be," Schultz said.

# Cable contracts given

## temporary approval

By Cheri Bentrup

Staff Writer

Changes in federal regulations governing cable television, as well as the thought of entertaining the possibility of offering two cable providers, have complicated contract renewal negotiations for both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Last week, Wheeling trustees extended the village's cable contract with Telenois Cable Inc. to Feb. 1, 1997. Without the extension, the four-year contract was to expire July 31.

"We have begun negotiations with Telenois, and the negotiations will not be completed by that date," Village Manager Craig Anderson told trustees. "There are a number of changes to federal regulations that affect (municipalities) contracts with cable franchises."

Though trustees extended the current cable contract, that action does not preclude the village from looking for other cable providers, Anderson said.

"This (extension) should allow us sufficient time to complete our renewal process," he added.

Likewise, in Buffalo Grove, trustees recently extended the

village's cable contract with Continental Cablevision to allow additional time for contract renewal negotiations. The current contract expires July 27, but has been extended for an unspecified time not to exceed 180 days.

"The reason for the extension is because we entertained Ameritech for a while," said Village Administrative Assistant Phil Versten.

Buffalo Grove officials were hoping Ameritech would submit a service proposal to become the suburb's second cable provider and give residents a choice between companies.

"They (Ameritech) told us they were concerned about Continental's exclusive contract with Warner, who owns HBO," Versten said. "They felt they wouldn't be able to establish a good programming base without HBO."

Versten believes the exclusive contract with HBO expires in 1998.

"Our delay was mostly due to entertaining Ameritech's proposal for a while," he said. "It slowed us down, but we have been moving forward."

"My guess is that we'll have this wrapped up by fall with Continental," Versten added.

### Family fun featured at sidewalk sale

Family fun, including pony rides, a clown, balloon animals and face painting, will be available Friday and Saturday as Lynn Plaza on the northeast corner of Dundee and Old McHenry roads hosts its annual sidewalk sales. Stores open at 10 a.m. both days.

The Wheeling Police Department will hand out information on personal safety for adults and children, as well as bicycle safety tips, including the use of helmets and hand signals.

McGruff the Crime Dog also will be available to talk to children. A special display will be offered by the Wheeling Historical Society. The Park District will be represented by the Aquatic Center's mascot, Willie the Whale.

Volunteers for the Wolf-Berger-Croft-Kolodny Chapter of the Leukemia Research Fund, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, will be selling cookbooks, wrapping paper and greeting cards.

## Giving it a good fight

7-25-96  
Countyside  
For about a year now, residents and elected officials in Wheeling have been going back and forth on the possible impacts associated with a proposed condominium development on the old Union Hotel property on Milwaukee Avenue.

Village trustees, forced to live for at least two years with a dilapidated site that is nothing more than an eyesore, want the property developed for obvious reasons.

On the other side of the fence is a group of local activists operating under the name "SPACE," or Save Precious Acreage for our Children & Community to Enjoy.

The group formed initially to preserve open play land behind Walt Whitman Elementary School. And it appears that lobbying has paid off. The village is proposing to sell the school district 1.9 acres of land, which is about one acre more than trustees were originally willing to sell.

But what started as a group effort to save playground land has now swung to the other side of the spectrum.

The group now maintains that a minimum of three acres is needed behind Whitman School to accommodate future growth. Members say that if the school district gets less than that, costly condemnation proceedings will follow.

That swing, however, isn't working.

School district officials say they see no real need to ever expand the physical layout of the building, which was built only a few years ago. Arlen Gould, School Board president, said the only real concern on the part of the school district is ample playground space.

While the residents have shown dogged persistence in getting their argument out to the public, the condemnation concern is not realistic, especially since the school district shows little concern in that regard.

SPACE members should take pride in their efforts at getting the village to sell more land than they were originally willing to part with. It was a good fight. But it appears to be over.

While the residents have shown dogged persistence in getting their argument out to the public, the condemnation concern is not realistic.

### WHEELING

#### Board approves

#### 40-home project

7-26-96 7-25-96  
A 40-unit town home development on Milwaukee Avenue just south of Dundee Road was given final approval this week by village trustees, but not without a last bit of contention from a group that opposes the move.

A representative of Realen Homes, developer of the future Union Square subdivision, said work is expected to begin on the nearly-6-acre site within 30 days. The first phase of occupancy will begin in January and final completion is mandated within 30 months.

Under a long negotiated agreement, parents of students at Whitman Middle School, which abuts the project, were able to shrink the original proposal from 48 town homes to secure a portion of the once-wide-open, 7.8-acre tract of grass and trees for a play area behind the school.

Most of the opposition waned several months ago when the Wheeling Park District agreed to purchase 1.9 acres for a park.

Patrick O'Toole

### WHEELING

#### New human rights panel convenes

7-25-96  
Tribune

The charter members of Wheeling's Human Rights Commission met for the first time Wednesday night in Village Hall and asked Mayor Sheila Schultz for training in procedures and negotiations.

"This first meeting shows that the appointees are as enthusiastic as I had hoped. The commission will definitely make a positive impact on the community," Schultz said.

Schultz, a member of the Cook County Human Rights Commission, recently appointed members to a similar village panel to hear complaints regarding employment and housing discrimination. The commission was created by the Village Board.

The members are Edwina Greene, Eloise B. Frye, Bill Maloney, Paul Safyan and Susanna Layug, who was the only one not present.

The commission decided to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and directed village staff to gather information on procedures and available training.

Tony Perri

# 'Wheeling 2000' gets ready for debut

7-29-96  
By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is almost finished with its road map to the future.

A stack of recommendations of what the community should do to prepare for the future has been gathered since October through the "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" project.

It is the fruit of the labor of about 100 people — including officials, business leaders and residents — who have met in hundreds of meetings to discuss such issues as government, economic development,

image and diversity.

The suggestions — among them forming an economic development corporation with a full-time director and creating a hotel/convention center near Palwaukee Municipal Airport — will be presented to the project's steering committee next month.

The suggestions will be given to the village, local school districts and the Wheeling Park District, where the actual work of turning the ideas into reality will be done, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

"It can be (the beginning),"

Schultz said. "It's a community effort; it will only happen if the community wants to make it happen."

The ideas were generated from nine committees that focused on such topics as government, economic development of commercial businesses and industry, community image and diversity. The ideas were given to the steering committee last month. The Denniston Consulting Group was hired by the village for \$22,000 to help in the process.

Though "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" is just an advisory program, the process yielded some

helpful information that probably will be put to good use, said Denise Kennedy, a participant in the process and a director with the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"I think the village will do something with this and this just won't be a stack of papers," Kennedy said.

If anything, the process gathered together a cross-section of the community and revealed different concerns and interests.

"We're going to get a better sense of where the community wants to be," Schultz said.

# Permit snafu costs District 21

*Countryside*  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
8-1-96

What was expected to be a \$4,000 water main replacement has escalated into a \$13,000 project after the village of Wheeling withdrew a construction permit for Tarkington School at 310 S. Scott St.

At least that's how Wheeling School District 21 tells the story. Village Hall, however, has another version.

School Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie told board members July 18 that the village issued a permit for the main to be replaced but pulled it the day before construction was to start.

"They'd like us to bring the entire meter and valve system up to code, (and) put in a drain under the stairwell," DesCarpentrie said. That involves more labor, more equipment and more money.

But Michael Klitzke, director of the village's Community Development Department that issues permits, said replacing just part of a water main is not an acceptable practice.

There is some legal debate over whether the school district, a taxing body of its own, even needs to have a village permit to perform the work. Regardless of that, Klitzke

said he asked that the plans be revised so the school district would be in compliance with state regulations.

"The bottom line is that they have to comply with the State Plumbing Code whether they need to get a permit from us or not," Klitzke said.

The department commented on the plan and returned it the school district for revision and resubmission to the village. Prior to revising the plans, though, the school district apparently sought bids on its original plan, Klitzke said.

"What they started out with was one thing and what they came in with was another," Klitzke said, adding that the same work was required on two previous school district projects. "What (the contractor) bid and what was permitted, were two different things."

In a memo to Village Manager Craig Anderson, Klitzke called the incident a "misunderstanding" by the school district.

Though revised plans were submitted to Community Development on June 27 and a permit issued June 28, the contractor realized he couldn't do the amount of required work for the bid price, so the project was delayed, Klitzke said.

Upon hearing DesCarpentrie's report at the July School

Board meeting, board members asked whether there was a way to fight Village Hall.

"Isn't there some higher authority we could go to? I don't even know whether the village is aware of what goes on in their permitting process," said Board Member Norman Kurtz.

Kurtz, an attorney, asked whether the district could seek an injunction to allow the work to be done without a permit. DesCarpentrie said contractors won't do the work without a permit because they could be subsequently sued by the village.

Any legal battle the school district would undertake would undoubtedly be costly and would further delay construction, DesCarpentrie told the board. He suggested it would be best to complete the job as the village requested before the school year begins to avoid future problems.

"I don't think any of us are surprised by this," Board Member Cari Beecher added.

Village officials, however, were surprised to learn the school district was upset that the extra work was being required.

"I find it unusual we didn't get a call when they first found out about it," Klitzke said. "That's normally what happens, and we've resolved things quite well in the past. We've bent over backward to help them."

# Wheeling invests in town house project

to officials.  
"This is it for this piece of land. You should give it lots of thought," said Gary Cohn, a member of Save Precious Acreage for our Children & Community to Enjoy. "I wish you would all think of the long-term effects."

Trustees Robert J. Heer and Patrick Horcher oppose the project because they believe that there might be other ways to develop the property, such as with businesses. Heer even suggested postponing the land sale so other plans can be reviewed.

But after two years of trying to develop the property, most trustees said that the townhouses are the right project.  
"The could be's and would be's could have gone on forever," said Trustee Wayne Wisniski. "This is a good project."

the project that is expected to begin shortly after the Sept. 1 transaction, said Larry D. Johannesen, a vice president with the company. Realen will pay \$1,180,000. The village will sell the remaining 1.9 acres to District 21 for \$345,000, with the intent to provide more play area at adjacent Walt Whitman Elementary School, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The \$310,000 difference, or "write-down," from the price the village pays for the land and what it is selling it for is an investment the community will make to develop the vacant property and generate more property taxes for Wheeling, Anderson said.

As they have in the past, a group of residents that wants businesses built on a portion of the land, in hopes of preserving some of the open space, vented their opposition

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
7-25-96

Wheeling taxpayers will invest about \$310,000 to have town houses built on property that the village wants revitalized.

This is the difference between the approximately \$1.8 million Wheeling will pay for 7.9 acres and how much it will get for the land when it sells it to a developer and Wheeling Township Elementary District 21. The village board approved the sale in a 4-2 vote.

In an effort to improve the land at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., where the Union Hotel and other businesses have been razed, the village is purchasing the land from several owners to enable 40 town houses to be built there.

Realen Homes Developers Inc. will buy about 6 of the 7.9 acres for

# Todd leaves board

*Countryside*  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
7-25-96

Village President Sheila Schultz accepted with regret Monday the resignation of Trustee Bob Todd.

Todd, 38, told Village Board members he plans to move to Schaumburg, where his two sisters live and where his mother plans to move.

"It's been my pleasure to serve the residents of the village of Wheeling in the last three years," said

Todd, who was elected to the Village Board in 1993. Prior to being a trustee, he served a two-year term on the Wheeling Park Board.

"The village of Wheeling and its residents will forever hold a special place in my heart. It really hurts," Todd said.

Todd said he intends to become involved in Schaumburg politics to some extent once he settles in his new home.

"I loved being on the (Continued on page 13)

## Todd Continued from page 5

board. I like serving the community, being involved. I think everyone needs to give something back to their community," he added.

Of his three years on the board, Todd said he is pleased he had a hand in bringing the commuter train station to Wheeling. "I think it's going to have more of an impact on the community than some people think. It's really going to help the village grow and mature," he added.

"Some other municipality is going to gain from our loss," Schultz said upon accepting Todd's resignation.

Before Monday's special board meeting ended, Schultz appointed and swore in Jeanne Selander as Todd's replacement. Selander will officially take her seat at the next regular board meeting Aug. 5.

Selander, 41, has served as village clerk since being

elected in 1993. She ran for trustee in April 1995, but was defeated along with Lois

**'Some other municipality is going to gain from our loss.'**

Gaffke and Anthony Altieri Jr. on the United Party slate.

"I've enjoyed the clerk's position for the last three and a half years, and feel I have learned a lot. But it's time to move on," Selander said. Her trustee term is up for election in April 1997.

Selander said this is an exciting time to be part of the Village Board.

"I think we're at a crossroads right now. We have a lot of projects on the plate," she said.

# Driver won't face criminal charges in fatal accident

*Countryside*  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER  
7-25-96

No criminal charges will be filed against the 83-year-old driver of a car involved in a fatal accident that killed a Chicago boy at the Wheeling Fourth of July fireworks display.

An inspection conducted by Naperville-based Packer Engineering of the 1986 Buick involved in the tragedy found no apparent defects Friday, police said. Along with Wheeling police, representatives from General Motors Corp., Allstate Insurance Co., State Farm Insurance Co., and various attorneys representing the victims were present during the inspection.

Police and officials from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office discussed the inspection results Monday. As a result of that discussion, it was determined that no criminal charges would be filed against the driver of the car, Norman Jahnke, of 1400 Ashton Court, Wheeling.

Jahnke told police he had started the Buick and put it into gear when it mysteriously darted into the crowd at the Wheeling Aquatic Center,

killing 11-year-old Gustavo Del Real and injuring seven others.

Even though Jahnke faces no criminal charges, police did issue two traffic citations for improper starting of a parked vehicle and failure to reduce speed to avoid a collision.

Jahnke is scheduled to appear Aug. 30 in Cook County Circuit Court in Rolling Meadows. He could not be reached for comment Monday.

The inspection ends the investigation into the accident by the Wheeling Police Department, said Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes.

As of Monday, two of the accident victims, Ramauldo Gallegos, 23, of Palatine, and Kathleen Arbor, 53, of Wheeling, remained in critical condition at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

A fund has been established to help the family of 11-year-old Gustavo Del Real pay for the boy's funeral expenses. Contributions can be made to the Memorial Fund for the family of Gustavo Del Real at Hoyne Savings Bank, 699 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling. For information, contact the bank at (847) 459-1150.

# New Metra trains ready to chug through

Local commuter service is scheduled to begin in only a few weeks in Wheeling, bringing a new travel option to residents.

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

8-1-96  
*Countryside*

The new North Central commuter rail line is right on track to start service Aug. 19.

Though only running eight trains a day — three in the morning rush, three in the evening rush and one mid-day round-trip — Metra officials are confident that a cooperative service with the Pace suburban bus system won't leave commuters stranded.

"This is a real unique situation," said Pace Executive Director Joseph DiJohn at a press briefing last week. "The buses are really a train that doesn't operate on a track."

Because freight service will continue on the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks, Metra officials said they are presently limited to running only eight trains a day. Commuter trains will have priority on the tracks, however, so no delays are expected be-

(Continued on page 15)



Todd Heister/Pioneer Press

John Maluta, center, a public safety officer for Metra, goes over train safety measures with local firefighters and police officers. Northwest suburban firefighters and

police officers were in Wheeling this weekend for a safety presentation to prepare for the opening of the North Central commuter line Aug. 19.

## ■ Trains *Continued from page 5*

cause of the freight service.

### Keeping PACE

Pace bus service, which will accommodate riders when the Metra trains are not running, will follow Metra's zone fare system. Bus drivers won't disperse change to riders, but passengers will be given vouchers that can be handed to a train conductor for change, mailed in for a refund or exchanged for cash at downtown Chicago Metra stations.

Metra Executive Director Philip A. Pagano said the joint effort between the two agencies establishes what he hopes will be a long-term working relationship.

The supplemental bus service is being made possible through a federal grant that will pay 80 percent of the program's \$650,000 to \$700,000 operating costs for at least the first two years. The remainder is being paid by Metra. Twenty-two fully-accessible buses are being ordered for the North Central line and are expected to arrive by Aug. 19.

Each \$253,000 bus will have arm rests, padded reclining seats, foot rests, reading lights and luggage racks.

"We feel this is necessary to match the quality of service Metra riders expect," DiJohn said.

### Train schedules

The first weekday train into Chicago from Buffalo Grove will stop at 8 a.m.,

**'This is a real unique situation. The buses are really a train that doesn't operate on a track.'**

**Pace Executive Director  
Joseph DiJohn**

bringing commuters to Union Station at 6:50 a.m. Other Buffalo Grove morning stops are at 6:35 a.m. and 7:10 a.m. Trains stop in Wheeling about four minutes after leaving the Buffalo Grove depot.

A mid-day train will pick up Buffalo Grove riders at 4:02 p.m., before pulling into the Wheeling station five minutes later. The train is scheduled to arrive at Chicago's Union Station at 4:55 p.m.

The outbound train leaves Union Station at 1:25 p.m. and arrives in Wheeling at 2:10 p.m. It stops in Buffalo Grove four minutes later.

Afternoon trains leave Union Station at 4:23 p.m., 5 p.m. and 5:38 p.m. and arrive in Wheeling at 5:07 p.m., 5:44 p.m. and 6:22 p.m., respectively. Trains stop in Buffalo Grove four minutes later.

### Future expansion?

Metra officials are so confident in the service that they are already planning for expansion of the route. A "Phase 2" plan is being developed that would include the laying of double track along the length of the line that would handle a full-service schedule.

stops to the Milwaukee District/West Line at Franklin Park, with the Union Pacific/Northwest Line at Des Plaines and with the Milwaukee District/North Line at Libertyville.

### Airport link

A key component to the success of the new commuter line, Metra officials agree, is a stop at O'Hare International Airport. The train will stop near Parking Lot F, on the east side of Mannheim Road. From there, riders can take an airport bus to the people-mover system and ride into the airport.

"An O'Hare study shows there is a demand for travelers to take advantage of this service," Pagano said. "This gives us an opportunity to serve more than a downtown market."

### Work to be done

Some depots, like the one in Wheeling, won't be built when commuters first board the North Central line this month. However, Pagano said, if the parking lots and platform are completed, the train will stop at those stations.

That's good news for Wheeling, where officials say construction is progressing well.

"The platform is done," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson. "The parking lots are coming along OK. Our concern is getting people from the parking lots to the depot" because of ongoing construction.

## Health Board honors businesses

The Wheeling Board of Health recently honored four local businesses that have given to the Wheeling community blood drives for the last five years.

Representatives from Don Roth's restaurant, Hackney's restaurant, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and Bob Chinn's Crabhouse were presented with plaques by Village President Sheila Schultz and Board of Health Chairman Eloise Frye.

The Wheeling Health Board hosts three blood drives each year. The restaurants have shown their support by donating gift certificates and coupons for free food as incentive for donors who contribute and to encourage their return.

The next Wheeling blood drive is scheduled for Nov. 13. Often blood is in short supply and, at times, supplies may be critically low. The Wheeling Board of Health encourages all residents to participate. A donation can help assure that a safe, sufficient supply of blood is available when needed.

# Village workers moving to new digs at Wickes

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

The village of Wheeling is temporarily solving its space crunch by moving the Community Development Department out of Village Hall.

The department, which includes building, planning and health offices, will move into office space on the second floor of Wickes Furniture store at 111 S. Northgate Parkway, just west of Village Hall. The move is expected to be completed within two months, said Director Michael Klitzke.

Village Attorney James Rhodes is negotiating a lease with Wickes.

"At this point there are several options" for the village to solve its space shortage, Klitzke said.

Perhaps a permanent solution would be to build a new facility to house Public Works or the Police Department. Maybe the village's adminis-

trative offices would find a new home. However, no decision has been made by the Village Board. "The immediate need is in the Police Department," Klitzke noted.

## Temporary move

"I believe it's a temporary move for us. Maybe within three years something will be done. I don't know," Klitzke said. Fourteen Community Development employees are affected by the move.

As space in Village Hall is at a premium, the offices to be vacated by the Community Development Department won't be empty for long. After some remodeling, the Wheeling Police Department plans to move several employees into those offices.

"Right now, we have as many as four to five people sharing one small office," said Deputy Chief Michael Hermes. Among the depart-

(Continued on page 16)

ments to move will be the police chief; deputy chiefs; support services; planning, training and research; court operations; and records.

The offices vacated will then be remodeled to give more space to the remaining personnel.

Once Community Development leaves Village Hall, Klitzke expects signs will be posted to notify residents of the new location at Wickes. Because his department has limited contact with the public, Klitzke said, few people will be forced to travel to the new location.

"They're the ones who occasionally come in if they need a fence permit, roofing permit," he said. "The best thing to do is call first and see where we're at." The phone number of the Community Development Department, (847) 459-2620, is not expected to change.

"We're hoping for as smooth of a transition as possible," he said. Developers and contractors have more contact with the department and will be told when the move is complete.

Once the Community Development Department is physically separated from the village's administrative office, Klitzke said, employees will begin accepting payments for permits. Currently, people buying permits are directed to the clerk's office where payments are accepted.

The entrance to the Community Development Department at Wickes will be on the south side of the building, Klitzke said. The east entrance allows visitors to the second floor via stairs, while the west entrance has elevator access.

Klitzke said the new office may be slightly larger than the current one. Bids are being accepted for new furniture because the current office furniture will be used by the Police Department, he said.

representation about District 21 is misleading. The School Board has not voted on this purchase and will not meet until August 15. On August 15, the School Board will also hold a public hearing on its budget. The School Board holds the key to the whole transaction. The sales agreements between the owners and the village, and between the village and Realen, are contingent upon District 21 also signing a sales agreement and closing at the same time as the other sales.

I understand the School Board will consider these questions: Is 1.9 acres adequate? For years, Whitman school children have been using over 4 acres of the 7.9 acres. Should the playground become smaller? Should the school district pay \$172,500 per acre for a narrow, irregularly shaped 1.9-acre parcel which will continue to be used only as a playground? This is rather expensive, considering that for \$196,666 per acre, Realen Homes is buying land with frontage on Milwaukee Avenue that is zoned for a profitable townhome development.

District 21 taxpayers should not subsidize the Schultz administration's plan to help land speculators profit on their investment and hand an out-of-state builder a windfall. The School Board should reject this over-priced land that is not even adequate for the children's needs. The taxpayers do not need another "writedown."

**William C. Spangenberg**

## What a shame

**Wheeling/** When the SPACE people organized last year to ask the village to consider the need for more playground space for Whitman School when they redevelop the old Union Hotel property, I thought they had a good point. Apparently the village and School District 21 thought so too, because they worked together with the developer to set aside almost two acres to be purchased for Whitman School.

But evidently that wasn't good enough. Next the group decided they wanted a park. They convinced the park district that it should stop the development while it considered buying the land for a park. The Park Board later decided they weren't interested. SPACE must have been disappointed that

they didn't get a park, but they still had free open space in back of their homes, with the property owner paying the taxes on it. By that time, the developer had gone on to other things.

Then I read in the July 18 Countryside that they marched on Village Hall, saying that they care about the children, the school, the trees and development in the village. That may be, but don't they know that you don't attract developers to a community where a special-interest group can deny a property owner his right to sell his property, and delay a builder for over a year? Don't they understand that the school district is waiting to buy the 1.9 acres? Don't they know the children won't get their added playground if they keep this up? Don't they know hundreds of quality trees would replace the few cottonwoods that will come down with any development?

I read the story one more time, trying in vain to figure out what would ever satisfy these people. Then I found the answer on page 6. "SPACE is starting an Election 97 campaign." This isn't about children, or trees, it's about politics. What a shame that what started as a positive effort has turned into a loss and an embarrassment for the rest of us.

**Janet D'Argo**

## Dorfman foundation thanks supporters

**Northbrook/** I want to acknowledge the fabulous support that the community gave to "Miles for Smiles," the first fundraiser for the Emily Dorfman Foundation For Children. The turnout for the bike/walk-a-thon last month was great, and over \$60,000 was raised to fund pediatric medical research and supportive services for seriously ill children, with a special emphasis placed on funding research relating to pediatric brain tumors.

Many readers remember Emily Dorfman as the smiling preschooler who loved to ride her bike. It was very gratifying to have so many participants, volunteers and sponsors honoring her memory, and helping other children in the process.

I would like to especially thank Cellular One for its most generous sponsorship and assistance, as well as

(Continued on page 24)

## A taxpayer loss

*Countryside*  
**Wheeling/** Wheeling taxpayers lost again. On July 22, led by President Schultz, trustees Abruscato, Hartman, Todd and Wisinski voted to buy 7.9 acres at the old Union Hotel site for \$1.835 million. Simultaneously, they voted to sell 6 acres to Pennsylvania builder Realen Homes for \$1.18 million. Explaining the \$655,000 difference, Village Manager Anderson said the village will sell 1.9 acres to School District 21 for \$345,000 and called the remaining \$310,000 a "writedown."

Mr. Anderson's

## Why Target?

*Countryside 8-1-96*  
**Wheeling/** Upon inheriting our farm, a significant tax was levied against us by the federal government to keep the land our family has always owned.

Currently, to pay this tax, a bank loan is involved; a bank holds a portion of the farm as collateral. They have a right to their money.

If the bank isn't paid, they get the land. It's just like your home loan.

We have an opportunity to save a lot of the farm. Commercial property has a higher value than residential. To keep as much land as possible, we must develop commercially. A Target store on a small portion of land would pay the debt. If we develop residentially, we will have to sell over twice as much land to equal what the Target project would yield. The conclusion to the residential scenario is the whole farm becomes a residential development.

If the Lexington projects are concerned about the traffic from a store, what will they think of the traffic from 48 acres of homes? If they are concerned about Target being 1,000 feet from their development's property line, what will they think about homes along their fence line and the perpetual possibility of residents from an adjoining development trespassing in their association's common areas? This would also do more to spoil their view than the Target store would, as a lot of green space is planned into the development.

## LETTERS

Without trying to be sarcastic or antagonistic, we offer this option to those of you who want the land to remain open. Buy it and donate it to Wheeling. We can't do that.

So what does this mean? Something will be developed on our farm. If we can't do it, a bank will. Wheeling officials are obligated to see that developments are the most responsible, appropriate use of the land.

The choices are: 1) developing a small portion commercially, which would allow us to stay in business and on the farm and Target would benefit Wheeling ... or 2) develop the entire property residentially costing Wheeling not only the lost revenues Target would have generated, but additional expenses any housing development heaps on a community, such as street maintenance, police, fire protection, sewer maintenance, snow plowing, more school space and the costs of the education and more park space.

We feel the Target development is best for us and for the entire village as a whole!

Whatever happens:

■ Rt. 83 will be widened as soon as I.D.O.T. gets the financing, whether or not Target gets to be here.

■ If Target is approved, either of the two small pieces of the farm that will be left after the development will be larger than the property the village is

currently trying to put together for townhomes in the T.I.F. district.

■ The developer has agreed to pay his share of the sewer construction recapture fees in any of the four ways Wheeling has outlined. All Wheeling has to do is choose which method is acceptable to them.

■ The 1,000 feet from the Arlington Club's fence line that the proposed Target will be is over 18 times farther than the 55 feet Wheeling put Sams Club from Cedar Run.

■ As surely as Wheeling can rezone property along Milwaukee Ave. from commercial to residential (saying that their master plan is only an outline) and from making us residential, taking away our county commercial status, it is within their power to rezone from the now residential to commercial.

Issues like this become complicated when elected officials aren't sure if their loyalties should be to the entire village or to personal agendas.

Michael Horcher

## Riding that train

Even though the new North Central commuter line will initially launch only eight trains through Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, commuters should do all they can to use the service.

When one considers the unrelenting gridlock that is our highway and interstate system, the Metra commuter line offers a valued escape from the headaches of rush-hour driving.

Metra officials are cognizant of the fact that the public is often slow in taking advantage of any new commuter service. That, along with the fact that freight trains regularly run on the single-track line that will be shared by the commuter trains, is probably the main reason for offering only eight trips a day.

But those same officials are also convinced that ridership will increase as people become more aware of the commuter service. Until then, Metra and officials from Pace have joined efforts to offer bus service to those riders who can't always make the train.

Pace officials promise comfortable buses that will contain many of the same amenities found in Metra's cars, including padded reclining seats, foot rests, reading lights and luggage racks. So riders don't have to be scared off by thoughts of aging buses crammed with standing riders.

The partnership is a grand idea, and both sides should be praised for their foresight into trying to make commuter options that much more available.

It is probably safe to say that American drivers will never lose their love for the automobile. Why else would so many cars on the road be occupied by only a single passenger — the driver?

We love our cars for the pleasure they give us, the solitude they offer and the control we have over where we are going and which route we take to get there.

But as any seasoned commuter knows, the roads are not getting any safer; the drivers are not getting any more civil. For those reasons, as well as for the benefits train commuting brings to our environment, residents in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling should take the new Metra trains as often as they can.

## WHEELING

### A safe landing without gear

*Tribune 8-29-96*  
 A pilot from Alabama and his 14-year-old passenger escaped injury Thursday afternoon when their plane landed with its wheels up and skidded off the runway at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Wheeling fire officials said.

The pilot, Joel Pickett of Alabama, apparently failed to lower his landing gear, according to Wheeling firefighter Jay Gallant. Fire officials blamed the accident on pilot error.

The Beechcraft Baron, a twin-engine propeller aircraft, skidded off a runway and ended up on the airport's grass, said air traffic controller Karl Jensen.

Pickett was flying with David Schu, 14, of Alabama, a friend of the family, Gallant said.

The aircraft sustained extensive damage, according to firefighters on the scene.

Pickett was attempting to land the plane about 3:45 p.m. when the incident occurred, Jensen said.

Diome Searcey

## Wheeling Tribune 8-5-96

■ The Village Board will discuss annexing 2800 Schoenbeck Rd. to the village, imposing a municipal telecommunications tax, establishing parking fees and penalties for the commuter train station parking lots, amending aircraft takeoffs and landings, funding of renovations for Wheeling Road and Town Street, a variation in the sign code, site plan approval for Antioch Bible Church and the veterinary clinic, awarding a bid for the Milwaukee Avenue water main project and adopting a revised position classification and pay plan for the Clerical Employee group at 8 p.m. in the Administration Building, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

## Wheeling officers to spend Night Out with community

By BOB MCKEE  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

It might seem like just a couple of demonstrations, but Wheeling police think showing residents how officers fight crime is a way to build a relationship with the community.

As part of National Night Out, the department tonight will show residents at the Tahoe Village town house complex how police dogs detect drugs and officers use bikes to patrol streets.

The program, observed nationally today, is an effort to bring community members and the police together to take a stand against crime, Wheeling police

officer Frank Lozano said.

This helps the department do its job better because as the community becomes more comfortable with the officers, they are more likely to give them ideas of what problems in the community need to be addressed, Lozano said.

Lozano said people usually view officers as being "just the police department." But giving residents a chance to meet officers during an event such as tonight's makes people "less intimidated" about police, he said.

The event at Tahoe Village is open to the public and will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the complex's clubhouse.

## Buffalo Grove, Wheeling working on cable contract

*8-5-96*  
 officials more time to negotiate, which is needed because the cable industry has become more complicated than it was in the 1980s, with additional regulations and advanced technology.

"There's more things to look at now," Anderson said. "I don't think there is any advantage for the village to be rushing this. The bottom line is we still have cable service."

Buffalo Grove extended its contract with Continental Cablevision for an undetermined amount of time, but it hopes that a new agreement will be reached by mid-fall, said village spokesman Phil Versten.

The village belongs to the five-village Regional Cable Group, which is negotiating a new agreement with Continental. The village's old contract has been in place since July 1981.

Versten said the process was delayed because Ameritech decided in March not to propose a plan to serve the area after earlier saying it would. Ameritech said it would be at a competitive disadvantage because Continental has exclusive rights to provide HBO and Cinemax in the area.

Residents in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling have told officials what improvements they want in their cable television service.

Officials from both villages are now trying to make that happen. Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are negotiating the terms of new contracts with their cable providers. Both villages last month extended their cable agreements while the talks continue. Residents will see their same service continue.

In Wheeling, officials will start talking with TCI of Illinois Inc. this month and expect to hammer out a new agreement by January, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

The village, as did Buffalo Grove, conducted public hearings and surveys to identify problems residents have with cable service.

Anderson said this information is helpful because, "Then we can build into the franchise agreements ways to address those concerns."

The village in July extended the 15-year-old agreement to give

# Prices set for Milwaukee Avenue land sale

8-1-96  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

## Countyside

Wheeling trustees recently agreed on purchase prices for the parcels of land on South Milwaukee Avenue that will be offered to Realen Homes of Inverness for the construction of 40 townhouses.

The land, at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., is a controversial part of the village's tax increment financing district. Area residents have criticized the townhouse project, saying it will destroy mature trees and limit the play area for nearby Walt Whitman School students.

Despite objections from residents, and after more than a year of reviewing the proposal, trustees decided it was time to move forward with the project.

The village has agreed to pay \$1,835,000 for the 7.8 acres. Individual owners and lot sales prices are: Leonard and Lois Didier, \$124,365; Helen Goldin, \$265,000; Aaron Goldin, \$592,500; Five Grand Limited Liability Corporation, \$458,000; and American National Bank, \$395,135.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the purchase prices were in-

cluded in the village's current budget of the general fund.

A sales contract with Realen shows the village selling the property to the Inverness developer for \$1,180,000.

Wheeling School District 21 has verbally agreed to purchase 1.9 acres of the property to be retained as play space for Whitman School, but School Board President Arlen Gould said no purchase price has yet been negotiated. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the cost to the school district is expected to be approximately \$345,000.

If District 21 pays \$345,000 for the property, the village would realize a \$310,000 loss.

Local attorney and resident Bill Spangenberg pointed out that loss to trustees at the July 22 special board meeting, but Village President Sheila Schultz countered that the village would eventually benefit from the development.

"To start out (developing the TIF district) with a loss is a terrible precedent," Spangenberg said after the meeting. "Any other developer who sees that Realen Homes was handed a bargain will want a deal too. I just don't like to see that loss at taxpayers'

expense."

Spangenberg said the village's idea to market the parcels as one piece of property was admirable, but he thinks the selling price to Realen should have been higher.

"It's not that the property is so undesirable we have to take a loss. They should have tried harder to sell it at a break-even level," he said.

During the meeting, Village President Sheila Schultz responded to Spangenberg's comments by saying the shortfall is not a loss at all.

"I think the term loss is incorrect when discussing the investment here," Schultz said.

The townhouse development is expected to improve the appearance along Milwaukee Avenue and bring residents into the area who would be within walking distance of nearby shops and restaurants, Schultz said.

Even as trustees prepared to vote on the purchase contracts, Gary Cohn, spokesman for Save Precious Acreage for our Community & Children to Enjoy, made one last effort to convince the board to consider a commercial use for the property.

Schultz told Cohn the village appreciated the efforts of SPACE, but

she reiterated that it was time to proceed with the project. Since SPACE raised its objections last year, the number of townhouses was cut from 48 to 40 and the School District agreed to pursue purchase of the playground land.

"We'd be happy to talk to you about developers for other pieces of property," Schultz said.

Village Manager Anderson said Cohn indicated within the last few weeks that there was a developer interested in doing a mixed commercial/residential development on the property. However, Anderson said, "I'm not aware of a serious proposal."

That allayed the concerns of Trustee Judy Abruscato.

"I've wanted the townhouses from day one," said Abruscato. "I wanted to make sure, though, that no one in the last six months has come in with some other plans. My commitment is to listening to the people, but you can't please all the people all the time."

"I feel this development is the best development for that site. I want to see the townhouses there. Let's vote."

(Continued on page 9)

## Land Continued from page 5

Let's move forward in this village and get something going," Abruscato added.

Trustee Wayne Wisinski agreed.

"I believe the area for the children has been addressed. This will be good for the village. It'll help bring people back to the downtown area," he said.

Trustees voted to approve the purchase contracts, with Trustees Pat Horcher and Bob Heer dissenting.

Horcher said he wondered why the village recently spent \$4,900 to hire Teska Associates Inc. of Evanston to create a concept development plan for the north end of the TIF district when there is no master plan for the entire district. Instead, he said, it seems the village is developing the TIF district in piecemeal fashion.

"Why are we being selective about how hard we market

parts of the TIF district?" he asked. "A residential development in the village is a losing investment," noting that houses increase the need for police officers and firefighters, add to the maintenance costs of streets and stress local schools.

Heer agreed, and said townhouses may not be the best use for the site.

"If the village did its homework, it could have found something more suitable to that neighborhood," Heer said.

"I'm not convinced you're going to have a good buffer between the backs of the townhomes and Milwaukee Avenue. I'm concerned about how it will look aesthetically," he added. "Sure, we want the site developed, but I'm also concerned about the loss of money."

Spangenberg also ques-

tioned trustees about the pending lawsuit regarding the project. He filed the suit on behalf of SPACE members, who claim the village dropped an original townhouse plan by Joseph Freed & Associates and accepted the Realen plan without going through the proper approval process.

Village Attorney James Rhodes, however, said the suit has no effect on trustees approving the purchase agreements. Rhodes has filed a motion to dismiss the suit in Cook County court, but does not know when that will be ruled upon by a judge.

"The pending lawsuit deals with the issue of zoning," he said.

Rhodes noted that Realen plans to have the townhouses completed within 30 months of the real-estate closing. Construction would not begin until the case is settled or dismissed, he added.

## Wheeling board levies tax on phones, faxes and pagers

8-1-96  
By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

control of how much they are charged by how much they use their faxes, phones or pagers, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "If you have a home and you have property taxes rise, you don't have a choice," Schultz said. "I don't think there would be many people that would say, 'Jeez, I would rather have it on my property taxes.'"

She added that there have been no complaints about the new tax. Trustee Robert J. Heer said the new tax is also fair because the burden will be shared by everyone who uses the services — businesses and residents.

"Obviously we need to have additional revenue sources," Heer said. "It's the most fair way."

The village now will notify various companies that serve the village that the change was made, so that the tax will appear on bills, said Village Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

Telecommunications taxes are becoming more common in the area, used by such villages as Mount Prospect and Buffalo Grove, Fialkowski said. "It keeps us in line with the trend of what other communities are doing," Schultz said.

Wheeling is erecting a toll booth of sorts on the communication highway.

The village board this week unanimously voted to impose a 5 percent tax for using such devices as telephones, fax machines, computer modems, cellular phones and pagers.

The tax, which will be effective Oct. 1, is expected to generate about \$500,000 for the village annually.

This, officials say, is money the village will use to operate that won't have to come from property taxes.

This is one of a few ways that Wheeling has tried to find different sources of revenue to help pay for the costs of operating, which this year is \$40.6 million.

For instance, the village earlier this year increased the retail sales tax it charges from 25 percent to 30 percent. This was seen as a way to raise an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 not solely from residents, but from customers of local businesses also.

Although residents will be charged the new tax, they have

# Tax rates fall, but bills rise



South Barrington Park District saw the largest tax rate hike in the Northwest suburbs due in part to renovation of the South Barrington Club.  
Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

## Northwest suburban tax rates

Tax rates are down for many governments, but don't get false hope that your tax bill will be lower too. Most suburban homeowners will see higher tax bills as a result of higher reassessments.

### LARGEST INCREASES

#### Major taxing body

#### Percent increase

1. South Barrington Park District 100.57
2. Buffalo Grove Park District 28.98
3. Bartlett-Countryside Fire Prot. District 24.39
4. East Dundee-Countryside Fire Protection District 20.77
5. Hoffman Estates Park District 20.43
6. Palatine Rural Fire Protection District 17.47
7. Village of South Barrington 16.05
8. Dundee Unit District 300 10.43
9. Salt Creek Rural Park District 10.34
10. River Trails Elementary District 26 6.99

### LARGEST DECREASES

#### Major taxing body

#### Percent decrease

1. Schaumburg Park District 31.24
2. Village of Wheeling 21.06
3. Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District 17.18
4. Roselle Fire Protection District 15.95
5. Barrington-Countryside Park District 13.64
6. Village of Palatine 10.45
7. Village of Buffalo Grove 10.28
8. Plum Grove Estates Sanitary District 9.85
9. Village of Barrington Hills 9.65
10. Maine Township road and bridge 9.62

\*List does not include special services areas.

Source: Cook County Clerk's Office

Daily Herald Graphic

Reassessments contribute heavily to increased tax bite

8-7-96

By STEVE WARMBIR  
AND LAURIA JANOTA  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Glance at the new property tax rates of suburban governments released Tuesday, and it looks like good news for homeowners — tax rates are down nearly across the board.

But looks can be deceiving. Sure, rates are down, but most Northwest suburban taxpayers still will get socked with higher property tax bills arriving in the mail within a week. Payments are due Sept. 11.

"The bottom line is what matters," warned Norbert M. Todd, president of the Northwest Tax Watch watchdog group. "Compare what you paid last year to the increase this year."

Here are the driving forces behind taxpayers shelling out more money to their town governments, schools, libraries and parks:

■ Property reassessments: They are the prime culprit in higher tax bills.

All Northwest suburban homeowners had their property reassessed by Cook County officials, the first time in three years. An assessment is just the value placed by the county on a home for taxing purposes. It's usually about 10 percent of a house's market value.

Homeowners' wallets will feel the pinch of those higher reassessments for the first time on these tax bills.

"The fact remains that every time the assessments go up, the tax bills go up," Wheeling Township Assessor Dolores Stephan said.

So why did tax rates go down if homeowners are still going to pay more money?

While many taxing bodies asked for more money this year, the total "pie" of reassessed property, from which they took their shares, was significantly larger

**INSIDE**  
Both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove residents are likely to see higher tax bills due to reassessment of property

— Page 7

Lake County homeowners in the Barrington area "border" towns always have felt overtaxed compared to their brethren living across the Cook County line. But the Cuba Township assessor says he might have the cure

— Page 7

A handy guide for figuring out your tax bill.

— Page 7

Where to send your payment, and when it's due.

— Page 7

too. That resulted in many taxing bodies' rate of taxation — or their tax rates — going down.

■ Exceptions to the tax cap: Critics call them loopholes. They claim they gut the tax cap. The people who run schools, parks, libraries and towns call them lifesavers. The cap does put a limit on

See RATES on Page 7

## LETTERS

### Fact v. fiction

Countryside - 8-8-96

**Wheeling/** The village of Wheeling is wasting \$310,000 of your tax money to subsidize the development of townhouses behind Walt Whitman School. In case you have been misled by President Schultz's false statement that this is a private matter, it is not. The village of Wheeling is using your tax money to buy the land behind Whitman School and sell it at a loss of \$310,000 ... ripoff #1.

The loss is after the village may sell a small portion of the land to School District 21. The school should have three acres at the fair value of the cheaper land in back, but the village is only offering them 1.9 acres at a higher rate to help subsidize the townhouses ... that is ripoff #2.

Ripoff #3 is that the more valuable commercial property along Milwaukee Avenue will be rezoned to less valuable multifamily, and a huge earth berm will be constructed — forever sealing out any future commercial development on this property. You will lose again because the village has special TIF designation on this land that would allow retail tax money to go directly to the village. By sealing off this area we will never get any TIF monies on this property.

Milwaukee Avenue is not dead, East Side Marios came in and now we welcome Crawdaddy's on the north side. All of the dilapidated houses on this property have been torn down by IDOT, so

frontage and open space in the back is what most residents want. It is not my job to bring the village alternate plans, but when I have, they have refused to offer the same offer that they made to the townhouse developer. The village will buy, consolidate, rezone and sell this land at a \$310,000 loss to a townhouse developer, but they won't buy it and sell it at a profit to any of the developers that I have suggested.

As you all know, the village bought and demolished Duncan Donuts, Drieskies' Florist and the Tsien Tsien Restaurant because they had a possible developer for that land. The development was never even started, and we lost three businesses for no good reason. These businesses employed Wheeling residents, and brought in out-of-town retail tax dollars. Why not sell this land we already own at Milwaukee and Dundee to Realen homes and cut our losses?

The village president is out of control with your money. We must run this village like a business and not make any more noncommercial land purchases that are sold at a loss ... your loss.

You cannot assume that the village will always do the right thing; that is not how it works in government. You must get involved to keep your community safe and economically healthy. Please call me anytime at 272-7737 to discuss this impending, but avoidable, disaster on Milwaukee Avenue. Send all correspondence to SPACE, (Continued on page 11)

we can wait a little longer to put in a restaurant if we give one a chance here. This project needs to be based on urgency and not desperation.

I have told Mr. Goldin (the majority land holder) that if he brought us (SPACE) an alternate development, possibly a restaurant, that we would consider that. Mr. Goldin is in a tight spot, and we hope he can find an acceptable alternative development that won't cause us a \$310,000 loss. Good luck, Arch!

This land is designated to remain park land on the village's comprehensive plan. The village is ignoring the plan, and using your tax dollars to destroy many magnificent mature trees including two old cottonwood trees ... older than Wheeling! Please take a walk through this beautiful property that has remained commercial in the front and open space in the back for over 100 years.

This is not the first fiasco on Milwaukee Avenue, but this time you can do something about your money being wasted. You can ignore this article and get ripped off, or you can fax or mail me your comments, and I will deliver them to the village to add to the hundreds of signatures from Wheeling residents opposed to this development.

Remember, we are not opposed to development on this land. We must look at the best use for this very valuable piece of TIF land, and commercial on the

P.O. Box 91, Wheeling, IL 60090. E-mail SPACE@Wheeling.com Fax 272-7746. You may also get more info, e-mail me or see photos of these mature trees at www.wheeling.com on the Internet. Never give up!

Gary Cohn

# RATES: Caps don't always prevent hikes

Continued from Page 1

some tax increases but provides some exceptions, which have generated controversy.

And in some cases, those so-called loopholes mean higher tax bills.

For government officials, the exceptions to the cap give them financial wiggle room to maintain the buildings and grounds and other items that tax dollars have already paid for, they argue.

"A cap to me is a ceiling," argues Ronald Picur, a professor of accounting at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"What the critics want is a declining amount," said Picur, who has written a book on the Cook County tax system. "That's great, but what happens when your infrastructure starts falling apart?"

The cap limits tax increases by some governments to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. This year, the cap was a 2.7 percent increase.

Towns with more than 25,000 people are exempt — but only the municipality, not the school district, for example.

At times, some taxing districts that must abide by the cap can borrow new money and not have it count against the limit as long as they don't exceed their old debt levels.

Also, those towns, parks, schools and libraries that took out tax-backed loans before the cap went into effect last year in Cook County aren't restrained by the cap when paying back those loans.

Normally, South Barrington Park District has to work under the tax cap.

But its tax rate mushroomed nearly 101 percent this year, the single biggest increase out of all the Northwest suburban taxing bodies.

Those tax dollars are being used to pay for the park district's new \$6 million clubhouse and facilities. The tax-backed loans paying for the project were issued before the cap went into effect.

On the flip side, for Schaumburg Park District, paying off its loans resulted in the largest tax rate decrease in the Northwest suburbs this year, after a big increase the previous year.

Anticipating the tax cap, Schaumburg Park District borrowed more money than usual in 1994 because officials there feared they would not be able to borrow money for capital projects.

Because of that, the district's tax rate jumped last year about 29 percent. This year, the rate is down about 31 percent after those loans were paid off.

■ Senior citizen assessment freezes: This year marked the first time low-income seniors in the Northwest suburbs saw a benefit from the assessment freeze offered by the state.

In all, 11,813 parcels owned by senior citizens received the tax break in the Northwest suburbs.

While that helps some senior citizens, often the most affected by large tax bills, that tax burden has to be shifted somewhere, namely to other homeowners and businesses.

■ Increased multiplier: A technical number that often means more money out of your pocket.

The multiplier is a number used to provide a uniform average level of assessments to properties. This year it went up to 2.1243, an increase of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 percent. It's a small increase that will increase tax bills slightly.

Daily Herald staff writers Jon Davis and Kristy Kennedy contributed to this story.

## How to figure your tax bill

■ Take home's market value from current assessment notice\*

■ Take 16 percent of the market value to determine the assessed value

■ Multiply by the Cook County equalizer, also called multiplier, to determine equalized assessed value

■ Subtract homeowner's exemption\*\*

■ Divide by 100

■ Multiply by total tax rate (calculate this by adding together tax rates of all the taxing districts that affect you — village, library, school, etc.)

■ Total tax bill

*	
x .16*	
x 2.1243	
- 4,500	
÷ 100	
x tax rate	

\* Though law dictates that assessed value is based on 16 percent of market value, the actual average assessment, according to the Illinois Department of Revenue, is about 10 percent for residences.

\*\* Seniors 65 or older can qualify for an additional, senior homestead exemption of \$2,500.

Source: Cook County Assessor

Daily Herald Graphic

## Taxes to dip in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove

BY BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Wheeling residents open their tax bills next week, they will see the years of paying to bring Lake Michigan water into the village have ended.

Village tax rates for 1995, released Tuesday by the Cook County clerk's office, decreased about 21 percent, from 1.016 cents to .802 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

This occurred in great part because the village spent about \$1 million less this year than last to pay off debts, marking the payment of more than \$10 million in loans it took out since the mid-1980s to tap into Lake Michigan water.

"(Loan payments) do come to an end," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "It's like burning your mortgage."

Another reason rates went down in Wheeling, officials say, is because the equalized assessed valuation for the village has increased because of growth and property values were reassessed for the first time in three years, said Village Finance Director Robert Fialkowski.

The village's equalized assessed valuation, or assessment of the property value in the village done for tax purposes, rose from about \$865 million to about \$942 million. This further spread out the taxes requested, which will be about \$5.4 million this year, compared to last year's \$6.3 million.

### Wheeling

As did the village's, most other tax rates in Wheeling decreased.

For instance, rates went down for its three school districts: Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23 and Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

With District 23, for instance, increased equalized assessed valuation and the Cook County tax cap is lowering the rate about 10 percent, from 4.037 to 3.637, said district Business Manager Rick Ewanio. The cap limits a governing

## Buffalo Grove and Wheeling tax rates

(per \$100 assessed valuation — Cook County portion)

	1995	1994	%
Village of Buffalo Grove	\$0.803	\$0.895	-10.28
Village of Wheeling	\$0.802	\$1.016	-21.06
Buffalo Grove Park District	\$0.632	\$0.490	+28.98
Wheeling Park District	\$0.558	\$0.599	-6.84
River Trails Park District	\$0.505	\$0.502	+0.60
Indian Trails Library District	\$0.295	\$0.288	+2.43
Wheeling Twp. Elementary D21	\$3.104	\$3.269	-5.05
NW Suburban High School D214	\$2.166	\$2.259	-4.12
Harper College	\$0.279	\$0.296	-5.74
Wheeling Township	\$0.099	\$0.104	-4.81
Cook County	\$0.994	\$0.993	+0.10
Cook County Forest Preserve	\$0.072	\$0.073	-1.37
Metropolitan Water Reclamation	\$0.495	\$0.495	0.00
NW Mosquito Abatement District	\$0.010	\$0.010	0.00
Suburban TB Sanitarium District	\$0.008	\$0.008	0.00

**Buffalo Grove total** .....\$8.986 \$9.180 -2.11  
**Typical tax bill** .....\$3751 \$3564 +5.25  
 Based on house valued at \$215,000 in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21

**Wheeling total** .....\$8.911 \$9.410 -5.30  
**Typical tax bill** .....\$2569 \$2382 +7.82  
 Based on house valued at \$146,000 in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 and the Indian Trails Library District.

Source: Cook County Clerk's Office

body to collect 2.7 percent more taxes than the previous year.

The cap is also keeping rates down for the Indian Trails Public Library District despite it passing a referendum last fall to take out a \$3.8 million loan to expand the library in Wheeling, said Administrative Librarian Kenneth G. Swanson. The rate increased about 2 percent, from .288 to .295.

### Buffalo Grove

Residents of Buffalo Grove who live in Cook County will find their village rate has dipped, while the rate they pay for their parks has increased.

Buffalo Grove is exempt from the county tax cap because it is a home-rule community, but it, too, is seeing its rate decrease.

The 10 percent decline, from .895 to .803, is caused by the increase in equalized assessed valuation and officials keeping spending down, said Village Finance Director William Brimm. Rates for the village's Lake County residents, released in April, decreased about 3 percent, from .749 to .726. Village President Sidney H. Mathias said

the village has tried to use means such as sales taxes to raise funds, alleviating some of the tax burden from home owners.

One rate that did increase for Buffalo Grove residents was Buffalo Grove Park District's, which climbed about 29 percent, from .490 to .632.

This was caused by the district taking out a more than \$1 million loan so that it can restructure how the district pays its debt, said Director Michael Ryko. Lake County residents' rates increased 33 percent, from .425 to .566.

But while the decision to pay back debt annually instead of during a two-year period will cost residents this year, the move is expected to save an estimated \$100,000 annually, he added.

The \$4.1 million in debt that the district will pay this year, a 46 percent climb from last year's \$2.8 million, is also expected to drop to about \$3 million next year, Ryko said. Rates should decrease by about the same amount that they increased this year, he added.

Daily Herald staff writer Dwayne Wong contributed to this report.

## WEEKLY DIGEST

**COOK COUNTY SAYS IT'S 8-8-96**  
**XL Screw Corp. wins village award**  
 XL Screw Corp. of Wheeling recently received an Appearance Award from the village's Appearance Commission for excellence in maintaining the exterior of the fastener importing company at 233 W. Hintz Road.  
 The company began in Wheeling in 1968 and today employs over 25 workers. Current company president, Ron Sackheim, represents the third generation of his family in the fastener business.

# One track for new commuter rail line is safe, Metra says

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Can trains traveling up to 60 mph in different directions run on a single track without crashing?

No problem, Metra says. The commuter rail service will open its new North Central Service Aug. 19 on a track owned by Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Metra will run eight trains every weekday between Antioch and River Grove on the single track. Wisconsin Central averages about 35 freight trains a day on the same track.

The track's signal system prohibits trains coming from opposite directions reaching the same point, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said.

"The system knows where the trains are," Knapton said.

Single-track systems have been in use since the first engineer hopped on a train.

"Single track is a common operation in this country and around the world," said Ed English, who oversees enforcement for the Federal Railroad Administration. "Railroads run thousands of trains on single tracks every day."

These single-track systems can be as safe as two tracks depending on the specific situation, said Russ Quimby, safety engineer for the National Transportation Safety

Board. "It depends on how much traffic it gets on it, what kind of shape the track is in and what kind of signal system it has," Quimby said.

Metra already runs about 40 trains a day using a single track and sidings — short stretches of parallel track where a train can wait for others to pass — on its Milwaukee District North line from Rondout to Fox Lake.

It also uses a single track for a 10-mile stretch on its Southwest Service and for about 7 miles on its electric Blue Island branch, Knapton said.

And Amtrak uses a single track on large sections of its Chicago to St. Louis run, spokesman Marc Magliari said.

When the Wisconsin Central first opened in the late 1800s, it carried both passenger and freight traffic. It continued to carry people from Chicago to Wisconsin and Minnesota until 1965, but it never had a regularly scheduled commuter line until now.

Metra's contract with Wisconsin Central says no freight trains will run during the morning and evening rush hours when commuter trains are scheduled to be on the track, Metra spokesman

See METRA on Page 7

# Whistle blowing up to towns

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

8-15-96  
Countrywide

of approaching trains, Anderson said, he would be willing to consider implementing those.

hours of whistle-blowing would have on their residents, particularly once the North Central commuter line begins service.

Local municipal leaders have successfully persuaded U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun to provide some relief from 24-hour train whistle blowing in an amendment to the 1994 Swift Rail Development Act.

Moseley-Braun's amendment that recently passed the Senate directs the Secretary of Transportation to consider the interests of the affected communities, past safety records and local awareness efforts before mandating that a community comply with the 24-hour whistle blowing.

"We were pleased the Senate recently passed a law to give local municipalities more control on whether to ban whistle-blowing in their communities," Mathias said at a recent Village Board meeting.

The act was to require all trains passing over grade or street-level crossings to sound their whistle 24 hours a day beginning in November.

The whistle-blowing mandate also has been postponed three years to give communities time to install additional safety measures at their grade crossings.

Area mayors, including Buffalo Grove Village President Sid Mathias and Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, met with Moseley-Braun in January to discuss the potential impact of the legislation on suburban residents.

Currently, communities can enact ordinances to prevent whistle-blowing, but the Swift Rail Act would have superseded that. Neither Wheeling nor Buffalo Grove has a whistle ban, but officials of both realize the inconvenience 24

"It is inappropriate for a federal bureaucracy in this case to mandate that train whistles sound everywhere, at all hours. Just as we do not impose the same safety mandates on every traffic intersection in the county, we should not universally require trains to blow their whistles at every railroad crossing in the country," Moseley-Braun said in a released statement.

However, if devices other than whistles were found to warn drivers and pedestrians

# METRA: New train on same track will not cause collisions

Continued from Page 1

Tom Miller said. "They (Metra trains) are going to have priority," Miller said.

Before opening the line, Metra and Wisconsin Central upgraded the signals along the track and created a new centralized control system.

They also lengthened four existing sidings and added a new one at Schiller Park.

If freight and passenger trains end up on the track at the same time, sensors along the line will show their locations, Knapton said.

Dispatchers will follow the progress of the trains and control the sidings from video screens at Wisconsin Central's dispatch center at Stevens Point, Wis.

"In some ways it's similar to air

traffic control," said Kevin Keefe, editor of Trains magazine. "They command everything that goes on in that stretch."

Dispatchers will send a train that doesn't have priority onto one of the five sidings while the other one passes.

The waiting train can't move back on the main line because the tracks are locked mechanically, Knapton said. Only when the first train passes through can the other train move off the siding on to the track, he said.

Between River Grove and downtown Chicago, the commuter trains will run on Metra's own double- and triple-track system, Miller said.

During the opening weeks of the North Central Service, Metra will have its own staff at Stevens Point to make sure the trains are

coordinated with the Wisconsin Central dispatchers, Knapton said.

Initially Metra wanted to run 14 weekday trains on the line, but a computer simulation showed that number of runs would clog up freight traffic.

Instead Metra opted for four runs each way.

Like other transportation systems, human error can still cause train accidents despite the latest technology.

In February a Wisconsin Central locomotive nearly hit a Des Plaines woman as it sped through a crossing without triggering warning signals and gates.

The near-miss occurred because one of the dispatchers in Stevens Point failed to warn the locomotive's engineer that the warning signals had been shut

off, Wisconsin Central officials said.

Three years ago in Gary a commuter train sideswiped another on a narrow bridge, killing seven people and injuring nearly 70.

But the North Central Service has no locations where tracks overlap and could cause such an accident, Knapton said.

If the North Central Service attracts enough passengers, Metra hopes to get federal money to build a second track for the line, allowing more trains to run on the system.

But in the meantime, Metra is happy with the track it has.

"If it was an inopportune way to operate a railroad, the federal government would never allow it," Knapton said. "They aren't going to fund something that's inherently unsafe."

# Wheeling helps to solve dispute between trailer owners, park

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have come up with a few ideas to remedy some complaints residents have about Whippetree Village Mobile Home Park, chiefly high rent.

The possibilities on the table include a cap on annual rent increases; open notification of park policies; and long-term leases that would ensure residents knowing years in advance how much a lot to keep their mobile home would cost.

But before the village board makes a decision, it wants to see if residents and the park owner can live with the options.

"We have discussed tonight several options and to say this is the best way to do it without discussing

it with (either side), wouldn't be the best way to do it," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

A couple of representatives from Capital Development Corp., as many as 10 residents and a few Wheeling officials will meet within a month to discuss how they will be affected by a series of options devised by the village that might govern some of the ways the park is operated, namely involving rent.

The options, which were presented to the village board in a special meeting Monday night, are the result of hours of comments from residents and the Lake Forest-based company and research by village staff members.

The two hearings held in June were to discuss relations between residents and the owners of Wheel-

ing's two mobile home parks, Whippetree and Fox Point. But most of the complaints vented to officials have come from Whippetree residents, who originally raised the possibility of a rent-control ordinance.

Such a rent-control cap was one of the issues discussed Monday night by Village Attorney James Rhodes.

A cap would require park owners to keep annual rent increases within a pre-determined limit, such as the rate of inflation, or Consumer Price Index. A rent hike higher than the cap would probably require the owner to justify the increase — for such reasons as improvements at the park — to a

# PARK: Rent cap, long leases are options

Continued from Page 1

know years in advance of rent increases.

Charles Mack, an attorney representing Capital, said the company wants to meet with residents and the village. But the company hopes that a rent control ordinance could be avoided.

Robert Hettinger thinks that the meeting will give he and other residents another opportunity to tell Capital its concerns.

"It will give residents more of a chance to tell management what's happening," added Hettinger, who is the president of the Mobile Home Association of Illinois.

village committee. According to the village, Whippetree's rent has increased at a rate higher than inflation. For instance, last year's 3.4 percent increase that brought it to \$470 a month surpassed the 2.5 percent rate of inflation.

Other options that were discussed included a disclosure policy that would possibly require the owners to notify residents of such things as park maintenance plans, and the board also discussed the possibility of long-term leases that would enable residents to

See PARK on Page 6



Tribune photo by Bill Hogan

Wheeling officials are considering an ordinance that would restrict fees in trailer parks such as the Whippetree Village (above).

## Trailer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
retroactive."

Whippetree is on 50 acres off Old McHenry Road north of Dundee Road. Most residents own their mobile homes but rent the land the homes occupy. Besides rent, they also pay fees for water and for garbage pickup.

Also attending Monday's hearing was attorney Alex Vercillo, general counsel for Capital Development Corp. of Winnetka, which owns Whippetree.

Philip Wolin, an attorney who has spoken for the company in the past, said at a hearing in June that increased taxes and maintenance costs were the reasons for higher rents, which have gone from \$255 to \$470 per month over the last 10 years.

Capital Development has owned and managed the park since 1983. The company owns 10 other mobile-home parks in four states.

Residents of Whippetree first sought help from Wheeling municipal officials in 1994, when owners of the park raised rents \$15 per month and imposed for the first time a garbage pickup fee of \$13.01 per month. The village took no action at that time.

Residents went back to Village Hall earlier this year with more complaints about rent increases and unsatisfactory maintenance. The complaints prompted officials to take a second look at the issue.

If Wheeling does enact rent controls on mobile home parks, it would be the only municipality in Illinois to do so.

In recent years, communities on the East and West Coasts have approved rent controls to protect mobile-home owners, who are often on low incomes.

Wheeling has two mobile home parks: Whippetree Village and Fox Point, 573 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The Whippetree residents' position has been represented by Bob Hettinger, who is also president of the Mobile Home Owners of Illinois Association, and his wife, Elayne.

Twenty years ago, the Hettingers bought a new double-sized mobile home for \$26,000 and placed it on a 2,100-square-foot pad at Whippetree Village. Rent for the pad then was \$80 per month, which included garbage pickup, Bob Hettinger said.

Hettinger said the number of available mobile home lots has diminished since then, enabling the property owner to increase rents and decrease services and maintenance. At the same time, the value of his mobile home has depreciated and can't attract a buyer, and he can't afford the \$10,000 it would cost to move the unit to another mobile home park, he said.

"Basically, we're trapped," Hettinger said.

Whippetree's rents are the second-highest in the area, according to research by Wheeling village officials. The only higher rates are being charged by a park in Glenview that is scheduled to close.

Hettinger's contention that the number of available mobile-home sites in the Chicago area has declined was disputed by Michael Marlow, executive director of the Illinois Manufactured Housing Association, based in Springfield.

"There are developments taking place in various parts of the state, but we're not seeing a whole lot of new development in the Chicago area," he said. "At the same time, we're not seeing [a significant number of] closings either."

Free-lance reporter Patrick O'Toole contributed to this article.

## Wheeling may limit trailer rent

Proposed ordinance would be 1st in state

8-13-96  
By Joseph Sjoström  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

In response to complaints of unfairly escalating rents and lax maintenance, the Wheeling Village Board on Monday night considered becoming the first municipality in Illinois to enact rent controls on mobile home parks.

Wheeling Village Atty. James Rhodes delivered a report to the six board members and Village President Sheila Schultz at a workshop meeting in Village Hall. It summarized the oral and written testimonies of 48 mobile-home residents but made no formal recommendation on what the village should do.

Wheeling trustees talked Monday about a possible ordinance for rental properties that would be tied to the consumer price index. Any proposal to increase residents' rent by more than that inflation rate would have to go before a village rental review board.

Before the meeting began, Village Trustee Jeanne Duvall Selander said, "Clearly, these people have been through a hard time, and it's almost a human-rights issue. But rent control is such an extreme measure, so I'd like to see if we could do something short of that."

About 55 residents, mostly senior citizens from the 413-unit Whippetree Village mobile-home park in Wheeling, turned out for the workshop. Their complaints had prompted village officials to begin considering rent controls.

"I'd like to see rent control. How else do you stop them? You get an ordinance. That's the only way," said Charles Fergus, a resident of Whippetree for nine years. Moreover, Fergus said, "I wish they could make it

SEE TRAILER, PAGE 2

## 'Progressive' Wheeling police earn high marks

8-10-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Stationing officers periodically in banks and promoting railroad safety helped Wheeling's police department score well in a review of its operation.

"It shows it's a progressive department that is concerned about its constituents and wants to serve its constituents," said Dennis Hyater, a program manager with The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.

The commission, based in Fairfax, Va., reviewed the department in May and found it to be in compliance with national standards for training, pursuits, use of force and other areas.

Wheeling police officials were recently notified that the department was re-accredited, a standing that lasts five years. Wheeling was first accredited in 1990.

"After our original accreditation we didn't slip, we kept on going ... this was recognized," Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes said.

A team of three commission assessors tested the department in May, observing if the policies under which Wheeling operates adhere to the national standards.

During meetings with the commission in Des Moines, Iowa, Hermes said, Wheeling police officials were given compliments especially for two programs: Active participation in the "Operation Lifesaver" national railroad safety program and having officers work periodically out of banks.

"Novel" was what Hyater called the bank program, in which officers periodically use desks and phones that the businesses supply to do paperwork while out on their beat. This provides a police presence in the bank.

And Chief Michael Haeger said the department will continually try to improve and create new programs.

"I don't think any department can rest on their laurels ... law enforcement is changing all the time," Haeger said.

Having the village's department accredited should give residents confidence that the officers patrolling their streets are prepared and are following a set of guidelines, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

## New tax expected to raise \$500,000

8-15-96  
By CHERI BENTRIUP  
STAFF WRITER

Countywide  
Wheeling trustees expect to raise \$500,000 of revenue annually once the village's telecommunications tax goes into effect Oct. 1.

Trustees at the Aug. 5 meeting voted unanimously to enact a 5 percent telecommunications tax. The tax applies to all telephone calls, faxes, cellular phones, pagers, computer lines and any other communications that are transmitted similarly.

"It's an attempt to diversify our sources of revenue," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "It's a common tax, many communities around us already have it and anything we can do to decrease our reliance on property taxes, I think, is good."

Trustees have discussed the possibility of instituting a telecommunications tax since early this year, Anderson said.

Finance Director Robert Flalkowski said the tax will be paid to the village monthly by the companies that provide the telecommunications services.

## Alternate revenue

The new tax is being viewed as an alternate source of revenue for the village, he said. "It's not to say (property) taxes will go down, but as alternate source, they may not go up as much," Flalkowski said.

In the immediate area, Prospect Heights and Lincolnshire have a 5 percent telecommunications tax. Elk Grove Village has a 3 percent telecommunications tax, Mount Prospect charges 2 percent and Schaumburg taxes 1 percent.

The state allows a community to tax telecommunications up to 5 percent.



Tribune photos by Jim Prisching

A Metra train speeds through the Buffalo Grove commuter train station on Tuesday during a test run of the new North Central Line, which runs from Antioch to Chicago's Union Station. Metra workers (below) conduct a track survey.



## New Metra line is on fast track

North Central to start up right on schedule in spite of glitches

8-14-96

By Janan Hanna and Gary Mays  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

Though some north suburban towns aren't quite ready for Metra's new North Central Line, the commuter rail agency is sticking firm to its plan to start running trains Monday.

Metra conducted a dry run Tuesday, making all stops between Antioch and Chicago's Union Station. The test was largely successful—but there were some snafus.

At the Buffalo Grove stop, one eager commuter, who thought service began this week, tried to board, said Metra spokesman Chris Knapton. He was advised that Tuesday's train was for Metra officials and news media photographers only.

And in Des Plaines, the train was delayed at the junction of the North Central's host rail-

road, the Wisconsin Central, and the Metra-Union Pacific Northwest Line.

Not wanting to delay Northwest Line commuters, and mistakenly assuming the North Central dry run was a freight train, signalmen wouldn't give the North Central train a green light, Knapton said.

The new service, the first new commuter line in the state in 70 years, will run on the Wisconsin Central tracks from Antioch south, making stops in Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Prairie Crossing/Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Prairie View, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Prospect Heights, O'Hare International Airport and Franklin Park.

A recently constructed interchange track in Franklin Park will switch trains onto the Metra-Milwaukee District West Line for the final leg of the

SEE TRAIN, PAGE 7

## Local Company X Wins Appearance Award From Town

Journal & Topics - 8-12-96  
XL Screw Corporation's external landscaping recently won an Appearance Award from the Village of Wheeling.

But the company's interior sculpture and art depicting its products is perhaps its best known feature. Located at 233 W. Hintz Rd. in the community's industrial park, XL's offices feature numerous sculptures and paintings depicting many examples of the 500 industrial and commercial fasteners it manufactures and sells.

The company, now managed by Ron Sackheim, the third generation member of his family to manage the business, originally advertised with the slogan, "Screws & Nuts to You." Now, its theme is "We Hold the World Together."



Tribune photo by Jim Prisching

The new Metra commuter station in Buffalo Grove will be open for service Monday when the North Central Line begins service.

## Train

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Journey into Chicago.

Eight passenger trains a day will traverse the line—three inbound in the morning, one round-trip in the midday, and three outbound in the afternoon.

"This is probably the most eagerly anticipated project among residents," said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who led the municipal movement to get the new line.

The \$100 million project took 25 years of planning and was made possible by a unique funding process: The federal government pitched in \$50 million, and the rest of the cost was picked up by Illinois and municipalities to be served by the new line.

Metra officials suspect the crowds will be thin on the new train for at least two years.

"It takes a long time to change people's commuting habits," Knapton said.

Eventually Metra is forecasting about 2,500 commuters a day.

On the other hand, Metra's biggest fear is the possibility—however unlikely—that each train will be filled to the gills by the time it's just halfway down the line," Knapton said.

If a train gets to Wheeling—about the halfway point—and has to turn commuters away, Metra will have a public relations nightmare on its hands.

"We have no idea whether 10 people are going to show up or 1,000," Knapton said.

One thing is certain: The new line is being watched as a model project, and will likely be imitated in other parts of the metropolitan region if it's successful.

Municipalities were responsible for building train stations and parking lots to accommodate the suburban-sprawl commuter, who typically must drive from home to the station.

It hasn't all gone smoothly.

Station construction in Vernon Hills and Libertyville has been delayed, and village officials are advising commuters not to board the trains there until the depots are finished.

But a Metra spokesman says that if there happens to be a com-

muter or two standing on those platforms next week, trains will stop.

"We have a schedule to keep," said Metra spokesman Tom Miller. "The trains will slow down to almost a walking speed, so if there is a commuter on the platform, we will pick them up."

In the transportation business, strict adherence to schedules and reliability are key to generating a base of loyal commuters. But at least at first, there are bound to be some glitches.

The delays in Vernon Hills can be attributed to depot-related roadwork on U.S. Highway 45, which is being widened to accommodate Metra commuters heading to the station, said Assistant Village Manager James Doyle.

"We have the misfortune of being the only community that had to make improvements to a highway and traffic signal," said Doyle. "We didn't get final approval from the state until July 30."

As a result, the station will not be open until at least November, Doyle said, and commuters should not try to use it until then.

"There's no way to get to the stop without crossing a busy street and walking through a construction site," said Doyle.

If commuters do heed the warnings and stay away, the result could be a major dent in ridership for the new line. Vernon Hills is building the second-largest station, with 266 parking spaces, on the northern end of the line. Only Mundelein's depot will be bigger, with 299 parking spaces.

Libertyville officials blame the delay at their Prairie Crossing depot on rainy spring weather that stalled construction for nearly two months. The station and 155-space parking lot are in a field off Harris Road that was too waterlogged for work to begin in April, said Village Manager Kevin Bowens.

The station will not be finished until mid-September, he said. Passengers, however, will be allowed to board at Prairie Crossing once the parking lot is completed around Sept. 7.

Until then, there will be no access to the platform, Bowens said.

"Metra can stop," he said, "but there won't be anyone there."

# Wheeling goes over airwaves

The village can be seen on cable station Channel 6

8-15-96

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Countyside

Cable television subscribers may see some familiar faces as they tune in to Wheeling's new cable-access station, Channel 6.

The village hopes to eventually broadcast its Village Board meetings, but already has the system broadcasting typed messages in a calendar-type format.

"We've been up and running since late July," said Assistant Village Manager Catherine Peterson. "We've contacted the chamber of commerce, the Park District and other community groups to solicit information from them."

Wheeling Elementary School District 21, High School District 214 and Indian Trails Library also have expressed interest in using the system, she said.

Among the items broadcast on the 24-hour cable access channel are information about organization's events, fundraisers, membership drives, and notification of village rules, such as when a work permit is required, Peterson said. Perhaps most important to residents is the airing of the Village Board meeting agendas, she said.

"That's really important, we think. The next step is to air videos" of village activities as well as those provided by other agencies, such as the Red Cross and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Broadcasting Village Board meetings on the cable access channel is the next goal for the village, Peterson said. The village is investigating how to broadcast live or taped meetings and what equipment would be required.

Peterson gives much of the credit for the start of the new channel to Jeanne Selander,

former village clerk who was recently appointed as a trustee on the Village Board.

"I'm real excited about it. It's a good way for all community organizations to get their information out to the public," said Selander, who has been typing the information into the cable system. "We want this to be a positive vehicle."

Already, Selander said, the village has received glowing comments from the public about the new cable service.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback. Several residents have called the administration and various trustees," she said. "We need a little more refinement, but I've asked people to bear with us during the implementation stage."

Once videos are broadcast on the channel, the involvement of community organizations may further increase. Selander noted that the Park District and local schools all have musical productions that could be aired.

"There's a lot of good things going on and this is a way to show it. It's a great way to let the community see what it's happening," Selander said.

An government agency or local not-for-profit group may request their message to be broadcast on Channel 6.

Messages can be submitted in writing to Catherine Peterson, assistant village manager, at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, or via fax at 847-459-9692. Messages should be brief and contain the who, what, when and where of the meeting or event.

Those submitting requests must include a name of a contact person, address and telephone number in addition to the name of the requesting group. Also include how many days the message should be broadcast. Three to four days of lead time is requested.

The village reserves the right to refuse or edit messages deemed inappropriate for this station.

## Must Now Consider Communities

# Local Meeting Leads To Whistle Change

Journal & Topics 8-12-96

A conference of Northwest suburban mayors last January has brought about a change to the mandatory train whistles before the trains crosses a road.

U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun who met with mayors in Arlington Hts. was able to amend a bill directing the Secretary of Transportation how to implement the whistle blowing law.

President Sidney Mathias about the train whistle mandate.

Using Arlington Hts. as an example, she said that 3,500 people commute to work on 63 commuter trains every weekday between 5:30 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. There are also four freight trains that pass through the area.

The senator also said there was a need to find ways to improve safety, but a "one size fits all, top-down approach is not the best solution."

"When the amendment becomes law, it will give the communities a voice while protecting safety," Moseley-Braun.

Check urine; dark, concentrated urine means dehydration

# Ready to roll

## Train makes first run Sunday

The new Wisconsin Central commuter train will arrive in Buffalo Grove at 2:45 p.m. and Wheeling at 2:52 p.m.

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

After years of planning, the first commuter train will roll down the Wisconsin Central tracks Sunday afternoon carrying village officials, politicians and guests on a celebratory ride into Chicago's Union Station and back.

The inaugural ride is expected to be greeted with festivities at the 10 recently constructed depots along the new North Central commuter line. Regular commuter service begins Monday morning.

Sunday's celebration begins in Antioch, the northernmost stop on the North Central line. The Antioch Upper Grade School Band will begin playing at 12:30 p.m., with a platform ceremony planned for 1 p.m. The inaugural train is expected to arrive in Antioch at 1:40 p.m.

The train is expected to reach Buffalo Grove at 2:45 p.m. and Wheeling at 2:52 p.m.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sid Mathias said residents are welcome to come to the station, located on Commerce Court south of Busch Parkway, to witness the first train coming down the track Sunday afternoon.

"It's long been a dream of our community, and it's very exciting," Mathias said.

However, most of the activity at the Buffalo Grove depot will be limited to invited guests including trustees, village staff and commission members, state politicians, Park Board members and School Board members, said Village Administrative Assistant Phil Versten.

These people will be briefed on how the system will operate so they can relay that information to their constituents and neighbors, Versten said. The depot also will be dedicated Sunday.

"Our primary public involvement is going to come Monday" when the commuter line opens to the public, said Versten.

"We'll have a representative of the village out there every day during the runs to answer questions, hand out schedules," he said. Metra also is expected to have representatives at the station to discuss train safety.

Wheeling officials are hoping the entire community joins them in their celebration at 2:15 p.m. Sunday at the train depot, located on Town Street just south of Dundee Road.

The 73-member Wheeling High School Band will perform and short speeches will be given by village officials. Lemonade and cookies will be served. The train is expected to arrive at 2:52 p.m. and take invited guests on the inaugural ride.

Like Buffalo Grove, village and Metra officials will man the Wheeling depot throughout the first week of commuter service to answer riders' questions.

Starting Monday, weekday southbound trains arrive in Buffalo Grove at 6 a.m., 6:35 a.m. and 7:10 a.m. Trains arrive in Wheeling about four minutes later. Those trains arrive in Chicago's Union Station at 6:50 a.m., 7:25 a.m., and 8 a.m., respectively.

A midday train leaves Chicago at 1:25 p.m. and arrives in Wheeling at 2:10 p.m. and Buffalo Grove at 2:14 p.m. An inbound train arrives in Buffalo Grove at 4:02 p.m., Wheeling at 4:07 p.m. and Chicago at 4:55 p.m.

Outbound trains leave Chicago at 4:23 p.m., 5 p.m. and 5:38 p.m. The trains arrive in Wheeling at 5:07 p.m., 5:44 p.m., and 6:22 p.m. They stop in Buffalo Grove about four minutes later.

Train service is supplemented by the Pace bus service; check a schedule for details. Metra and village officials will be available at the depots during the first week to answer riders' questions about the cooperative service.

Schedules are available by calling 1-800-41METRA. A one-way ticket from Buffalo Grove or Wheeling into Chicago is \$3.90.

## Life at Whippetree getting better

Residents of the mobile home park told the Village Board on Tuesday that conditions have improved. The village will keep working with residents and the park's management company to iron out all the problems.

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Conditions at the Whippetree mobile home park in Wheeling appear to be improving, residents told village trustees at a special board meeting Monday.

In June, Whippetree residents packed the Council Chamber to tell trustees of the various problems they were having with the trailer park's management company, Capital Development of Lake Forest.

Complaints ranged from rent increases and garbage collection to trailer repairs and limited use of the clubhouse.

Residents brought the issue to trustees, asking the Village Board to approve a rent control ordinance.

Trustees responded by scheduling two nights of public hearings in June. On June 10, residents had their say and

on June 24, an attorney representing the management company was given the opportunity to respond.

At Monday's special meeting, trustees reviewed the testimony heard in June and discussed enacting a rent justification ordinance for the village's two mobile home parks, Whippetree on Old McHenry Road and Fox Point along Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees have decided to schedule a meeting with representatives of Capital Development, Whippetree residents, and village trustees and staff to discuss a number of issues, including how a rent

(Continued on page 15)

Mobile Continued from page 5

other possibility is to offer long-term leases that show the expected rent increase for years in advance.

Village President Sheila Schultz suggested the informal meeting take place among the village, Capital Development and Whippetree residents. The village would serve as an impartial facilitator, she said.

"The village would be happy to do that to move this along," Schultz said. "We can try to iron out as many of the bugs as possible. There's been a lot of work done on this already."

Charles Mack, an attorney for Capital Development, said he would be glad to meet with residents to discuss their concerns and search for solutions.

"I think since these meetings have been held, improvements have been made and I think they'll continue," Mack said.

### Soon

The meeting is expected to be scheduled soon so an agreement could be reached before leases are up for renewal at the end of the year.

justification ordinance would affect the landlord and the park's 407 renters.

"A rent justification ordinance would not prohibit increases in rent," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Instead, it would require the landlords to give testimony before a rent review board to explain the increases. A hearing only would be necessary if the proposed increase was higher than the consumer price index or a percentage set by the village.

However, in 1995 Whippetree's rent increased 3.4 percent, less than the 4.1 percent consumer price index, Village Attorney James Rhodes told trustees. "That increase would have satisfied the index," he said.

Currently, Whippetree residents pay \$470 a month to rent the concrete pad on which their mobile home sits.

In addition to a rent justification ordinance, trustees want Whippetree to provide a disclosure statement to renters.

"It would spell out the terms that may not be included in the lease, the rules and regulations. It also ensures uniform treatment of all residents," Rhodes said. An-

*Journal & Topics 8-12-76*

# Commuter Line To Start Aug. 19

By JOHN E. CONICK

In the age of air travel, the train is making a comeback with commuter travel.

Metra will open its first new commuter line on Aug. 18 with its inaugural run of its North Central trains.

Ceremonies are planned at Prospect Hts., Wheeling and Buffalo Grove as a train arrives from Antioch, the northern most point of the line, to the terminal at Chicago, carrying various dignitaries.

Metra will be using the existing Wisconsin Central tracks that have been upgraded from freight to passenger serve.

The last passenger service on the line was in 1965 when the track was used by the SOO Line. The track had been laid in the late 19th Century as a traditional intercity railroad service and not for commuter service.

On Aug. 19, train service will consist of four weekday inbound and outbound trains serving 10 communities plus a transfer stop at O'Hare International Airport's remote parking lot "F."

Transfers there can be made between Metra and the transit systems to O'Hare terminals.

Plans had been made for a possible transfer point to the Metra's Northwest Line in Des Plaines but those plans have been scrapped.

In 1987 planning for the new line began and with the help of U.S. Rep. John Porter (R.-10th), federal funding was obtained to help in the costs.

Contributing to the loosening of the Federal pursestrings was the enthusiastic agreement by local communities along the line to help in defraying some of the costs. The municipalities agreed to pay for the costs of new train stations and adjoining parking lots. They also did some unique planning so that each station along the way is not the same.

Prospect Hts.'s \$1.3 million sta-



⊕ = STATION

Here is the location for the new Metra train station that will serve the Village of Wheeling. Inbound trains will stop at the station at 6:04 a.m., 6:39 a.m., 7:14 a.m. and 4:07 p.m. Trains from Chicago will stop at 2:10 p.m., 5:07 p.m., 5:44 p.m. and 6:22 p.m.



⊕ = STATION

Here is the location for the new Metra train station that will serve Buffalo Grove. Trains will be stopping at the station inbound at 6 a.m., 6:35 a.m., 7:10 a.m. and 4:02 p.m. with stops from Chicago arriving at 2:14 p.m., 5:11 p.m., 5:48 p.m. and 6:26 p.m.

tion will have 382 stalls for cars, five of which will be for long-term parking for those using flying from O'Hare.

Wheeling will have 488 parking slots. Its station is the largest with 2,400 square feet. The smallest is Libertyville which has 392 square feet.

Buffalo Grove will have 452

parking slots. They were built three years ago so that commuters could take shuttle busses from the lot to stations on other Metra lines.

Planning for a second mainline track has already begun, but Metra is moving slowly on its construction to avoid an over-estimation.

Part of the federal funding helped in rebuilding 25 bi-level coaches and coach/cab cars. There will also be three fully ADA-accessible bi-level coach cars and variety of standard Metra locomotives.

Train speeds are expected to reach 60 miles per hour in some sections.

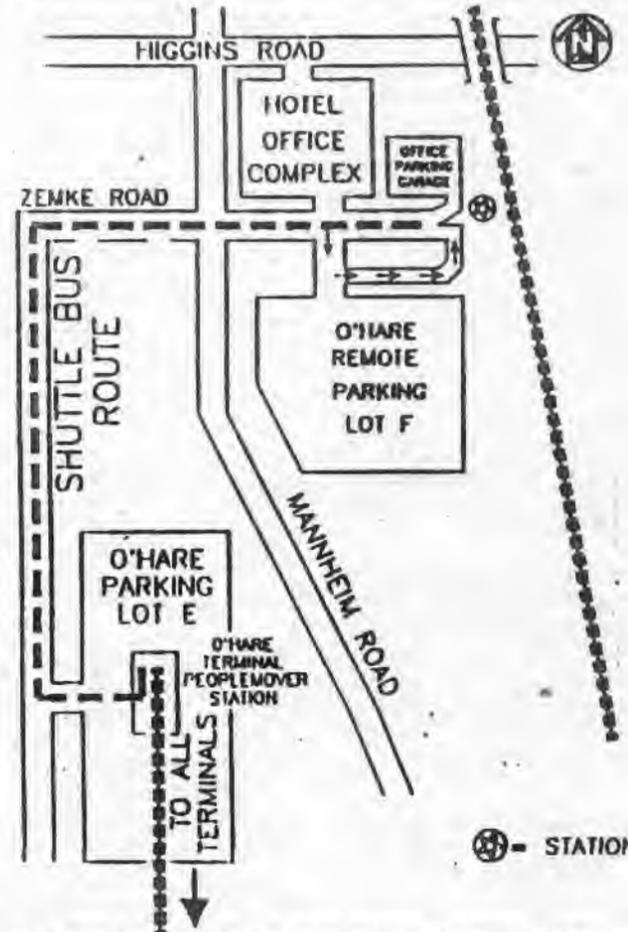
Metra is making a conservative estimate as to the number of riders. They are estimating 3,500 riders per day that will rise to between 5,000 and 5,800 per day in a few years after startup.

Of the number, 40 percent will be new riders to the system.

PACE will operate a parallel weekday and evening service on which rail tickets will be honored so that no one will be stuck in downtown Chicago because they missed the last evening train.

Ticket costs will vary depending upon which station is being used.

Monthly fares to Chicago from Buffalo Grove and Wheeling will be \$105.30 and a one-way fare will be \$3.90. From Prospect Hts., the monthly fare will be \$94.50 and \$3.50 one-way.



⊕ = STATION

Here is the location of the train station for transfer to O'Hare Airport facilities. Inbound trains to Chicago will arrive at the O'Hare transfer points at 6:19 a.m., 6:54 a.m., 7:29 a.m. and 4:22 p.m. Outbound trains to the north area will leave at 1:53 p.m., 4:51 p.m., 5:28 p.m. and 6:06 p.m.

## 4 Inbound, 4 Outbound Trains Will Serve Area Weekday Commuters

Train schedules for the new Metra Commuter Line have been announced.

Weekday service will start Aug. 19.

Inbound trains to Chicago from Antioch will arrive at Buffalo Grove at 6 a.m., 6:35 a.m., 7:10 a.m. and 4:02 p.m.

Stops at Wheeling will be four minutes later at 6:04 a.m., 6:39 a.m., 7:14 a.m. and 4:07 p.m.

For passengers boarding at Prospect Hts. trains will be at 6:09 a.m., 6:44 a.m., 7:19 a.m. and 7:19 a.m.

Trains will arrive in Chicago at 6:50 a.m., 7:25 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Outbound trains will leave Chicago at 1:25 p.m., 4:23 p.m., 5 p.m. and 5:38 p.m.

Stops at Prospect Hts. will be at 2:04 p.m., 5:02 p.m., 5:39 p.m. and 6:06 p.m.

Wheeling stops are 2:10 p.m., 5:07 p.m., 5:44 p.m. and 6:22 p.m.

Passengers will disembark at Buffalo Grove at 2:14 p.m., 5:11 p.m., 5:48 p.m. and 6:26 p.m.

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Riders make history by boarding one of the first Metra commuter trains on the Wisconsin Central track at the Prospect Hts. station on Monday, Aug. 19. Train cars and engines were refurbished to include train safety reminders. More than 1,000 passengers boarded trains at new stations from Antioch to Prospect Hts. for the commuter ride to Chicago. New stations also include those in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling.

(Journal photo by Bob Wessell)

## Wheeling Topics 8-22-96 New Commuter Stations Open

BY JOHN E. CONICK

Commuters are taking advantage of Metra's new North Central Line trains at Prospect Hts., Buffalo Grove and Wheeling.

The first three trains of eight cars each had 1,041 passengers with at least 14 transferring at O'Hare Airport from the first two trains. Transfer figures were not available for the third train.

Metra opened the first new commuter line in 70 years on the Wisconsin Central tracks on Sunday, Aug. 18, when elected officials from towns along the stops from Antioch to Chicago took part in the inaugural run.

For other commuters who have to cross the train tracks in an east-west direction, the new commuter trains also provided relief in their driving at railroad crossings. The agreement between Metra and Wisconsin Central provides for no freight train movement during the rush

hour commutes.

Prospect Hts. Mayor Edward Rotchford called it a "great day" as he was at the station to greet riders. While the number of commuters were not as large as the number of parking places available for vehicles, the mayor believes the numbers will continue to grow. Nearly 400 slots are available at the Prospect Hts. train station.

He said some of Monday's commuters were "walkers" who came from nearby neighborhoods of both Prospect Hts. and Mt. Prospect. The mayor said that he spotted others who rode their bikes to the train station.

As to determining the number of commuters, Rotchford used the "coffee cup method." There was free coffee handed out on the first day and the used coffee cups determined the number.

"Then years ago this was a dream; five years ago it was

(Continued on page 4A)

## Train Stations

(Continued from page 1A) very intense (about the planning) and now it is a reality," he added.

Metra is pleased with the turnout along the line and will be monitoring the use of the line for future expansion, said spokesman Chris Knapton.

"It (the readership numbers) was far beyond our expectations," he said.

Metra is not providing train service on holidays or weekends. During those days, Wisconsin Central will be moving more of their trains to make up for the delays in their freight train. They already have more than 30 trains daily on the tracks.

There has already been talk of a Phase II for the line that will in-

clude a second track so both commuter and freight trains can operate at the same time. Commuter trains can travel as much as 60 miles per hour while freight trains are generally limited to 45 miles per hour for their top speed.

Rotchford is optimistic that a second track will be laid. He said he has had to wait as much as 20 minutes a few times at a siding in Wheeling enabling two freight trains to pass in opposite directions.

Knapton said that federal officials understand that the consortium of the train company, Metra and the municipalities will be seeking monetary assistance. The request will be made based on the demand for service he said.

"This line serves as a national

### Showing concern

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
Wheeling/ People like to sit back and complain about the government, but our actions determine the kind of government we get. How do we react to mud slinging and character assassination political allegations with which we are bombarded by the media? Do we sit back and ignore special-interest, political-action-committee paid-for political TV campaigns ranging from tobacco, to guns, to national defense contracts, etc., until election day, and then try to make decisions based on the lesser of evil candidates, if some of us even bother to vote at all?

Not on your life! Now is when you sit up and pay attention. Identify those elected officials that are doing what is in the best interest of the people they serve, and make sure other voters are aware of what they have accomplished. Almost all elected officials try to seek recognition by attending parades on Memorial Day and the 4th of July, when veterans are honored for contributing so much toward keeping our nation free and safe. Many such elected officials really do not recognize veterans' needs, nor do they have the veterans' interests at heart, particularly at budget-cutting time.

State Representative Lauren Beth Gash, D-Deerfield, has shown herself to be very concerned and attentive to the needs of veterans and their families, and she is tuned to veterans organizations as an important source of information. Three very important areas of legislation that were sponsored or supported in the Illinois General Assembly by Lauren

## LETTERS

# What's YOUR OPINION?

This is your page as much as ours, and we welcome your opinions about local issues or about our newspaper. And we make it easy for you to tell us how you feel.

You can send letters to:  
Letters to the Editor  
Pioneer Press  
291 N. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL  
60004-5903  
You can fax letters to:  
(847) 797-5151

Or you can send us e-mail through our Internet home page at: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com>

Your letter should include your phone number (which we won't publish) and a signature. We might edit your letter for clarity and brevity or reject those deemed libelous, redundant or inappropriate.

Beth were: education opportunities for veterans and their families; preventing work discrimination against veterans; and penalizing phonies who falsely represent themselves as veterans to obtain veterans' preferences or benefits.

As a veteran and a citizen living in Lauren Beth Gash's district, I'm proud to have

her as my representative. It would be great if every citizen in Illinois had a representative as dynamic and as dedicated to the service of their people as Lauren Beth is.

Marvin O. "Syke" Horcher

### Get involved

Wheeling/ I have never wanted 15 minutes of fame, power, political involvement or to write letters to columns. But it seems every time I read the opposing viewpoints to projects that could help our community, I wonder, "Is something in our water making these people think this way?"

Then I find the people writing opposing viewpoints are people who have been appointed by this administration for various committees, boards, positions past and present, or are in some way connected.

As I look around at all our empty stores and properties, I wonder if they are writing these opinions to appease or make this administration look better? Or are these opinions their own thinking for the better of our community? I have lived here 33 years and when growing up our surrounding communities were our equals. Now when I look around they have all surpassed us. It's a shame.

I do have interest in what goes on. My husband and I chose to purchase a single-family home here. We both grew up in Wheeling. Between our families it's almost 80 years combined. Under this administration's comprehensive map, our home is no longer here; it will be townhomes one day. As we look around, we

(Continued on page 23)

## Letters Continued

wonder, after 33 years, should we fight to stay in Wheeling? Or maybe we now own townhome property and should move to greener pastures? It saddens us.

I just ask one thing. Next time I read letter writers' viewpoints, let it come from citizens that are not connected to this administration, rather regular citizens that would like to better our community, and have valid arguments. (Mr. Horcher abstains from voting on his family's property, which is proper.)

I do ask one more thing. I wish people would become more involved with our village and go to public hearings and meetings and see what really goes on. Truth is stranger than fiction.

Barb Abraham

## Developer takes another shot at Wheeling town house plan

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will have another chance to tell officials what they think about an open field being transformed into a town house complex.

Realen Homes Inc. will ask Wheeling — once again — for permission to build 40 town houses on most of 7.9 acres at 124-129 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The approval process begins with a public hearing at 7 p.m. Sept. 12 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The developer decided to go through the entire process again in response to a lawsuit filed by a group of residents opposed to the project. The lawsuit claims Wheeling did not give residents enough of a chance to comment on the plan before the village approved the project in April.

"What they are trying to do is derail the development over a technicality," said Larry D. Johannesen, a vice president with the Philadelphia-based developer.

The village wants to improve the

land, where the Union Hotel and other businesses have been razed, by purchasing the property and selling most of it to Realen.

Some residents have opposed the plan because they want to keep the land that is adjacent to Walt Whitman Elementary School open.

Residents who belong to the group called Save Precious Acreage for Children & Community, or SPACE, filed the lawsuit because they believe the village should have held another public hearing before the project was approved.

The village's plan commission on Aug. 31, 1995, recommended village board approval of the plan, which was not given until April 1996 the suit states. The suit contends that the vote violated an ordinance requiring trustees to act on a recommendation within six months.

The village believes the process "was proper," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Johannesen said that the developer would rather seek approval for the project again than wait until a judgment has been made on the lawsuit or risk going forward with construction.

# Wheeling firefighters get increased pay, lose free insurance

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling gave its firefighters a raise.

But the village will no longer pay all of their monthly premium costs for insurance.

Under a new contract approved Tuesday night, 39 firefighters and lieutenants, who belong to the Wheeling Fire-fighter Association, will be required to pay 5 percent to 6.5 percent of monthly coverage for themselves and their families, while the village pays the remainder.

Wheeling officials cited high insurance costs as the main reason for having employees share the financial burden.

"It is a big expense and it has (continued) to grow," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "We are one of the few remaining municipalities that were paying 100 percent."

The village board unanimously approved the agreement, which is retroactive to May 1 and extend through April 30, 1999.

The contract will give the union members an average 4 percent annual salary increase

for about the next three years.

Initially, they will receive a 3.5 percent pay increase retroactive to May 1, when their last contract, a two-year pact, expired. That will bring salaries for starting firefighters to \$31,970, with the highest-ranking lieutenant, who also serves as a paramedic, making \$58,741. Another half-percent increase will take effect Nov. 1.

Next year, salaries will be increased 3.5 percent May 1 and one-half percent Nov. 1. A 4 percent raise will go into effect May 1, 1998.

The raises were comparable to those in the previous contract, Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said.

Negotiations surpassed the previous contract's expiration date because of the insurance issue, MacIsaac said.

As a compromise with the union, which opposed the insurance change, the village added a holiday to the six that firefighters and lieutenants had.

Anderson said the village about a year ago began changing contracts so employees share insurance costs. Most employees now pay part of the cost, he said.

# Getting a facelift

## Volunteers bring brushes, leave homeowners smiling

By Cheri Bentrup  
STAFF WRITER

Forty-three homes throughout the northwest suburbs are getting a fresh coat of paint this weekend, courtesy of Valspar Corp. of Wheeling and area volunteers.

The houses are being painted as part of the ninth annual Paint-a-thon, sponsored by Valspar, senior service agencies and the townships of Wheeling, Schaumburg, Palatine, Niles, Maine, Hanover, Elk Grove and Barrington.

Locally, volunteers will paint seven houses in Wheeling and two in Buffalo Grove. The Leos Club of Wheeling High School has been assigned a house in Palatine to

paint. Catholic Charities already has collected applications from those who wanted their houses included in the Paint-a-thon, and determined who is eligible based on income, age or disability, said Nancy Janssen, coordinator of the Wheeling Senior Pavilion and vice chairman of the Paint-a-thon steering committee.

"We generally get a wonderful response from the homeowners and the volunteers," Janssen said. In the event any problems arise, Janssen said, the Paint-a-thon committee sees that they are rectified to the homeowner's satisfaction. "Usually, they're absolutely thrilled."

Carolyn Niemerg, a member (Continued on page 11)

## Volunteers

Continued from page 10

of the Paint-a-thon committee and an employee in the accounting department at Valspar, 1191 Wheeling Road, said her company started the program nine years ago, modeled after one launched by their corporate headquarters in Minneapolis.

Starting with just a couple of houses that first year, the local effort has grown to over 40 for the last few years.

John Caruso, a Valspar employee, estimated that the company donates 550 to 600 gallons of paint each year to the Paint-a-thon. Caruso, also a member of the steering committee, has been participating in the Paint-a-thon since it began nine years ago.

"It's great. You're dealing with people that, for the most part, all they have is their house. When you complete it that Saturday afternoon it's just beautiful," Caruso said. "The people are happy with it, and it makes me happy."

In addition to paint, Caruso said, Valspar supplies caulk, paint hats and other minor painting supplies. Other area businesses help out by donating money and supplies, Niemerg noted.

On Saturday, Niemerg will serve as team leader and supervise a volunteer group of Wheeling trustees and employees who have been assigned to paint a house in the Whippletree Mobile Home Park.

"I've been doing this for the last five or six years," she said. "It's very rewarding. We always have good teams of volunteers and the homeowners are very appreciative."

Though the teams focus on painting, Niemerg said they've been known to do minor repairs and clip shrubbery as well. "Whatever it takes to make the house look good," she said.

Connie Hoos, adviser of the WHS Leos Club, a service organization affiliated with the Lions Club, said the students decided to participate after they read a newspaper article asking for volunteers.

"They're always looking for service projects," Hoos said.

About 20 teens started painting the Palatine house last Saturday and about 20 are expected to return and finish it this Saturday, she said.

This is the club's first year to participate in the Paint-a-thon.

# Residents' lawsuit continues to hover over development

By Cheri Bentrup  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling officials have successfully negotiated the purchase of 7.8 acres of land at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. for a townhouse development, but a lawsuit filed by three nearby residents still looms over the project.

The development, part of the village's tax increment financing district, seems to be moving along at a steady pace despite the lawsuit.

"There are a few final details being done this month," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "Even if the lawsuit was settled today, they're not ready to break ground."

Realen Homes of Inverness has agreed to purchase about six acres for the development of 40 townhouses on the former Union Hotel site. School District 21 has agreed to purchase 1.9 acres of the site for a play area for students at Whitman School, 133 S. Wille Ave. The Wheeling Park District also is contributing \$50,000 toward that purchase.

## Crying foul

In May, residents Mary Mozal, Effie Myrick and Gary Hittleman filed a lawsuit against the village, claiming the plan for the townhouse project was voted upon by trustees more than six months after the Plan Commission made the recommendation to approve. That late vote, they

say, violated a village ordinance.

The issue became even more tangled when the first developer withdrew plans for the development. The Village Board then approved the Realen plan without another public hearing, something residents say should have been required.

Attorney William Spangenberg, who filed the suit on behalf of the residents, is asking the court to void all ordinances associated with the Realen proposal, thereby effectively halting any development.

## Village response

Village Attorney James Rhodes, who has filed a motion to have the suit dismissed, has said the lawsuit has no impact on the various sales agreements the village has negotiated for the land. The case is scheduled for a status hearing tomorrow, Sept. 6, in Cook County Circuit Court's Chancery Division.

Even school district officials, who purchased the Whitman property so that children attending the school will continue to have ample play space, are convinced the suit will have no impact on the current arrangement.

"We understand the lawsuit cannot affect the transaction from being completed," said Arlen Gould, president of the District 21 School Board.

Plans expected for TIF district  
Testa Associates Inc. of Evanston is expected to bring three plans for condominiums before village trustees this month. Trustees voted in July to hire Testa for \$4,900 to draft development plans for 7.5 acres of property in the village's tax increment financing district. The targeted site is on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.  
These plans, if approved by trustees, would be shown to developers who may be interested in building on the site. Trustees agreed that approaching developers with plans of what the village envisions for the site is more efficient than allowing developers to suggest their own ideas for the property. Village Manager Craig Anderson said condominiums are included in all three plans.

SWANCC open house on Saturday  
The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, of which Wheeling is a member, will have an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at its Wheeling Township Transfer Station in Glenview.  
Visitors can see the 82,000-square-foot facility where operations are viewed from a completely enclosed gallery. Visitors also will see Cyclo, an automated robot made completely from recycled materials.  
The transfer station opened in February 1994 and processes about 1,000 tons of garbage each weekday. The garbage is compacted into bales before trucked to a landfill for disposal.  
The transfer station is located at Three Providence Drive, Glenview, which is on the east side of River Road, a half-mile north of Central Road, directly across from Maryville Academy. For information, call SWANCC at (847) 296-9205.

# \$82 million plan targets Des Plaines River floods

By LeAnn Spencer  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

8-16-96

Nearly a decade after the Des Plaines River broke from its banks in two record-setting rampages that left thousands of homeowners and businesses awash in a costly sea of damage, federal and state engineers think they have found a way to corral what is arguably the region's most flood-prone waterway.

The ambitious plan, which comes with an estimated \$82 million price tag, outlines a grand vision of scenic riverfront bounded by deep reservoirs and shallower water storage basins, restored wetlands and sculpted levees and dikes.

In addition to helping prevent flooding for thousands along the river, these structures could offer more recreational opportunities for the public as well.

For flood-plagued homeowners

along the river—from far north Gurnee all the way downstream to west suburban Brookfield—a flood-control plan is welcome news.

But the major obstacle to starting the project is money, as it would require a mix of federal, state and local funding.

Local municipal officials have said that flood control is urgently needed because the river regularly wanders from its boundaries. They especially remember the catastrophic floods of the fall of 1986 and summer of 1987. More recently, there was extensive

SEE RIVER, PAGE 11

# Train service arrives after 20-year wait

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-17-96

It's been a long time coming, and Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are going to celebrate.

The train that has been in the works for more than 20 years is coming through for the first time Sunday.

And both towns are throwing ceremonies to commemorate the first run of the Metra North Central Service line.

"It's a historic moment. It's one of the milestones for a town," said Buffalo Grove's spokesman, Phil Versten. "There's a lot of anticipation for the opening."

Celebrations will be held at all 10 of the new stations when the train makes its inaugural run Sunday between Antioch and Chicago's Union Station. Actual routes will begin Monday morning.

As it makes its way down the line, the train will make a three-minute stop at each station.

Comments from Metra officials are expected when the train stops in Wheeling. This will just be one part of the party that the town will throw at its station on Town Street.

The celebration that begins at 2:15 p.m. will include refreshments and music by the Wheeling High School band.

"It's a big thing not only for Wheeling... it's the first new commuter line (for the area) in 70 years," said Wheeling's Village Manager Craig G. Anderson. "It's a lot to celebrate."

Residents are encouraged to attend the event to check out the station firsthand.

Even if they don't take the train, Anderson said that the station might benefit residents in such ways as possibly raising their property values or spurring economic development in that area.

Buffalo Grove's ceremony will start about 1:30 p.m. at the station on Busch Road.

Aside from the new line being a "nice option for commuters," Versten said that the station is a big moment for the town, Versten said.

## Providing solutions for flooding on the Des Plaines River

Flood relief along the Des Plaines River may come with an estimated \$82 million plan created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that would consist of new reservoirs, basins and dikes. Residents also could use the reservoirs for recreation.

### Reservoirs

Many of the proposed reservoir sites, some of which would be about 40 feet deep, are on forest preserve property or would utilize old quarries.

- 1 Site: Quarry site south of Des Plaines River Demonstration Project near Wadsworth  
Size: 184 acres
- 2 Site: East of river at Illinois Highway 137 on Lake County Forest Preserve property  
Size: 200 acres
- 3 Site: On Lake County Forest Preserve property  
Size: 28 acres
- 4 Site: Lake County Forest Preserve property east of Vernon Hills  
Size: 26 acres
- 5 Site: Expansion of Buffalo Creek Reservoir, north of Lake-Cook Road  
Size: 25 acres
- 6 Site: Cook County Forest Preserve property near Wheeling  
Size: 33 acres
- 7 Site: An addition to Big Bend Lake on Cook County Forest Preserve property  
Size: 30 acres

### Basins

Storage basins, measuring a few feet deep, also could act as wetlands.

- 8 Site: Sterling Lake at Russell Road  
Size: 115 acres
- 9 Site: West of the Des Plaines River  
Size: 175 acres
- 10 Site: South of where Mill Creek enters the Des Plaines River  
Size: 110 acres
- 11 Site: North of Libertyville, west of the Des Plaines River  
Size: 140 acres
- 12 Site: North of Oakton College, east of Des Plaines River  
Size: 220 acres



### Levees and dikes

Levees and dikes would be 1 foot to 11 feet high and 5 feet to 10 feet wide and covered with vegetation.

- 13 Site: Along U.S. Highway 41, south of Washington Avenue  
Length: 8,500 feet
- 14 Site: Near Aptakisic Creek  
Length: 8,400 feet
- 15 Site: U.S. Highway 45 from Milwaukee Avenue to Euclid Avenue  
Length: 6,700 feet
- 16 Site: East of Des Plaines between Dempster Street and Tri-State Tollway  
Length: 2,600 feet
- 17 Site: Near Big Bend Lake, northeast of Des Plaines  
Length: 6,500 feet

Sources: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Division of Water Resources Chicago Tribune

## River

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

flooding along the river this spring.

The catastrophic floods of 1986 and '87 cost an estimated average of \$18.6 million in damages, according to federal estimates, and are only expected to continue, if not worsen, thanks to increased development and suburban sprawl.

"As opposed to other areas of the country where flooding is more the exception than the rule, we find that on the Des Plaines, flooding is a very real and tangible problem," said Philip Bernstein, chief of the planning divi-

its roughly 75 miles from the Wisconsin state line to west suburban Brookfield. More than 50 suggested sites were studied by federal engineers to see if they were suitable for flood-control measures.

Growth is largely to blame for the increased chances of flooding along the Des Plaines River, said engineers. Development brings with it an increase in hard surfaces—such as buildings, parking lots, driveways, even lawns—that prevent water from being absorbed by the ground. That causes a greater volume of water to run into the river. When large amounts of water get into the river too fast, the river overflows.

# Some towns already counting on Jordani

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-18-96

Even before the first Metra train begins picking up riders on the new North Central line Monday, there already has been talk of expansion.

Some day, new depots might sprout up in other towns along the line between Antioch and Chicago, with a second track built to handle the additional trains.

But the \$131 million line's future depends on one thing: riders.

In a year, Metra is expected to get a sense of the line's popularity and whether it should ask Congress for about \$200 million needed to expand it, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said. "We're taking one step at a time," he said.

Before more communities build stations, Knapton said, another track would have to be installed alongside the current one.

That would require Metra to establish a need to build the track and signals that could run taxpayers as much as \$5 million for each of the 40 miles.

If the future mirrors the past, the only question about expansion would be when it should be done, Grayslake Village Manager Michael Ellis said.

"As fast as you can build these parking lots (for the stops), they are filled," Ellis said. "I think it will go."

Grayslake, one of the towns interested in building a North Central station later, already has a station on Metra's Milwaukee District North line. Ellis said the number of parking spaces has been increased from 230 to 550 in the six years the station has been there.

Grayslake has grown from 7,000 to 15,000 since 1990, and Ellis foresees the day when the town will want to increase opportunities for residents to take the train to work.

"We look forward to doing it when

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But Douthwaite said day to protest the doubling essarily preclude the prices.

# River

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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"As opposed to other areas of the country where flooding is more the exception than the rule, we find that on the Des Plaines, flooding is a very real and tangible problem," said Philip Bernstein, chief of the planning division at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The long-awaited flood control report, which is expected to be released for public review in the fall, was put together by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is currently being reviewed by state officials. From there, it will be sent to the more than 40 towns and villages that line the winding river.

The estimated \$82 million price tag would be for land and design and construction costs, officials said, and would be more than offset in savings by preventing costly flood damage.

No construction can begin, however, until funding is secured, which must include a congressional appropriation. Further, state and local governments would be required to pick up 25 percent of the costs, a contribution that may be offset by the donation of land.

The recommendations include the construction of six reservoirs; expansion of one existing reservoir; construction of five shallow water storage basins, technically called lateral storage areas, that would include new wetlands; and the construction of five levees and dikes.

"The Des Plaines is one of the most urbanized streams in the state and it is very important to us that we do everything we can to provide relief along the stream," said Mel Allison, division manager for the state's Division of Water Resources and Planning.

"There is a risk of flooding of some kind along the river every year and the sooner we get some things built the sooner we will reduce that risk," he said.

The recommendations are the culmination of several years of work in which the entire 500-square-mile upper Des Plaines River basin was analyzed along

its roughly 75 miles from the Wisconsin state line to west suburban Brookfield. More than 50 suggested sites were studied by federal engineers to see if they were suitable for flood-control measures.

Growth is largely to blame for the increased chances of flooding along the Des Plaines River, said engineers. Development brings with it an increase in hard surfaces—such as buildings, parking lots, driveways, even lawns—that prevent water from being absorbed by the ground. That causes a greater volume of water to run into the river. When large amounts of water get into the river too fast, the river overflows.

As recently as June, the Army Corps released a report that said that existing flood plain maps need to be revised to reflect modern development trends. Flood plains need to be much larger than previously thought, and officials for the Federal Emergency Management Agency have advised local governments to adopt stricter controls on development.

After the massive floods of the mid-1980s, land planners and elected leaders called for federal assistance in finding solutions.

"The [new] report is badly needed and we're pleased that it's being done," said Phil Peters, executive director for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, whose nearly three dozen commissioners from the city and suburbs have supported the corps in its study.

One of those is Libertyville Mayor JoAnn Eckmann, who has long been concerned by flooding along the Des Plaines where it runs near the Lake County village.

"This has certainly been a long time in coming, and it is necessary. We need an overall study that is comprehensive. . . . What happens in Libertyville affects those downstream," she said. "Hopefully all of the communities up and down the river can work together on this."

Perhaps no one is more conscious of the downstream effects of rising water than people in Brookfield, who were especially hard hit during the 1980s, and many people there still eye the skies anxiously when storm clouds appear.

"Anything they can do to slow down the flow of water coming south would be a great help to us," said Brookfield Mayor Tom Sequens. "I hope they can give the river someplace to go other than into my residents' basements."

# Some towns already counting on Metra expansion

8-18-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even before the first Metra train begins picking up riders on the new North Central line Monday, there already has been talk of expansion.

Some day, new depots might sprout up in other towns along the line between Antioch and Chicago, with a second track built to handle the additional trains.

But the \$131 million line's future depends on one thing: riders.

In a year, Metra is expected to get a sense of the line's popularity and whether it should ask Congress for about \$200 million needed to expand it, Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said.

"(We're) taking one step at a time," he said.

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Grayslake has grown from 7,000 to 15,000 since 1990, and Ellis foresees the day when the town will want to increase opportunities for residents to take the train to work.

"We look forward to doing it when

it is possible," Ellis added.

Des Plaines might be another place where commuters might be able to hop on the North Central.

The town originally passed on building a station because it had other priorities, such as repairing its streets, and water and sewer lines, said City Manager Wally Douthwaite.

But Douthwaite said that won't necessarily preclude the city from build-

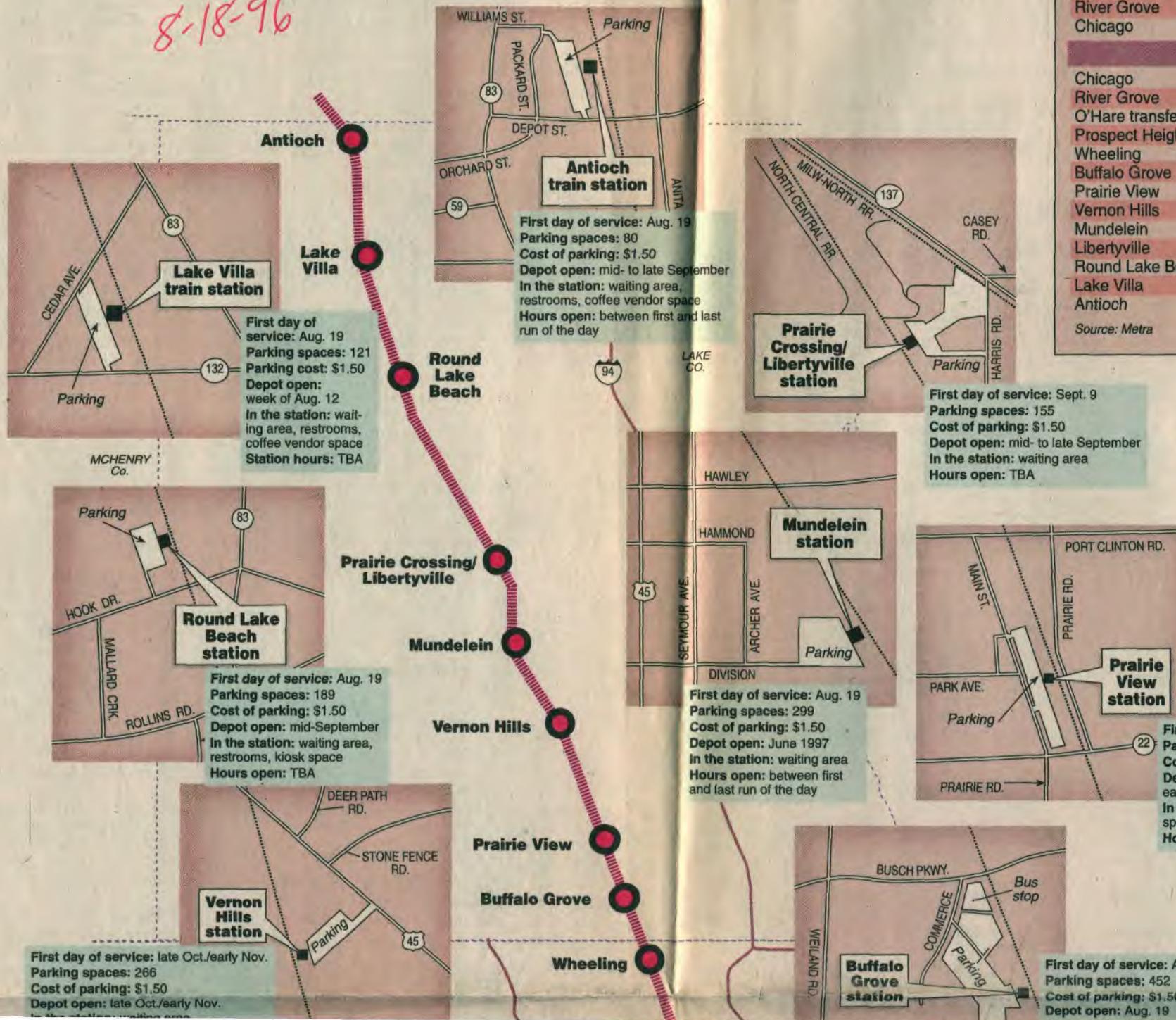
ing a station for the North Central line if the opportunity arises. Although it already has two stations on Metra's Union Pacific Northwest Line, the new line might be convenient for residents who want to ride to O'Hare International Airport or communities south of Des Plaines, Douthwaite said.

"It's a wait and see," Douthwaite said. "We'll take a look and see how it works out."

# Your guide to the North Central

The new Metra line begins running on Monday

8-18-96



Monday through Friday		Inbound		No weekend or holiday service	
Antioch	5:27 a.m.	6:02 a.m.	6:37 a.m.	3:29 p.m.	
Lake Villa	5:33	6:08	6:43	3:35	
Round Lake Beach	5:37	6:12	6:47	3:39	
Libertyville	5:44	6:19	6:54	3:46	
Mundelein	5:49	6:24	6:59	3:51	
Vernon Hills	5:54	6:29	7:04	3:56	
Prairie View	5:56	6:31	7:06	3:58	
Buffalo Grove	6:00	6:35	7:10	4:02	
Wheeling	6:04	6:39	7:14	4:07	
Prospect Heights	6:09	6:44	7:19	4:12	
O'Hare transfer	6:19	6:54	7:29	4:22	
River Grove	6:27	7:02	7:37	4:31	
Chicago	6:50	7:25	8:00	4:55	

		Outbound			
Chicago	1:25 p.m.	4:23 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	5:38 p.m.	
River Grove	1:44	4:42	5:19	5:57	
O'Hare transfer	1:53	4:51	5:28	6:06	
Prospect Heights	2:04	5:02	5:39	6:17	
Wheeling	2:10	5:07	5:44	6:22	
Buffalo Grove	2:14	5:11	5:48	6:26	
Prairie View	2:17	5:14	5:51	6:29	
Vernon Hills	2:19	5:16	5:53	6:31	
Mundelein	2:25	5:22	5:59	6:37	
Libertyville	2:31	5:28	6:05	6:43	
Round Lake Beach	2:39	5:35	6:12	6:50	
Lake Villa	2:43	5:39	6:16	6:54	
Antioch	2:52	5:48	6:25	7:03	

Source: Metra  
Daily Herald Graphic



The Antioch station is under construction.  
Daily Herald Photo/Bonnie Trafelet

**Did you know?**

- The North Central Service opens Monday.
- It is the Chicago area's first new commuter line since 1928.
- The line covers 53 miles.
- Its trains will go up to 60 mph.
- Each train will have a capacity of about 1,000 passengers.
- 47,000 new ties were put on

restrooms, kiosk space  
Hours open: TBA



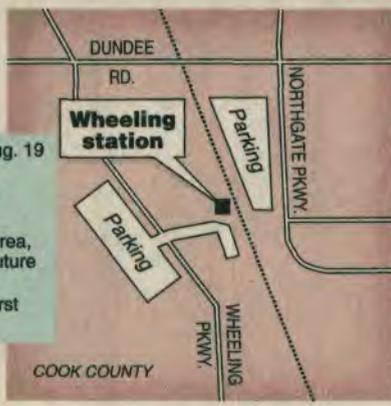
**Vernon Hills station**  
First day of service: late Oct./early Nov.  
Parking spaces: 266  
Cost of parking: \$1.50  
Depot open: late Oct./early Nov.  
In the station: waiting area  
Hours open: TBA

Depot open: June 1997  
In the station: waiting area  
Hours open: between first and last run of the day

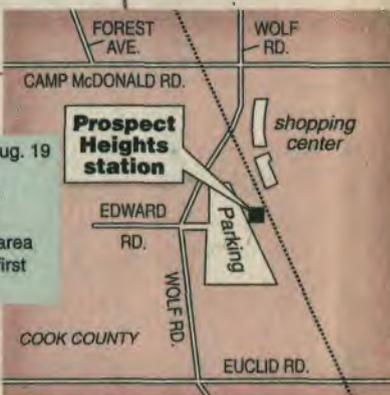
Parking spaces: 108  
Cost of parking: \$1.50  
Depot open: late October or early November  
In the station: waiting area, space for future restrooms  
Hours open: TBA



**Buffalo Grove station**  
First day of service: Aug. 19  
Parking spaces: 452  
Cost of parking: \$1.50  
Depot open: Aug. 19  
In the station: waiting area, coffee counter, restrooms  
Hours open: between first and last run of the day  
Added Pace stop: Bus 691 travels between the station and Deerfield



**Wheeling station**  
First day of service: Aug. 19  
Parking spaces: 488  
Cost of parking: \$1.50  
Depot open: Oct. 1  
In the station: waiting area, restrooms, space for a future coffee counter  
Hours open: between first and last run of the day



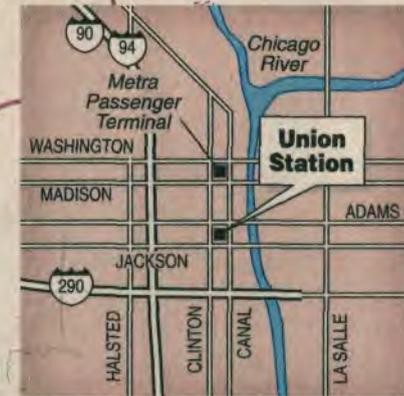
**Prospect Heights station**  
First day of service: Aug. 19  
Parking spaces: 382  
Cost of parking: \$1.50  
Depot open: Aug. 19  
In the station: waiting area  
Hours open: between first and last run of the day



**O'Hare transfer**  
Opens Aug. 19  
Hotel/office complex  
Parking garage  
O'Hare Remote Parking Lot F  
O'Hare Airport station  
O'Hare Terminal People Mover station  
Shuttle bus route



**River Grove station**  
First day of service: already open  
Parking spaces: 90  
Parking cost: \$1/day  
In the station: no depot, but a platform with warning lights  
Station hours: between first and last run of the day



**Union Station**

### Did you know?

- The North Central Service opens Monday.
  - It is the Chicago area's first new commuter line since 1928.
  - The line covers 53 miles.
  - Its trains will go up to 60 mph.
  - Each train will have a capacity of about 1,000 passengers.
  - 47,000 new ties were put on the track to prepare it for the new service.
  - More than 300,000 tons of crushed rock was put under the track for ballast.
  - 25 coaches were refurbished for the new line.
  - Metra expects about 3,500 riders to use the line daily at first, and eventually up to 5,800 per day.
  - The track, stations, parking lots and equipment cost \$131 million to prepare.
  - Down the line Metra hopes to add a stop in Des Plaines.
- Source: Metra

### The Pace bus routes

- Bus 961 travels between the Antioch station and the Milwaukee District North station in Libertyville; with stops in between at the Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach and Prairie Crossing stations on the North Central line.
- Bus 960 starts at the Milwaukee District North station in Libertyville and ends in Franklin Park, at the Milwaukee District West commuter station. In between, it stops at the North Central line stations of Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Prairie View, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Daily Herald graphic by Eric Semelroth and Neil Holdway

### The price of the ticket

Here is what riders will pay for trips to Union Station on the North Central Service.\*

Zone	Station	One-way	10-ride	Monthly
K	Antioch	\$5.80	\$49.30	\$156.80
J	Lake Villa	\$5.45	\$46.35	\$147.15
J	Round Lake Beach	\$5.45	\$46.35	\$147.15
H	Libertyville	\$4.65	\$39.55	\$125.55
H	Mundelein	\$4.65	\$39.55	\$125.55
G	Vernon Hills	\$4.30	\$36.55	\$116.10
G	Prairie View	\$4.30	\$36.55	\$116.10
F	Buffalo Grove	\$3.90	\$33.15	\$105.30
F	Wheeling	\$3.90	\$33.15	\$105.30
E	Prospect Heights	\$3.50	\$29.75	\$94.50
D	O'Hare transfer	\$3.15	\$26.80	\$85.05
C	River Grove	\$2.75	\$23.40	\$74.25

No parking is available at the O'Hare platform. Parking at all other stations will cost \$1.50. Travel within a zone costs \$1.75, between two zones \$1.95, between three zones \$2.75, between four zones \$3.15, between five zones \$3.50, between six zones \$3.90 and between seven zones \$4.30.

\*Reduced fares are available for students, senior citizens, people with disabilities and children  
Source: Metra



Union Station in Chicago welcomes commuters to all its trains.

Daily Herald Photo/C. Kent Kriegshauser

### Important numbers

- Metra ticket information: (312) 322-6777
- Pace information: (847) 364-7223
- RTA travel information: (312) 836-7000
- Metra Web site: <http://www.metrarail.com>



8125-96

A drumhead on the rear of the last coach car commemorated the start of service on the North Central Service line.

Daily Herald photos by Joe Lewnard



During its first evening rush-hour on the North Central Service line, a Metra train approaches the Buffalo Grove station.

Ridin' the new rails



During its first evening rush-hour on the North Central Service line, a Metra train approaches the Buffalo Grove station.



Preparing for last Monday's maiden run, Cliff Meyer of Benson Electric in Waukegan wires a light pole at the Prospect Heights depot last Saturday.

# Ridin' the new rails

## Service a sure way to avoid traffic jams

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It begins in Antioch, population 6,100, and ends in Chicago, population 2.8 million.

Along the way, Metra's new North Central Service rolls past cornfields, forests, new subdivisions, old homes, apartments, factories and warehouses.

But most important to Metra and its riders, it goes by 11 stations in communities looking for a

quick and easy rail link to downtown Chicago.

The new line also offers the first commuter rail stop at O'Hare International Airport.

The North Central picked up its first passengers this week on its eight daily trips along tracks owned by the Wisconsin Central Ry.

Most of these pioneer riders said they chose the train to avoid endless traffic jams on the area's roads.

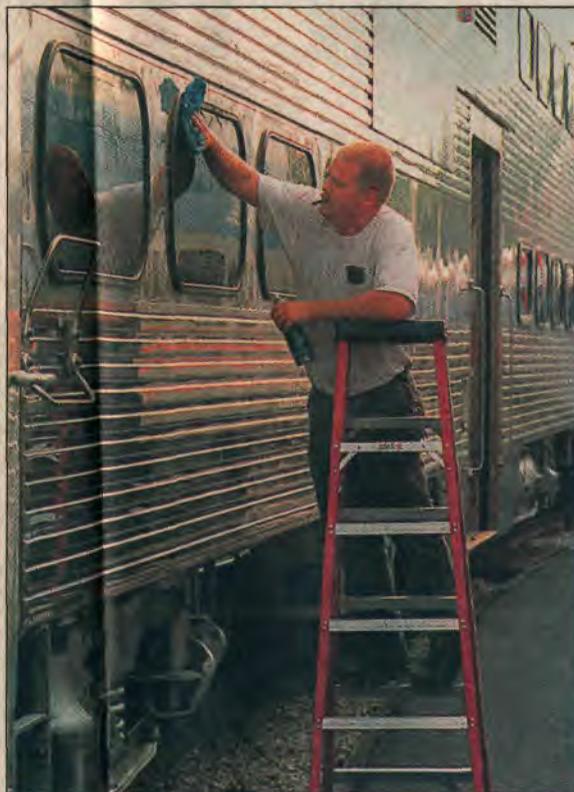
"Any day of the week, I'll take a train over driving," Bob Elovzin of Vernon Hills said as he sat in the train on the way to his job in the Loop.

Passengers also said riding the train, where you can read or nap or chat with fellow commuters, creates a lot fewer headaches than driving does.

"That will be the one central payoff — it's just a ton more relaxing," Eric Nordby of Antioch said.



Serving as engineer for the inaugural run, Metra Trainmaster Jeff Klein heads for the beginning of Sunday's festivities at the Antioch train station.



Metra's Jeff Adams, left, makes sure the passenger car windows are squeaky clean in the Antioch rail yard before last Sunday's ceremonial first run. Above, commuters arriving at Union Station in Chicago head to work after riding the North Central Service line on its first day.



The Wheeling Metra station is beginning to take shape. The depot's opening date is scheduled for Oct. 1, although passengers will be able to board the commuter train when service starts Monday.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Z

# Not ready for prime time

## New Metra line set to roll, but few stations complete

The region's newest commuter rail line makes its maiden passenger voyage next week, but not all the ports of call will be open.

When the North Central Service starts rolling through the Northern suburbs towards Union Station Monday morning, only three of the 10 depot buildings — at Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights and Lake Villa — will be completed and ready for commuters. The rest are in various stages of construction.

But nobody is expecting that to dampen enthusiasm or ridership. All but two of the station stops will be open for passengers and plenty of riders are expected.



One of the few depots ready for operation, the Buffalo Grove station was the first one completed on the new commuter line.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Bc

### Railroad party

Metra will launch its new North Central Service with a ceremonial run today. The train, loaded with VIPs, will make a brief stops for ceremonies at each station along the line.

Station	Ceremony
Antioch	1 p.m.
Lake Villa	1:57 p.m.
Round Lake Beach	2:05 p.m.
Libertyville	2:15 p.m.
Mundelein	2:25 p.m.
Vernon Hills	2:34 p.m.
Prairie View	2:39 p.m.
Buffalo Grove	2:45 p.m.
Wheeling	2:52 p.m.
Prospect Heights	3:02 p.m.

Regular passenger service begins Monday.

Source: Metra  
Daily Herald Graphic

# Metra line opening gives towns reason to celebrate

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's a day for celebration up and down the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

From Antioch to Prospect Heights, communities will welcome the inaugural run of Metra's new North Central Service, which will run on the Wisconsin Central's tracks.

The celebration will begin at 1 p.m. today in Antioch with bands, bunting, balloons and speeches.

The first North Central train will leave Antioch at 1:45 p.m. and stop for ceremonies at Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Libertyville/Prairie Crossing, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Prairie View, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

It will make brief stops at O'Hare International Airport and River Grove.

The special VIP train is re-

served for local, state and federal leaders and others who worked on the project.

The train will stop for three minutes at each platform for a brief ceremony where Metra Chairman Jeff Ladd will present a plaque to local officials.

Local communities are scheduling their own dedication celebrations around the time the inaugural train is due into their stations.

Mundelein, for instance, is planning an ice cream social starting at 1:30 p.m.. The Prairie Crossing/Libertyville stop will have a farm wagon and lemonade stand.

Among those expected to attend are Rep. Philip M. Crane of Wauconda, Senate candidate Rep. Richard Durbin of Springfield, and Rep. Michael Flanagan of Chicago.

State legislators, county board members and village trustees also will join the celebrations.

# Stations on new rail line behind schedule

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a perfect world, come Monday every stop along Metra's new North Central Service line would have finished parking lots and picture-perfect depots to greet the Chicago area's newest rail commuters.

But in the real world, most riders using the new train line will be stepping around construction to get to the tracks. The trains are ready to go, but most of the stations are not.

In the two most extreme cases, stations at Libertyville and Vernon Hills won't officially be open to passengers at all until later this fall. Trains won't make scheduled stops at Prairie Crossing-Libertyville until Sept. 9, or at Vernon Hills until late October or early November.

Elsewhere, trains will stop at every station according to schedule, but the only depots that are complete are in Buffalo Grove, Lake Villa and Prospect Heights.

"In the big scheme of things, it's not a big deal," said Metra spokesman Chris Knapton. The fate of the new line's success doesn't hinge upon the stations, Knapton said.

## The state of the stations

Station	First day of train service	When depot open?
Antioch	Monday	mid-to late Sept.
Lake Villa	Monday	Monday
Round Lake Beach	Monday	mid-Sept.
Prairie Crossing/Libertyville	Sept. 9	mid-to late Sept.
Mundelein	Monday	June 1997
Vernon Hills	late Oct., early Nov.	late Oct., early Nov.
Prairie View	Monday	late Oct., early Nov.
Buffalo Grove	Monday	Monday
Wheeling	Monday	Oct. 1
Prospect Heights	Monday	Monday
O'Hare transfer	Monday	(no depot), platform only

Source: Communities along the North Central line

Daily Herald Graphic

Each community built its own station, and municipal officials blame the delays on bad weather, altered plans and lengthy land negotiations.

Buffalo Grove was the first to finish its station. But even Assistant Village Administrator Lee Szyzborski said he doubts unfinished stations will scare commuters away.

"We were in a lot better position than others ... we had a head start on everybody," Szyzborski said, referring to the fact that

Buffalo Grove already had the land in hand for its station, while most others had to negotiate and buy.

The Buffalo Grove station, on Busch Parkway east of Weiland Road, was completed about two weeks ago. The Lake Villa depot was finished last week. The Prospect Heights station at Wolf and Edward roads will be done by Monday.

Knapton said most commuters generally don't use the stations much. Instead they wait in a car

and listen to the radio until the train comes. The problem could be more acute in winter, he added, but all but one station will be completed by then.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said it's simple: People will ride the train if it gets them to work on time and they can avoid traffic driving to the station.

"I don't think the fact that the station isn't completely done will have an effect on ridership," Anderson said. "Convenience, what's best for them, that will determine where they will go," he said.

Wheeling is one of the five communities where the train will make stops — because there is parking available — but work is still being done on the station on Wheeling and Town roads.

Wheeling's depot was delayed when it took two years, instead of the anticipated six months, to negotiate for the land.

"We got a late start," Anderson said. Work on the station began in May and it is expected to be open Oct. 1.

Daily Herald staff writer Jon Marshall contributed to this report.



Arlington Heights' Metra commuter train station helps anchor a downtown that includes shops, restaurants and many new apartments and condominiums.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

# Towns hope train boosts business, property values

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Metra's new North Central Service can't come down the track fast enough for Denise Kennedy.

Kennedy hopes the commuter line, which picks up its first passengers today, will revive the partially shuttered shopping center that houses her Wheeling travel agency.

"We're hoping it's going to be the shot in the arm we need," said Kennedy, owner of Travel Wise Ltd., located a few steps from Wheeling's new Metra station.

Wheeling and some other suburbs hope the North Central will not only take their residents to downtown Chicago and O'Hare International Airport, they also expect the line to spur economic growth in their downtowns.

"I think our whole downtown is very excited about the opening of the train station," said John Maguire, president of Mundelein Pride, a downtown revitalization group. "There are businesses within a five block area that have been waiting and waiting for this."

In addition to Mundelein and Wheeling, Prospect Heights, Antioch and Lake Villa have built stations near their downtowns.

But not all communities along the North Central are expecting the line to boost their downtowns.

The stations in Vernon Hills, Libertyville, Buffalo Grove and Round Lake Beach are well away from the retail cores of their communities.

"In some of them where they're located in a downtown area, it probably will have an effect," said James W.

Doyle, Vernon Hills' assistant village manager. "Here, probably none at all."

In the past, commuter lines often served as the engine for developing suburban downtowns.

Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Des Plaines and much of the North Shore had downtowns grow around their train stations.

"The commuter rail system really established the development pattern for the suburbs," said Gary Foyle, director of Metra's planning department.

But history is unlikely to repeat itself. The popularity of cars and malls means many people do their commuting and shopping far away from rail lines, Foyle said.

Commuters heading home aren't likely to linger at shops, said Jack Klaus, director of community development for Des Plaines.

"They're just hell-bent to get in their cars and go home," Klaus said. "I don't know if the train depot has that kind of dramatic impact on a community as it did 50 or 60 years ago."

That doesn't mean, however, the North Central Service won't boost local economies, he said.

An average commuter spends \$20 to \$30 a week at stores near stations, a Metra study showed.

Commuters, like other shoppers, are looking for convenience, and stores near stations can offer that, the Metra study found.

Dry cleaners, restaurants, ATMs, groceries, coffee stands, newsstands and banks are the most popular services to open up near rail stations, the study said.

Gas stations, video stores, auto

Commuter trains inch way back into popularity — Granger, Page 7

repair shops and day-care centers also are popular, the study showed.

Commuters don't necessarily stop at stores and restaurants as they rush to and from the stations. But they will see the signs for these businesses and might return when they have more time on the weekends, said Reed Lee, an analyst for the Regional Transportation Authority.

In addition to helping businesses, the stations might encourage the building of condominiums near downtown, as has happened in Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and Des Plaines.

Des Plaines has added 100 new condominiums since 1985 in its downtown, with the train station acting as a major draw, Klaus said.

Village governments and businesses are already looking to take advantage of the North Central.

A Blockbuster Video store is scheduled to open in the Lynn Plaza shopping center near the Wheeling station, said Kennedy, who is a director of the Wheeling and Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce.

In Mundelein, the village and Mundelein Pride are putting together a comprehensive plan for the area around the station.

"We're hoping the train station will act as a hub to tie these areas together," Maguire said.

Expectations are different for those suburbs with stations away from their downtowns.

Vernon Hills is building its depot

near a subdivision where it could find the most affordable land.

Libertyville's station is far from downtown, but the village is planning to attract stores next to it. The village is building a new Milwaukee North line station next to the one for the North Central.

Even if the line doesn't spark commercial growth, it can raise property values, said Mark Fowler, transportation director for the Northwest Municipal Conference.

People are willing to pay more money for homes if there is a depot nearby, observed Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

When the CTA built its new Orange Line through Chicago's Southwest Side, property values along the line jumped 17 percent, according to the Regional Transit Authority.

Communities whose stations are on the fringes of town also might be able to attract businesses looking for easy transportation for their employees.

If shuttle van or bus services are offered, the stations can encourage the growth of commercial and industrial parks outside of downtown, Foyle said.

Ultimately, how much development the North Central brings depends largely on how many riders it draws.

With only four inbound and four outbound trains when the line opens, Metra expects the number of passengers to be limited at first.

"This line is basically a bare-bones startup," Fowler said. "It will take awhile for these communities to see these as bustling centers of economic activity."

## Work begins this morning on Wolf Road in Wheeling

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

This morning's commute in parts of Wheeling probably will be a rough way to start the week.

The Illinois Department of Transportation at 7 a.m. today will begin a project to patch potholes and lay a new surface on a 1.4-mile stretch of Wolf Road, one of the village's main thoroughfares.

"There's a lot of traffic that goes (through) there," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"There will be some backups."

"The good news is that it's not a long-term process," Anderson said.

The project, expected to be completed Oct. 20, will be done on the section of road between Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue, said Lee Schmidt, an IDOT area construction supervisor.

Work will consist of patching potholes, and grinding off about 1 1/2 inches of pavement

and replacing it with a fresh layer, Schmidt said.

The \$360,564 project will be done by Peter Baker and Son Company Inc. of Lake Bluff.

The maintenance is needed, Schmidt said, to prevent accidents.

"No one likes to drive on potholes," he added.

The portion of road has both two- and four-lane sections. And the work will require traffic to sometimes be decreased to a lane in each direction or one lane for both, with a flag person directing traffic.

Traffic flow will be switched from one side of the road to the other as crews complete work one side at a time, Schmidt said.

Anderson said the work could create some backups in the residential area because it is a well-traveled street that connects to major roads.

Alternative routes such as Route 83 and Wheeling Road are suggested.

"There's no way traffic will move as easily," Schmidt said. "Be patient and reroute."

## Wheeling decision to keep land open sparks parks debate

athletic fields, concession stands and swimming pools from being built on the land. The order also limits the parking lot to 35 spots.

Park District board President Greg L. Klatecki said the order was "restrictive."

Klatecki said that section of the community needs a park with athletic fields and other forms of active recreation, along with natural areas.

"You have to have a good balance," Klatecki said. He said the park district would also have property cared for the floodway without the village stepping in. The park district usually develops land donated for recreation.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village does want to build some "passive" recreational facilities there, such as walking trails.

Though the restrictions exist, the park district could still use some of the land for recreation. But it would have to be approved by the village, officials say.

Trustee Robert J. Heer said he remains opposed to the village placing restrictions on the property.

"Let the park district work with the village," he added. Restrictions will prevent lighted

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has ensured that part of a new subdivision will remain as open space.

But some officials from the Wheeling Park District, who had designs on transforming part of the land into a park, thought the village went too far.

Trustees this week gave final approval to the Avalon-Sienna subdivision, which will bring 204 town houses and 157 houses on about 85 acres that is south of Palatine Road, west of the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks and east of Wheeling Road.

The board also set guidelines so that an adjacent 36.7 acres of partially wooded land crisscrossed by Buffalo Creek would remain undeveloped.

Wheeling, which gained control of the land, also wants to oversee the property because it lies partially in a floodway, village officials say. The land was donated in negotiations with Concord Development Corp. and the village will receive as much as \$126,350 to help pay maintenance costs, said Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

# New Metra line ready to welcome all aboard

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-19-96

Metra's new North Central Service is coming round the bend.

For the past decade, Metra and suburban governments have been building stations, strengthening tracks, refurbishing train cars, preparing schedules and seeking money for the commuter rail line.

On Monday, the North Central will finally arrive as it glides through Lake and northern Cook counties, picking up its first passengers.

Suburban leaders, who will join in a VIP inaugural run today, have waited eagerly for the line's opening. They hope it will relieve traffic congestion, reduce pollution and give a boost to local downtowns, where several of the stations are located.

"It's been a long time coming," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

The trains are scheduled to stop in Antioch, Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Mundelein, Prairie View, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights each weekday.

They also will pick up passengers in Vernon Hills and near Libertyville next to the Prairie Crossing community once parking lots and stations for those stops are completed later this year.

The North Central provides the first suburban rail link to O'Hare International Airport. Trains will take passengers to O'Hare's own transit system.

The North Central Service also stops in River Grove, where passengers can transfer to the Milwaukee District West line going

through Wood Dale, Itasca, Roselle, Schaumburg, Bartlett, Elgin and other western suburbs.

The 53-mile line, which will run on the Wisconsin Central Railroad's tracks, ends at Union Station in downtown Chicago.

The North Central is Chicago's first new rail line since 1928. But Metra is not alone in expanding its commuter rail service.

San Diego, Los Angeles, southern Florida, and the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., all have built

See TRAIN on Page 7



## North Central line opens to fanfare at each stop

By JON DAVIS  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-19-96

As the North Central line's first commuter train awaited the go-ahead Sunday at Antioch, Ken Mattson stepped forward and placed eight pennies on the rail.

For good luck, the Antioch resident explained.

Finally, the conductor waved his arm. With a blast of its horn and the hissing of air hoses, Metra's inaugural train proceeded south, slowly at first, noisily grinding the pennies into flat copper discs.

Thus did the Chicago area's first new commuter rail line since 1928 open for business.

The North Central was inaugurated at its northern terminus with speeches by Metra and suburban officials and elected representatives, all of whom then boarded the train for its trip to Chicago's Union Station.

Beginning today with the 5:27 a.m. run out of Antioch, eight weekday trains — four in each direction — will make 11 stops between Antioch and Union Station. Metra estimates the new line will carry up to 5,400 daily commuters.

State Rep. Bob Churchill, a Lake Villa Republican and assistant majority leader, said the train ride he was about to take was the fruition of a 10-year-old vision.

"This is your dream," he told the Antioch crowd. "To make the dream reality, you've got to ride this train."

Many in the hundreds-strong crowd at Antioch hoped the new line would quash plans for expanding Route 53 northward from Lake-Cook Road into western Lake County.



Potential commuters, local dignitaries and train enthusiasts alike greet the inaugural run of Metra's North Central Service Sunday at the Wheeling station, which is under construction.

Daily Herald Photo/Paul Valade

That sentiment was obvious on placards and on a banner flown overhead that read "Railways yes, tollways no. Stop 53."

Ken Mattson and his wife, Beverly, are among those who hope the North Central is the expansion's death knell.

"I hope it eases traffic up here. We have terrible traffic," Beverly Mattson said.

Ken Mattson added the new line "will be easier than driving. The tollway's a joke."

Local officials brought out the pomp and circumstance at each stop of the inaugural run, and Metra Chairman Jeffrey Ladd got off for a brief speech.

The blue Metra train chugged into Mundelein with a toot of its whistle

and a squeal of brakes.

Still drowsy from an afternoon nap, Benjamin Donato, 2, gaped at the close-up view of a relative of his hero, Thomas the Tank Engine.

"He's a big train fan, as you can see by his engineer's hat," said his mother, Stephanie Donato of Mundelein.

Village officials welcomed the train with a free ice cream social, with music by the Mundelein High School Jazz Band. Vehicles from the police, fire and public works departments also were on display.

"It feels like the 1920s," said Benjamin Donato's grandmother, Diane Russell of Glenview. "A train station is a source of pride for a community."

Steve Cancelli, who grew up in Mundelein, is looking forward to

traveling to the airport by train.

The North Central provides the first suburban rail link to O'Hare International Airport.

Ladd presented a plaque to Mayor Marilyn Sindles at the Mundelein station, which should be finished by early next summer.

Similar plaques were delivered to local officials at every stop along the new line.

An enthusiastic crowd and the Wheeling High School band welcomed the train into Wheeling's unfinished station.

Standing south of the station, the crowd missed Ladd's presentation of a plaque to Mayor Sheila Schultz, which was delivered on the north side of the station.

But amidst the revelry at Wheeling, some commuters expressed doubts about the line's timetable. The last morning train leaves Wheeling at 7:14 a.m.

"I won't be using it because it's too early in the morning," said Wheeling resident Dorothy Olson, who occasionally visits Chicago. "For people who work in the city, though, it'll be great."

Dan Lingeitch of Wheeling said, "I would really like to use the train, but the schedule they have ... I don't know if I could."

Lingeitch said he and his wife will take their daughters on the train to show them how to get to the city and back.

"It's a start," he said. "Maybe if they get enough use, they'll get a second track in there."

Daily Herald correspondent Gwen H. Jader contributed to this report.

## TRAIN: Funding puts line on track

Continued from Page 1

new lines in the last few years, said Dennis Kouba of the American Public Transit Association, a trade group for the transit industry.

Boston has expanded its rail system, and Dallas, Seattle, St. Louis, Atlanta, and San Jose, Calif., are thinking of doing the same, Kouba said.

These new lines are attracting more passengers. The number of riders on commuter rails each year jumped from 327 million to 352 million between 1990 and 1995, Kouba said.

"Commuter rail is generally expanding around the country," said Reed Lee, an analyst with the Regional Transportation Authority in Chicago. "There are cities that have not had commuter rail in the past that are starting it."

The North Central will have limited service at first. It will feature three inbound trains in the morning and three outbound ones in the afternoon, with a single round-trip train in the afternoon. It will have no trains on weekends and holidays.

Metra expects up to 5,400 passengers to ride the line each weekday, relieving traffic congestion and crowding on other train routes.

If the line proves popular, Metra

hopes to get money for a second track so the line can run more trains.

In the meantime, the Pace suburban bus system will offer service to the North Central's stations from nearby train lines when the North Central trains aren't running.

"What the Pace service offers us is full service throughout the day," said Jim Bonistalli, Metra's marketing director.

Metra and local, state and federal officials have worked on starting the North Central since the mid 1980s.

The federal government paid 59 percent of the \$131 million cost of starting the line, while the state, Metra and local governments split the rest of the tab.

Metra was in charge of preparing the track and trains, while the local communities built the stations and parking lots.

"Without the communities, we would not have been off and running," Metra Executive Director Philip A. Pagano said.

# Dress rehearsal for Antioch-Chicago train

By Tara Gruzen  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The train whistles had long since faded into the distance, the dignitaries had left the rows of seats facing the train tracks and had boarded the shiny blue cars headed to Chicago, and all that remained on the white-tablecloth buffet were a few crumbs and empty cups.

But the Vasinko and Coynes families were still lined up in

front of the brand-new Lake Villa train depot, waving to the camera as Deb Coynes used the last of her batteries to videotape what the intergenerational group regard as their part in history.

"I got every bit of it," Coynes said, as she walked inside the depot to see the engraved brick her family dedicated to the building project. "I've been taking pictures of it since they started on the foundation."

The two families joined thousands of others throughout Chicago's northern suburbs Sunday to watch the inaugural run of the Metra North Central service. Crowds packed into each of the 11 new Metra stops to welcome the train to their communities and show their support for public transportation.

Most could not board the train, which was not open to the public until Monday morning, but they

showed up anyway just to watch the refurbished coaches speed into their communities, stop for a two-minute ceremony and vanish toward the south.

Local mayors were introduced at each stop, and they boarded the train for the remainder of the celebratory ride into Chicago.

"This is just so exciting because we just hate driving into the city," said Sheila Dvorak, who came with her husband, Tom, and their

three small children to watch the dedication ceremony in Antioch. "This will really enhance the trip, especially for the kids."

Sunday's ceremony wasn't just an opportunity to celebrate the new train line. It was also a chance seized by about 100 community activists to bring their anti-tollway platform into the limelight.

As an audience of more than 600 people listened to speakers at the Antioch depot ceremony, their

attention was often distracted by two planes carrying banners. One, paid for by Metra, read, "Metra: Now a station near U." The other, commissioned by opponents of the northern extension of Illinois Highway 53, pulled the slogan, "Railways not tollway: Stop 53."

The activists, waving signs from where they stood at the back of the crowd, said they decided to use the festive day to draw a con-

SEE TRAIN, PAGE 2

## Former Wheeling village clerk picks up post's reins

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Janet D'Argo already served as Wheeling's village clerk for four years in the '80s.

But as a way of helping out the community, she is coming back to do the job until spring, filling a vacancy left by a shift in the village board.

"I always kind of felt that was the way of paying my space," D'Argo said. "I just think that is important ... for each to do our part."

D'Argo will serve as clerk until this April after Jeanne Selander left the post last month to accept a trustee position. Selander will serve until April, filling the position left by former Trustee Bob Todd, who resigned because he is moving from the village.

D'Argo, a 66-year-old former bank officer, was unanimously seated as clerk by the village board this week.

D'Argo served as clerk between 1985 and 1989. It was that experience, says Village President Sheila H. Schultz, that made D'Argo the right choice for the job.

"She had the knowledge and the experience. She will be able to pick up where Jeanne left off," Schultz said.

"Without that experience there would be that natural learning curve."

The village clerk, who is paid \$3,000 annually, is responsible for election procedures and is the keeper of Wheeling's records.

Since she was holding down a full-time job while serving as clerk in the '80s, D'Argo expects her stint in the office this time should be more enjoyable because she is retired.

"I did it, but I wish I would have had more time," D'Argo said. "I think it will be much easier and much more enjoyable this time around."

D'Argo said she plans on serving the office for the rest of the term, not running for re-election in April. D'Argo said "I've done my time" and want to explore other interests, such as traveling.

But she was quick to add that her plans could always change.

"(I) don't think so, but I know one should never say never," she added.

## Wheeling's next mayor?

Wheeling/ Many Wheeling residents have asked me to run for mayor (village president) of Wheeling, and after careful consideration I have made a decision. I will not be seeking the office of village president. I have the opportunity to help take Wheeling into the next century by working on the sidelines, and I will continue to do so.

As one of over 1,000 SPACE supporters, I will be working with other SPACE

*Countryside*  
8-22-96

members to select a candidate for village president. If you or someone you know is seeking the office of village president or village trustee, please contact me so we may set up an interview. SPACE will not make any official endorsements of any candidate until our interviews are over in September.

As to our fight to preserve Milwaukee Avenue's commercial district, I must clear some things up. I am not suing the village. Three Wheeling residents have sued the village because they (the village) have violated an ordinance relating to the Realen Homes project behind Whitman School. Many residents were outraged to find out that the village never gave the same notice for the Realen Homes proposal as was given for the Freed proposal. The residents who thought that they had won when Freed walked away were shocked to find out that the village had slid through a similar development (Realen Homes) without posting a public hearing on the land.

I have nothing against these developers, and I have asked Realen Homes if they would build a mixed-use development on this land, to preserve the Milwaukee Avenue commercial frontage.

I await their decision.

If we lose this battle we must lose fairly. The courts will decide if Wheeling can ignore its own ordinances.

Our village manager has told me that he will not look at any alternative proposals for this land. I have a mixed-use developer waiting to submit his ideas, but the village (officials) have made up their minds and said they only want this (Realen Homes) development. What happens when Realen walks? Will we have to start from scratch? If they don't prepare now, we will be stuck with this issue in 1998.

I wish to thank the hundreds of people who have shown their support by faxing, e-mailing and writing letters objecting to the improper use of this land. As always I am available at (847) 272-7737 to help.

**Gary Cohn, president, Save Precious Acreage for Our Community and Children to enjoy.**

## WHEELING

### Non-essential helicopter landings halted

Recent corporate helicopter landings and takeoffs in an industrial area in the village have prompted trustees to enact a wide-ranging prohibition on aircraft.

Bona fide emergency landings and takeoffs, military orders, medical and paramedic emergencies, construction helicopters and activity within Palwaukee Municipal Airport will still be allowed, but gliders, hot-air balloons, dirigibles and other helicopter landings and takeoffs now will be prohibited in the village.

A Federal Aviation Administration official had informed the village that an ordinance was the way to control the problem.

What prompted the action this week was a complaint in July by a business neighbor of Smally Steel Ring Co. that a helicopter registered to the company had taken off and landed on a grassy area between the two companies' facilities, spraying grass and debris onto cars parked in a nearby lot.

Patrick O'Toole

## Personal agendas

Wheeling/ At the end of a long letter about the family farm, and what he would like the Village of Wheeling to do for him, Michael Horcher closes by saying, "Issues like this become complicated when elected officials aren't sure if their loyalties should be to the entire village or to personal agendas."

I'd like to know whose personal agendas he is talking about. The only elected official I know who has a personal interest in the Horcher Farm development is Michael Horcher's son, Trustee Patrick Horcher.

John P. Karl

# Commuter service hits the tracks

To the delight of village officials and commuters, the new North Central Metra service began operation Monday, even though things were a bit confusing as the day began.

8-22-96  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

After waiting years for Metra's North Central rail service to begin, commuters who used the service on its debut run Monday found themselves waiting a little longer than expected for morning trains headed into Chicago.

Metra officials, however, said the delays were planned and ordered Monday morning by Metra Executive Director Philip A. Pagano, who didn't want to alienate first-time commuters who were unfamiliar with the parking lots, depots and train schedules.

"Each of the three morning trains on Monday arrived in Union Station about 10 to 15 minutes late, but that was done on purpose," said Metra spokesman Christopher Knapton. "There were no impediments; no signal malfunctions. We had a

wonderful trip."

Except for Buffalo Grove, work is unfinished at every other station on the new commuter line, Knapton said. But even at Buffalo Grove, commuters were not familiar with the layout of the station and the timing of the trains. To make matters worse for new commuters, the first train left Antioch at 5:27 a.m. Monday, before sunrise.

"We didn't want to make any enemies on Day One," Knapton said. "There were a lot of first-time commuters. They had to find their way in the dark. Even if the parking lots are done, most of the landscaping isn't. Some have temporary walkways to get to the platform. We didn't want them running over piles of loose dirt to catch the train."

Rather than the typical 30-second wait at older Metra stops, North Central trains waited about two minutes to ensure that all commuters were on the train. Knapton said this "coddling" of new commuters should continue through the week.

Knapton said he didn't hear any complaints from commuters who arrived late into Union Station on Monday, but those who were un-

(Continued on page 14)



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

Wheeling residents eagerly peer down the tracks as they await the arrival of the inaugural train Sunday on Metra's North Central line. Commuter service from Antioch to Chicago began Monday.

## Train Continued from page 5

happy can be assured the delays won't continue.

"Metra's built its reputation on on-time performance, and that's what they'll get," Knapton said.

Commuters at Wheeling's depot Monday afternoon didn't seem to mind the delays, which most said they anticipated with the new service.

"I'll try it for the first five days and see if they improve the schedule," said Wheeling resident Lynn Combs. "They're running a little late, but I expected delays."

Patrice Chereck lives within walking distance of the Wheeling station and plans to be a regular commuter to her downtown Chicago job. She's already purchased a September parking pass for the Wheeling Metra lot.

"It's close enough I can walk or bike. That's exciting for the nice months," Chereck said.

Other Wheeling residents also found the same convenience and said the first-day delays weren't that bothersome.

"It was fine, but it was delayed this morning about 20 minutes," said Wheeling resident Michael Sapozhnikov. Despite the delay, Sapozhnikov said he'll use the new service because it's more convenient than driving to Northbrook where he used to board

the train.

"This is (within) walking distance to my home," he said.

Wheeling resident Kathy Thoma took her 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son on a leisurely ride into downtown Monday afternoon.

"It was fun. We just went down and came back. We were here (Sunday) for the celebration and they wanted to ride the train, so we came back today," Thoma said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, along with village staff members and trustees, greeted commuters on two trains Monday morning at Wheeling's depot site.

"It was an enthusiastic group. The trains were running a little late, but that didn't seem to slow anyone down," she said.

Schultz, along with Buffalo Grove Village President Sid Mathias, lauded Congressman John Porter for his help in bringing federal funds to the project. Without that help, they agreed, the commuter service would not yet be running.

"When we first realized it was in our grasp, we knew we had to seek federal funding, Mathias said. "I'd have to single out Congressman Porter who, if it wasn't for his efforts, we wouldn't be riding the train today."

## Aircraft landings prohibited under new local ordinance

8-29-96  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

involved if there is a reckless act involved in doing so, the police said.

A complaint to the Wheeling Police Department about a helicopter landing near Wheeling and Palatine roads prompted the Village Board to recently pass an ordinance regulating aircraft takeoffs and landings in the village.

The ordinance does not limit activity at Palwaukee Municipal Airport or the landing and taking off of emergency helicopters or military aircraft. The changes also won't effect the flying of model aircraft in the village.

In addition to helicopter and plane takeoffs and landings, the ordinance prohibits parachuting within in the village limits, as well as the landing of gliders, hot air or gas balloons and blimps. Trustees unanimously approved the ordinance with little discussion at their Aug. 19 meeting.

While investigating the helicopter complaint, the Police Department contacted the Federal Aviation Administration which said each village is responsible for regulating takeoffs and landings within its borders. The FAA only gets

"People in the area were concerned about the dust created when he landed and felt it was unsafe," Police Chief Michael Haeger said of the landing that prompted the board's action.

Though only one businessman complained, Haeger said the ordinance should ward off future problems. It should

**People in the area were concerned about the dust created when he landed and felt it was unsafe.**

also make it easier for the village to deal with the potential issue of businesses wanting to install heliports on their property, an act that is now prohibited under the new ordinance.

"We did need to have the ordinance just in case some other business wanted to put in a heliport," Haeger said.

# History rolls out of the Antioch train station

## Rail line makes debut voyage with few snags

BY JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-20-76

Fred Klinger of Arlington Heights stood in the early morning darkness Tuesday, ready to ride a piece of history.

He wasn't disappointed.

Klinger and about 35 other railroad buffs and commuters eagerly climbed on board Metra's new North Central Service when it rolled into Antioch at 5:25 a.m.

The train marked the first time in 68 years a new rail line picked up paying passengers in the Chicago area.

"We'll save the tickets and frame them," Klinger said.

The first train from Antioch to Chicago, running on the Wisconsin Central Railroad's tracks, arrived

17 minutes late and had many more empty than occupied seats.

But Metra officials pronounced themselves happy with the approximately 1,165 passengers who took the line's three rush-hour trains into Union Station Monday morning.

"It far exceeds our expectations," Metra spokesman Chris Knapton said. "What we're happy with is the demand didn't overwhelm us."

Within a year, Metra expects to double the number of North Central riders to about 2,500 each rush hour, he said.

Metra's biggest fear was the train's eight cars would be packed, preventing new riders from boarding at later stops and leaving them angry, Knapton said.

Metra chose August to open the

line because it is traditionally a slow month and it wanted time to work out kinks in the service before more passengers board, he said.

More people are likely to try the line after Vernon Hills and Libertyville/Prairie View open their stations later this year and when the monthly parking passes of commuters who use stations on other lines expire, he said.

Passengers on the first train spread out among the seats, snoozing, chatting, reading newspapers, working on laptop computers and enjoying the scenery.

Some like Klinger and Mary Jo and Bill Zeller of Mount Prospect got on board because they are rail-

See TRAIN on Page 7



A view from the engineer's perch shows the North Central line ready to burst through a banner Monday at the Antioch depot, where officials and residents welcomed the Chicago area's first new commuter line since 1928.

Daily Herald Photo/Joel Lewnard



A crowd awaits the arrival of the North Central line at the Buffalo Grove depot Monday morning.

Daily Herald Photo/Joel Lewnard

## TRAIN: North Central line runs a little late on first day

Continued from Page 1

road fans who wanted to see the new line on its first day.

Others, including Brian Johannsen of Antioch, plan to ride the line every day.

Johannsen figures the train will save him \$23 a month in gas money plus countless hours of aggravation as it drops him off a block from his job at Courtesy Corp. in Buffalo Grove.

At least 13 morning passengers got off at a platform near O'Hare International Airport. Buses picked them up to take them to O'Hare's own transit system.

The North Central is the first time the suburban rail system has had a link to O'Hare.

"I'm going to take it no matter what," Johannsen said.

Some of Tuesday's riders were trying the North Central instead of other Metra lines.

Marsha Harris of Buffalo Grove used to drive to Deerfield to catch trains heading downtown. Tuesday she boarded the new train in Prairie View, just a couple of minutes from where she drops her son, Samuel, off for day care. "It saves me a lot of driving," Harris said.

Bill Olson of Prospect Heights stood in the front of the train, looking out the window as the tracks zipped by. But Olson said he is not sure he will continue to use the line because its eight trains a day may not leave him enough options for getting home.

Pace is offering buses along the line for times when the train isn't running, but Olson said he doubts the bus service will be convenient.

"They need a later train in the morning, and two later trains at night," he said.

Metra is in a classic "Catch-22" situation with the North Central, he said. Until it has more riders, it can't get money to add a second track so more trains can use the line, but more passengers won't use the line until more trains are running, he said.

Assistant conductor Gary Rhebergen of Westchester admitted he had a few butterflies in his stomach before the first run.

"There's a lot of excitement and a lot of concern because you don't

know what will happen," he said.

Rhebergen said the train ran late because passengers and conductors aren't familiar with the stops and because the track is still undergoing some improvements.

The North Central will have to improve its on-time performance to win the loyalty of Jack Schmidt of River Grove.

"It keeps running late," and I won't be on it, Schmidt said.

Philip A. Pagano, Metra's executive director, was among the first people to board the train in Antioch.

He looked on with a smile as the conductors tried to figure how much change to give people for the line's different stops.

"It's going to be a learning experience," Pagano said.

# Palwaukee Airport opens tower, facilities for public tours

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

ers a chance to see how the airport is progressing, said airport Manager Fred E. Stewart Jr.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport will give a report to the stockholders when it opens its doors to citizens during a Sept. 7 open house.

Tours of construction on the new Federal Aviation Administration control tower and the relocation of the drainage ditch will give taxpayers

schools; aviation companies that do business at Palwaukee and the FAA control tower now in operation.

The second annual event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 7 at the airport, 1020 S. Plant Road in Wheeling.

The open house also marks 10 years since Wheeling and Prospect Heights have owned and operated the airport. Stewart said the open

house will be an opportunity for people to see some changes under way at the airport.

Work crews are completing construction of a new FAA control tower, which will replace the current one that has been there since the 1940s.

Construction on the \$32 million, nine-story tower is expected to be completed this fall, Stewart said.

But it won't be operational until late spring or early summer of next year after radio equipment is installed, he added.

Another project people will see is one to relocate a drainage ditch that has been deemed unsafe because it was too close to two runways. Other projects at the airport include construction of a new hangar and work on its main runway.

# Law limits helicopters to landings at airport

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

If helicopters want to land or take off in Wheeling, officials think that an open field, where flying debris may damage property or hurt someone, is not the place to do it.

But, they say, the Palwaukee Municipal Airport — which the village partially owns — is.

And with that in mind, officials recently passed an ordinance restricting helicopters from landing or taking off in the village unless it is an emergency.

"It's just a concern that it's not a great idea for having helicopters landing without an emergency," said Wheeling Village President Craig Anderson. "We have an airport here. They can land there."

The issue was raised after police received complaints last month that a pilot landed a helicopter on property in an industrial area near Gilman Avenue and Wheeling Road.

Anderson said the helicopter reportedly landed between two buildings and was "kicking up stones and grass."

The village at the time did not have a policy stipulating where helicopters could not land, Anderson said.

And, generally, the only permission helicopter pilots need to land is from a property owner, said Fred E. Stewart Jr., manager of Palwaukee, which is owned and operated by Wheeling and neighboring Prospect Heights.

The only other thing that the Federal Aviation Administration requires of helicopter pilots when landing is that they do so safely, Stewart said. No clearance from the FAA is necessary.

Wheeling's new policy, now in affect, also prohibits gliders and hot air balloons from landing and taking off in the village unless it is an emergency.

The penalty for violating the ordinance is a fine between \$500 and \$1,000, Anderson said.

Anderson said the village has not received a rash of complaints about helicopter landings. But the village passed the new ordinance to prevent a problem from arising.

"Though it was one pilot ... (it) makes sense with a dense population," Anderson said. "It's to make sure it doesn't happen elsewhere."

# Thousands drawn to new Metra train route

By Cheri Bentrup  
Staff Writer

If ridership numbers serve as any indication, it appears commuters are slowly taking a liking to the new North Central train line now running through Buffalo Grove and Wheeling.

Though Metra officials say increasing ridership totals over the first week of service are a positive sign, they also point out that August is generally the slowest month of the year for commuter service, making it difficult to form any ridership assumptions on the early numbers.

On opening day, Aug. 19, Metra counted about 2,000 passenger trips on the new North Central line that runs from Antioch into Chicago's Union Station. Metra suspects many of those trips were by people who wanted to be a part of history — the first commuter rail line to open in the Chicago area since 1928.

"We had about 1,500 passenger trips on Tuesday and slowly crept up through the rest of the week," said Chris Knapton, Metra spokesman.

In August, many would-be commuters are on vacation,

but with most schools back in session this week, Knapton said, ridership is expected to climb on all 12 of Metra's rail lines. As of Monday, Metra did not have daily ridership totals for the North Central line's initial week of service.

"This week's numbers are going to look better," Knapton said. "But in three months, we'll be able to see how it's going."

Knapton said some commuters who have quarterly parking passes at other nearby stations, such as Deerfield and Northbrook, will continue to ride those trains until their passes expire, even though the North Central line may be closer to their homes.

Buffalo Grove ridership was right on track for Aug. 19, the first day of service. Village Manager Bill Balling said 281 people boarded the train at the Buffalo Grove station. Metra and the village had estimated between 250 and 300 would use the local station, he said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said staff members didn't keep track of how many people boarded the train each day, but he estimated (Continued on page 24)

## Train

Continued from page 12

ated about 70 commuters used the Wheeling station each day last week.

Knapton said even Metra officials weren't making guesses.

"We had no idea what to expect," Knapton said of estimating the number of commuters who would use the North Central service. "No one has done this for 70 years."

Knapton credits congested highways with Metra's ever-increasing number of riders.

## WEEKLY DIGEST

### Village clerk's position filled

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz recently appointed Janet D'Argo as village clerk, filling the vacancy left when former Clerk Jeanne Selander was appointed trustee.

Last month, Selander was appointed to the board in place of Trustee Bob Todd, who resigned and moved from the village.

D'Argo, 66, was elected as village clerk from 1985 to 1989.

"This position was open for a short period of time, and I'm retired now, so I thought it would be a very enjoyable thing to do," D'Argo said before being sworn in at the Aug. 19 board meeting.

"She's well qualified and experienced to step in," said Schultz.

The village clerk's position is up for election in April 1997, as is Selander's trustee position.

### Mutual fire aid OK'd with Glenview

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac recently unveiled a mutual aid agreement with nearby communities to village trustees that will improve fire protection service village residents receive.

On Aug. 19, trustees approved a mutual aid agreement with Glenview, a first for that city.

"This gives us two more pieces of fire apparatus and six more men for any building fire" in any part of the village, MacIsaac said.

Wheeling has mutual aid agreements with Buffalo Grove and Northbrook, and is working on renewing agreements with Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect.

"When we need help it's like getting two extra stations at no additional cost to taxpayers," said MacIsaac, noting that many local municipalities are seeking out mutual aid agreements that ostensibly creates a regional fire department.

# Whose park is it, anyway?

## Village, park district differ on land use

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*country side*  
Wheeling trustees and Park Board commissioners battled much but settled very little during a recent meeting over what recreational amenities should be allowed in a proposed residential development on the village's south side.

Concord Development Co. of Palatine proposes to build 157 townhouses and 204 single-family homes on a 122-acre site between Old Willow and Palatine roads that lies west of the ComEd right of way. The focus of the disagreement between village and park officials is 38 acres of land that is being donated to the village by the developer.

The Park District wants to use about nine acres of the donated land for active recreation like baseball and softball.

Officials with the park district admit that there is a limited amount of recreational space in the southern portion of the village. And they see the new development as an

opportunity to make up for that shortfall.

The village, however, is favoring more passive recreation, and officials have already decided that a bike path will be built through the site, leaving the remainder a natural grassy area.

"It's not the intent of the village to provide manicured lawns, but to provide a passive recreation use," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We have no intention of planting grass or mowing grass."

Trustees finally voted to approve the final plat and subdivision of the Avalon-Sienna residential development after 90 minutes of discussion. They did not, however, give park district officials exactly what they wanted.

Instead of committing to setting aside a portion of the land for active park use, the village agreed only to make some subtle changes in an agreement between the two entities that might allow for future park use.

Village officials so far refuse to loosen their grip because they see the property as an in-

tegral piece of land that will provide stormwater management for the subdivision, said Village President Sheila Schultz.

Schultz said it's the village, not the park district, that has expertise in and responsibility for stormwater management of McDonald Creek, which runs through the property.

Because the village needs the property for stormwater management, officials refused to deed any of the property to the park district, which Trustees Patrick Horcher and Bob Heer suggested. Instead, the village has agreed to grade portions of the open space for the possible future development of ball fields.

"I can't overemphasize our concern about stormwater management," Anderson said. "Our concern is not to give away any property at this time or to sell any property that we may need for stormwater management."

Schultz agreed.

"The stormwater management is very key to this discussion and who can best

(Continued on page 16)

## ■ Park

Continued from page 8

handle stormwater management? The municipality is the body that's authorized to do stormwater management," Schultz said.

In the end, park commissioners also saw the reality that the village may be best suited to deal with possible stormwater problems.

"The village is the stormwater management professional. We don't claim to be. We don't want to be," said Park Commissioner Tom Webber.

If the Village Board agrees to allow for active recreational use on the property, park district officials must first receive trustees' approval for the development.

Calling herself the "eternal optimist," Schultz said it is her belief that there is room for both passive and active recreation on the site. If the village comes to agreement that the site can adequately house active recreational facilities, Schultz said she is confident the park district would be able to develop there.

"We have never said we don't want park involvement here," she said.

## Park district offers to help pay for Whitman School land

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*country side*  
Wheeling park commissioners recently decided to chip in \$50,000 toward Wheeling Elementary District 21's purchase of 1.9 acres of open space near Whitman School.

The School Board voted unanimously Aug. 15 to purchase the property from the village, which is selling the remainder of the 7.8-acre site to Realen Homes of Inverness for a 40-unit townhouse development at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Before voting, School Board President Arlen Gould read a letter from Park Board President Greg Klatecki, stating the park district's intention of contributing to the purchase. The school district already has approved spending \$345,000 for the property.

"We thought this (amount) is significant and equitable," said Park Director Karop Bavougian on the board's decision to contribute \$50,000. "It's something we wanted to be an important part of. We'll be using the school and the site. We do many things together with the school district and wanted to continue that relationship."

Bavougian has sent a letter to the School Board informing the district of the commissioners' contribution.

"This helps the entire community, and that's what we strive to do," Bavougian said.

Gould said the School Board is expected to vote to accept the park district's contribution at its Sept. 19 meeting.

"I'm delighted with their decision to support this project," Gould said. The \$50,000 amount

was at the high end of a range the park district and school district had discussed as a reasonable contribution, he said.

"It's going to help us out significantly. This is another example of how intergovernmental cooperation can work for the benefit of the community," he said. "This will be open space and for use by the whole community, which is why the park district is contributing."

Members of SPACE, a residents' group who protested the townhouse development and fought for open space, are pleasantly surprised that the park district is contributing toward the purchase of the land.

"It's what we were asking for all along," said SPACE spokesman Gary Cohn. "We're very pleased they decided to participate. It's just too bad the school district paid about \$100,000 too much for the land. It's sad the village made the school district subsidize

the builder."

Though all the land deals have been finalized, and even though Cohn said his organization considers the school district's acquisition of the property a victory, he added that SPACE is not giving up its fight for a commercial use on the Milwaukee Avenue frontage and open space toward the rear of the 7.8-acre site.

Cohn also contends the village violated its comprehensive plan that suggested all the property in question should be used for a park.

For now, the Park District has no plans to install playground equipment or build play fields on the 1.9 acres, Bavougian said.

"Eventually, we may do something with the school district, but we'll wait and see what the mutual needs are," Bavougian added.

**'This helps the entire community, and that's what we strive to do.'**

# Keeping cool with a cop

A local partnership between the Wheeling Police Department and the Wheeling Community Resource Center shows that teens and police officers can have a lot of fun hanging together.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Hotdogs, soda and music attracted about 50 Wheeling teens to Northside Park on Friday night.

The party in the park, organized by the Wheeling Community Resource Center and financed by the Wheeling Police Department's Benevolent Fund, gave local teens a safe place to meet where they could have some fun before heading back to school this week.

"This is the second party in the park we've had this summer," said Shari Matthews Huizar, site coordinator for the Resource Center. The  
(Continued on page 22)



Lizette Campos and Wheeling police officer Frank Lozano try to fire up their volleyball team at a "party in the park" Friday

sponsored by the Wheeling Resource Center and funded by the Police Department's Benevolent Fund.

Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

## ■ Cop *Continued from page 5*

first park party held in July also attracted about 50 teens, mostly those from middle- to low-income families who are served by the Resource Center.

Among its programs to help residents, the Resource Center assists residents in the process of becoming naturalized citizens, offers a job bank and provides information on public health services. The center works closely with the Wheeling Police Department, which answers questions residents have about police matters and offers fingerprinting services for children and adults.

"It gives them something to do," Matthews Huizar said of Friday's teen dance. "We only publicize it through the officers on the midnight shift who may see teens hanging out and can invite them over. We tell the teens involved with our programs, such as tutoring," she said.

Matthews Huizar hopes to continue Friday night programming into the school

year, but she said funding needs to be found. The center, a part of OMNI Youth Services, offers these special programs only if adequate funding is received, she said.

Wheeling police officer Frank Lozano, who works with OMNI's youth group, said the parties in the park are a means of strengthening relationships between local teens and police officers.

**‘We try to build a relationship with the kids.’**

"We try to build a relationship with the kids," Lozano said. "Most who are hanging out have had contact with the police already, usually negative contact, and we're trying to build a positive foundation and get them involved with us a little more."

"We're not there to preach to them just to keep them out of trouble."

## Main replacement could clog Milwaukee Avenue

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*

Drivers can expect more traffic delays on Milwaukee Avenue when Wheeling village crews begin replacing water mains this month.

Since March, drivers have sat through — or avoided altogether — the traffic delays caused by the relocation of the Wheeling drainage ditch on Milwaukee Avenue south of Hintz Road. Now, traffic may be congested farther north on Milwaukee, but village officials don't expect delays as lengthy as the ones near Hintz.

"I'm hoping we will keep at least one lane of traffic open in each direction" during the water main replacement project, said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "There will be some delays and some congestion, but not as bad as it is near Hintz Road." Village crews are replacing the water mains and extending them from Dundee Road to Hintz Road in anticipation of the widening of Milwaukee Avenue, an Illinois Department of Transportation project expected to get under way next spring.

**‘There will be some delays and some congestion, but not as bad as it is near Hintz Road.’**

IDOT plans to widen the roadway to five lanes through Wheeling and straighten out some of its curves.

"The water mains are very old along there," Anderson said. "It's a good opportunity for us to replace the existing water main that's probably about 70 years old and extend it down Milwaukee Avenue."

After the water main work is done, telephone and electric companies will begin relocating their wires.

Village trustees have decided they want the cables buried, and have agreed to pay the difference of having the wires relocated off of Milwaukee to having them buried, Anderson said. One estimate for burying the cables was about \$3 million.

"We also have to handle the tie-ins to the various buildings along Milwaukee. It takes a lot of coordination to try to get easements and those agreements," Anderson said.

IDOT has requested that all work, the water main replacement and the utility relocation, be completed by spring so its construction crews can begin widening, reconstructing and repaving the road.

"I think most of it can be done over the winter absent any real bitter cold weather," Anderson added.

The Village Board soon is expected to approve the project agreement with IDOT. That agreement will specify which entity will pay for what, Anderson said.

The construction on the south end of Milwaukee Avenue, from Industrial Lane to Hintz Road, is expected to be completed Oct. 1, according to information from IDOT. The \$3.6 million project includes building a new bridge, widening the road to add a median and reconstructing the roadway.

# New tower rises at Palwaukee

A new control tower at Palwaukee Airport should make things easier — and safer — for controllers and pilots.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**

STAFF WRITER

*Countyside*

Air traffic controllers at Palwaukee Municipal Airport say a new control tower scheduled to open next spring will bring much-needed safety and visual improvements.

"The new tower will improve our visibility on the field," said William Wagner, Palwaukee's control tower manager. "Right now, there are parts of two runways we can't see from (the current) tower because of buildings on the field. If there are rodents or debris on the runway, we can't see it."

That limited visibility hasn't caused any problems at the airport, but controllers do have to be careful about which planes have access to what runways, he said.

"Now, we have to ask the pilot to taxi up the runway so we can see them" before

**'Pilots don't like to give up runway space.'**

take-off is allowed, Wagner said.

That requirement angers some pilots because the necessity of being within view of the tower forces the planes to take-off with 200 less feet of runway.

"Pilots don't like to give up runway space," Wagner said.

## New & improved

The new tower is being constructed at a location and height so controllers will have no obstructions in seeing the entire airport, Wagner said.

In addition to improved visibility, the new tower will be outfitted with new radios, new back-up radios and an improved communications system with regional controllers in Elgin, Wagner said.

"We'll also have more room. Right now we're really

(Continued on page 24)



Todd Heisler/Pioneer Press

Air traffic controller Joe Myers scans the sky for incoming aircraft in the current control tower at Palwaukee Airport. The new tower, expected to be completed next year, is expected to increase visibility for controllers.

## ■ Tower *Continued from page 5*

crammed in here," Wagner added.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which is overseeing the federally funded project, has estimated that the new control tower will open by November 1997.

"We know we'll be in there before that," Wagner said. "Our best guess is between April and June."

Michael Zonsius, assistant manager for finance and administration at Palwaukee, said relocating the tower will improve safety for pilots.

"It will eliminate the present control tower and will have the new tower located farther away from the runways," said Zonsius.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport, are getting the new control tower at no cost to them, courtesy of the federal government. Zonsius did not know how much the federal government was paying to build and equip the new tower.

Though the new control tower is still under construction and off limits to the public, residents can take one last tour of the current control tower this weekend.

Residents are invited to tour Palwaukee Airport during an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7. Visitors can meet at the airport's administrative office at 1020 S. Plant Road where a tent will be set up and refreshments will be served. From there, visitors can take a trolley ride through the airport grounds.

"The trolley car will transport visitors around the airport and they can get off at several locations," said Zonsius. Last year, during the airport's first open house, Palwaukee hosted 225 visitors. Airport officials are expecting a larger crowd this year.

"It gives visitors a chance to see the many sides of the airport, and see the equipment that's necessary to keep us up to standards of the FAA," Zonsius said.

## WHEELING

### Panel reopens hearings on townhome plan

As a result of a lawsuit brought by a Wheeling resident and two parents of District 21 pupils, the village Planning Board has taken the unusual step of reopening public hearings on a townhome development that has been approved by village trustees.

Plaintiffs say the village violated its public hearing ordinance by approving the planned 40-unit townhome development seven months after a public hearing had been held on the matter. The village ordinance in question requires action by trustees within six months.

"This is not going to slow the process down," said Village President Sheila Schultz, alluding to the new Plan Commis-

sion hearings. The hearings are set for Sept. 12 and concern the 6.9-acre Realen Homes development planned southwest of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Realen Home's Larry Johanneson said he requested the new hearing to quash the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs are part of a vocal opposition group that long has hoped to derail the townhome development in favor of a plan that would leave at least 3 acres of open space for a play area for Whitman School, next to the property.

Under the 40-unit proposal, District 21 would buy 1.9 acres for a play area for the 600 Whitman School pupils.

# Wheeling extends PR firm's pact

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling this week decided to work on its image for another six months.

The village board unanimously approved a six-month contract with Siles & Walsh Ltd., an Arlington Heights-based public relations firm that was first hired in March to enhance Wheeling's image.

The firm will continue to earn \$2,000 monthly for its services, which have included promoting the village in newspapers, on radio and at special events.

Village officials said they are pleased with the firm's performance. Though it is difficult to gauge if the village's image has improved, officials say that they think the firm's work has helped.

"One of our concerns was that we were just not noticed for any of the good things that are happening here," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "There have been more positive mentions of Wheeling in the press and other places (since the firm was hired)."

"That in a sense is not changing an image but presenting a clear picture of what we are," Schultz added.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said the firm has also gotten Wheeling's name out to more people.

Officials have followed the firm's progress by bi-monthly reports that lists what work it has completed and what is being done, said Julia F. Walsh, of the firm.

Siles & Walsh, which is run by Walsh and Diane Siles, both former Arlington Heights trustees, is pleased it will continue working in Wheeling. "We have a lot of plans for Wheeling," Walsh said. "Six months wasn't really long enough to finish everything."

Abruscato hopes the firm during

the next six months can help promote the village to potential businesses.

This idea is expected to be raised when officials meet with the firm, probably later this fall, to discuss what other promotional work will be done, she added. Trustee Patrick Horcher objected to hiring the firm earlier this year. But Horcher supported extending the contract because he did see that the village has received more exposure. However, Horcher said he wants the village to solicit bids from other firms before considering extending the contract with Siles & Walsh again.

# Plan for town houses on Milwaukee Ave. gets approval — again

9-13-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A previously approved plan to build 40 town houses on Milwaukee Avenue was back before the Wheeling plan commission Thursday night.

Realen Homes, Inc. wants to build the town houses on a now tree-filled lot at 124-192 Milwaukee Ave., near Walt Whitman Elementary School.

The developer is going through the hearing process again after a lawsuit was filed by residents alleging that the village didn't allow the public enough opportunity to comment before approving the plan in April.

And as the first time the plan was discussed, the debate Thursday centered on whether the village should approve the plan or wait for something better to come along.

Wheeling officials believe the plan is the best way to improve land that once housed businesses.

Residents, however, think that the majority of the property should be left as open space.

Other residents, such as Gary Cohn, think that busi-

**"There is no blight there (now), it's trees."**

— Resident Gary Cohn

nesses someday might come.

"There is no blight there (now), it's trees," Cohn said.

"We should wait.

"Would you marry the first girl you met?" Cohn asked commission Chairman Terry Steilen. "We have to look at what happens if we wait."

But officials and the developer have said in the past that businesses have not been interested in developing the property.

"People have said Milwaukee looks terrible, and it does; let's do something about it," said commissioner Christine S. Dolgopol. "Nothing has come to us ... how much time do you want us to wait?"

The plan commission again recommended the town houses be approved. The plan will now be forwarded to the village board, who has the authority to approve the development.



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

## Paint-athon

Countryside 9-12-96

Mike Burns paints the trim of a mobile home Saturday during the ninth annual Community Paint-athon. Burns was working with a team of painters in Wheeling's Whippetree Mobile Home Park.

## COUNTRYSIDE 9-12-96 Firefighters approve 3-year contract

The Wheeling Village Board recently voted to accept a three-year contract for Wheeling firefighters, which the Wheeling Firefighters Association approved Aug. 27. The contract is effective May 1, 1996, to April 30, 1999.

As of July 1, firefighters began contributing toward their total monthly health insurance premium, bringing them in line with other village employees. Depending on which health plan the employee selects, the employee contribution is 5 percent of 6.5 percent.

Wages increased 3.5 percent on May 1. They will increase a half of 1 percent on Nov. 1, 3.5 percent on May 1, 1997, half of 1 percent on Nov. 1, 1997, and 4 percent on May 1, 1998. Salary for a beginning firefighter increases from \$31,970 to \$34,758 during the three-year contract.

## Citizens' Police Academy to begin

The Wheeling Police Department will begin its third session of the Citizens' Police Academy at 7 p.m. Sept. 19 in the Council Chamber at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. The class meets until 9:30 p.m. once a week for 10 weeks.

Those enrolled in the police academy get an inside look at the Wheeling Police Department. Applications are available at the Wheeling Police Department, located inside Village Hall. For information, contact Cpl. John Teevans at (847) 459-2693.

## Wolf Road resurfacing under way

Workers contracted by the Illinois Department of Transportation are resurfacing Wolf Road from Manchester Drive to Milwaukee Avenue. Work is expected to be completed in early October.

Construction includes pavement patching, replacement of curb and gutter, and resurfacing. Some guardrails will be replaced and some re-striping is necessary. Minor inconveniences to traffic are anticipated during the construction period.

For information about this project, contact the village of Wheeling Public Works Department at (847) 459-2624 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

## Officers' complaints dismissed by Wheeling police panel

9-16-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling panel has ruled that part of a police promotion test was fair, despite the claims of four officers that it wasn't.

The village's police and fire commission recently ruled against the appeal that claimed mistakes were made in a portion of the sergeant's test, especially with scoring.

"We feel, no doubt, it was a level playing field," said commission Chairman John Cole.

But at least one of the officers believe that the commission didn't fully review the appeal.

Officers contested a part of the exam called the "assessment center," which includes a series of four exercises that test for supervisory abilities in such situations as staff meetings and large crime scenes. The main contention of the officers, three who didn't pass that part of the exam and one who did, was that they were scored inaccurately. That part of the exam was taken by 10 officers in June.

Resource Management Associates, the South Holland company hired to design and conduct the test for the Wheeling department, maintained that the assessment center was run fair-

ly. After reviewing the officers' results and the company's testing guidelines, the commission thinks the scoring was fair, Cole said.

But Officer Michael Kirby says the commission didn't fully review his and the other officers' complaints.

An illustration of this, Kirby said, is that the commissioners didn't review videotapes of the officers completing the test. The officers requested that the tapes be used by the commissioners in forming their decision. "Had they looked at the tape, it would have been clear to them," Kirby said.

Kirby was joined in the appeal by officers Mark McInerney and Joseph Dawson. McInerney declined to comment and Dawson could not be reached for comment. Another officer, Terrence Glynn, passed the exam but filed an appeal. Glynn has since left the department for another job.

The commission, Cole said, thoroughly investigated the complaints since hearing them in July. Cole said the commission thought reviewing the tapes would be inappropriate, partially because the members are unqualified to know whether what they were observing is correct.

# Second hearing scheduled for townhouse plan

It's tonight at 7 p.m. But officials say there's nothing new, and the developer says the hearing will change nothing.

9-12-96

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Countyside

Five months after village trustees approved plans for a 40-unit townhouse development to be built on the former Union Hotel property on South Milwaukee Avenue, the Wheeling Plan Commission is having another public hearing on the project.

"We're reprocessing, re-publishing, redoing everything," said Community Development Michael Klitzke of the 7 p.m. public hearing tonight at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. "There's nothing new in it."

The townhouse proposal for 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., was initially approved by the Plan Commission in September 1995, but the one approved had been submitted by developer Joseph Freed & Associates.

## Dropped

Since receiving that approval, Freed dropped out of the project and Realen Homes of Inverness stepped in and took on the project. When trustees approved the plan in April they did so without requiring a public hearing on the Realen plan, saying it had only minor changes from the Freed plan.

proposal or against it," Cohn added.

SPACE members are expected to fill the Council Chambers tonight and some have said they will present new development proposals for the site.

Village officials maintain they did nothing wrong by approving the Realen plan in April and only agreed to have another hearing at the request of the developer.

"Larry Johannesen of Realen requested to put it before the Plan Commission again," said Village President Sheila Schultz. "If it goes through the whole process, it would come before the (village) board again."

Johannesen said he has requested the new hearing because of the pending lawsuit filed by the SPACE members.

"The sole reason for filing the petition and requesting this is to make the lawsuit moot," Johannesen said. "We could wind our way through the courts for the next six

months. That prompted three residents, Mary Mozal, Effie Myrick and Gary Hittleman, to file a lawsuit against the village, alleging trustees violated their own ordinance requiring the Village Board to act on a Plan Commission recommendation within six months.

At a status hearing on the case Friday, Village Attorney James Rhodes said the judge set a Sept. 20 hearing date. Rhodes has filed a motion to dismiss the case.

The three residents who are suing the village are active members of SPACE, a community action group who proposed the townhouse development in favor of a commercial development along the Milwaukee Avenue frontage and open space toward the rear of the 7.8-acre property.

Their attorney William Spangenberg said the second hearing is exactly what the lawsuit seeks — a hearing on the revised plan.

## 'Pleased'

"We're pleased as punch at SPACE that they're doing a public hearing like they should have done in the first place," said Gary Cohn, SPACE spokesman who is not a party in the lawsuit against the village.

"This is a chance for the citizens to be there. Here's a chance to start over and for residents tell the village how they feel and voice their opinions whether they're for the (Continued on page 11)

months or the next two years."

Because the Plan Commission and Village Board already gave approval to Freed's similar project, Johannesen expects to sail through the village's approval process.

"They've already endorsed the project. I can't imagine any reason (to reject the proposal) when they've gone forward and done as much work as they have," he said.

Johannesen expects to present his proposal before a crowd of residents tonight, but doesn't think their comments will have much impact on the plan or the village's eventual approval.

"There's really nothing new for the residents to say," he said.

Hoping to get quick village approval, Johannesen wants to start building within 30 days.

"It is slowing me down," he said of the lawsuit. "We're probably 30 to 45 days behind schedule now."

# Village is still searching for better image

Siles & Walsh, a local public-relations firm, was given another contract to help portray Wheeling in a positive light.

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

9-12-96

Wheeling trustees remain concerned about projecting a positive village image, so they voted unanimously to spend \$12,000 to extend the public relations contract with Siles & Walsh for another six months.

The terms of the new contract are identical to the one the board approved six months ago. At that time, Trustees Patrick Horcher and Bob Heer voted against hiring the Arlington Heights firm, saying they would rather select a firm after reviewing several proposals and bids.

Heer said he supported the hiring this time because the firm is "already in motion." He expects the village will seek other proposals when Siles & Walsh's contract expires so the board can decide which firm to hire if trustees still want to contract for public-relations services.

"It's not that I don't think this is a needed service," said Heer. "I don't like to spend money without shopping around first."

## Seek bids

Horcher, like Heer, said he was satisfied with his vote, expecting the village to seek bids the next time public relations is discussed by the board.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said it appears that the firm has been successful in getting more news of Wheeling in area papers.

"My perception of the past six months is that you'd find a substantial amount of Wheeling coverage and more positive articles," Anderson said.

"Certainly, not everything they tried to get in the paper got in, but the final work product is what I expected."

Horcher questioned how much of a contribution Siles & Walsh had to newspaper articles that mentioned Wheeling. Anderson said Diane Siles and Julia Walsh, the two principals of the firm, have agreed to meet with trustees to go through their notebook of newspaper clips, explaining their role in various articles.

Heer suggested that the firm could be active in attracting businesses to Wheeling, but Village President Sheila Schultz said she doesn't consider soliciting businesses the role of a public-relations firm.

"I think they'll get the positive image out there" and businesses will follow, Schultz said.

# Wheeling approves town houses on Milwaukee Ave. despite lawsuit

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-12-96

Wheeling officials Monday night approved — for a second time — a proposal to build 40 town houses on Milwaukee Avenue.

Realen Homes Inc. sought passage again after residents filed a lawsuit contending the village board didn't follow Wheeling's rules when it approved the plan in April.

After Monday's vote — a series of five 4-2 votes — Realen planned to go forward with its plans to build the development on the majority of 7.8 acres at 124-192 Milwaukee, said Larry D. Johannesen, a company vice president.

But the residents who have fought the development under the name of Save Our Precious Acreage for Children & Community, or SPACE, sig-

naled that Monday's decision won't be the end of their efforts to kill a project that they say will erase open space.

Before leaving the meeting, the residents' attorney delivered a notice to Village Attorney James A. Rhodes that they plan to amend the lawsuit. The amendment that is expected to be filed Friday seeks to kill the project for such reasons as it will devalue property and create serious traffic congestion.

The lawsuit now contends that the board violated an ordinance requiring trustees to act on a plan commission recommendation within six months when it approved the plan in April. The commission recommended the plan Aug. 31, 1995.

Realen, as well as the village, have said that the process was done right the first time.

But Realen would rather go through the process again than wait until a judgment has been made on the lawsuit or risk going forward with construction.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz would not comment on an amendment because she had not seen it. Johannesen could not be reached for comment about the amendment but before the notice was delivered he said he expected to begin the project as soon as next week.

As a way to improve a part of the village seen by some officials as blighted, the village agreed to buy the land from four owners for \$1.8 million. While about 6 acres will be sold to Realen for about \$1.2 million, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 is expected to buy 1.9 acres adjacent to Walt Whitman Elementary School for \$345,000.

from page 7

Siles & Walsh's performance with the Aug. 18 inaugural run of the North Central commuter line also was praised. The firm helped plan a villagewide celebration that drew about 300 residents to the train depot.

"We had a very short time to put that together," Assistant Village Manager Ingrid Velkme told trustees last week. "It was comforting to know they were responsible, and that's how they've been throughout the six months."

"They really did an excellent job" with the train celebration, Trustee Judy Abruscato agreed.

The firm also would be helpful when the village announces the recommendations of the Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond strategic improvement plan this fall, Anderson said.

The recommendations of the Wheeling: 2000 Image Committee may give trustees some direction on what type of public relations services the village needs when Siles & Walsh's contract expires at the end of February, he said.

# Paramedic helps deliver baby boy after traffic jam messes up home-birth plans

9-18-96

By VINCE GALLORO  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Rebecca Williams wanted to have her second child at home, just as her daughter, Jordan, was delivered two years ago.

What Williams, 25, didn't count on was morning rush hour stalling her doctor on the Tri-State Tollway Tuesday morning while she was in labor in Wheeling.

"I was pretty scared, that's why we called 911," Williams said. "Some people don't call, they just have the baby. I'm not that brave."

Williams was brave enough, how-

ever, to give birth to a baby boy with the help of a Wheeling Fire Department paramedic in the Wheeling home of her mother, Maggie Burks. Paramedic Tim Johnston delivered the 8-pound, 5-ounce boy, named Jace, at 7:09 a.m. Tuesday, said Wheeling fire Lt. Mike Burns.

Burks, 54, is a registered nurse and also helped in the birth of her ninth grandchild.

Jace was sleeping Tuesday night at home with his mom, his father, Patrick, 30, his sister, and other family around him, Rebecca Williams said, reporting that she too was feeling well.

# Wheeling neighbors opposed to subdivision not about to give up

9-19-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of Wheeling residents intends to further its fight against turning a tree-filled lot on Milwaukee Avenue into a subdivision of town houses.

The group worries the development will lower property values.

But despite plans to expand the lawsuit against Wheeling, some officials say the project is going full steam ahead.

"We're going to go forward," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "It's a good project."

The board this week approved — for the second time — a project proposed by Realen Homes Inc. to build 40 town houses on 7.8 acres at 124-192 Milwaukee Ave.

With hopes of turning around a part of the village viewed as blighted by some officials, Wheeling agreed to buy the land from four owners for \$1.8 million. While about 6 acres will be sold to Realen for about \$1.2 million, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 is expected to buy 1.9 acres next to Walt Whitman Elementary School for \$345,000.

The project was approved in April, but a lawsuit filed by resi-

dents spurred Realen to seek passage again.

Realen decided it would rather go through the process again than wait until a judge ruled on the lawsuit, which contends that when the board first approved the plan it violated an ordinance requiring it to act on a plan commission recommendation within six months. The commission recommended the plan Aug. 31, 1995.

This argument was made moot by the board's second approval of the project because the lawsuit targeted the first approval, and that no longer is in effect, said William C. Spangenberg, a lawyer representing the residents.

Spangenberg said he will file a request with Cook County Circuit Court Friday that the lawsuit be amended.

Among other allegations, the amendment claims the project will decrease property values and create hazardous conditions for children playing at the Whitman school playground.

Existing fears about the development spurred the amendment, residents say.

"They (still) didn't answer our questions," said Mary Mozal, who is also a member of Save Our Precious Acreage for Children & Community Enjoyment.

## WHEELING

### Parking violators face Denver Boot

TRIBUNE - 9-18-96

People who violate parking ordinances on the streets of Chicago have feared it for years. Now Wheeling residents with unpaid parking tickets are being warned—pay up or get the boot.

The Denver Boot, a vehicle-immobilizing device that authorities attach to cars with outstanding parking violations, soon will be used in Wheeling. Under Wheeling's boot program, all it takes is a single parking violation judgment to be added to the list.

Village attorney James Rhodes said legal procedures for implementing Wheeling's Denver Boot program are nearing completion. Within the next two weeks, about 120 cars and trucks will be placed on the initial list to receive the boot.

By the time crews hit the streets to begin attaching the heavy steel devices to cars, all on the list will have been warned in writing, Rhodes said.

# Wheeling pulls out boot for parking scofflaws

9-19-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has warned the delinquent motorists as many as six times about their outstanding parking tickets.

The village now will try another way to get some of these around 120 people — and others like them in the future — to pay their tickets and fines that, in one case, have grown to as much as \$1,500: the Denver Boot.

Wheeling will rely on the steel devices, which makes a car inoperable when it is attached to a wheel, to collect from motorists who have failed to pay court-ordered fines, said Village Attorney James Rhodes.

Letters will be sent to the

motorists in about two weeks to warn them that if they don't pay the fines, they may discover their car immobilized by the boot, Rhodes said.

"Right now it is the notification of the program ... to let people know that (their) vehicle is subject to the boot," Rhodes said. "If they get the notice, they better contact us ... the notice doesn't provide any grace period."

People won't get the boot just because they get a parking ticket. The motorists all have had "judgments" made against them, Rhodes said.

Some of the people on the list have ignored the original fine, which is usually \$20. Then they would have had to ignore an additional \$15 fine for not paying the first amount.

And while some of the motorists didn't pay a judgment that was ordered by a judge, others are assessed the approximately \$125 in fines and costs for not appearing in court.

The people who have amassed fines, some that are less than \$125 and at least one as much as \$1,500, have been told in notices as many as six times that they should pay the amount, Rhodes said.

"It's not something they didn't know about," Rhodes said.

Officials say using the boot is appropriate to recover the costs of having to track down someone who doesn't pay their fines.

"People are to realize they have a responsibility to their communities and themselves. It is breaking the law," said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

# Sixth St. extension concerns residents

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Countrywide 9-19-96

If the Wheeling Village Board follows the Plan Commission's recommendation, Sixth Street will not be open to through traffic.

"That come as a relief to residents who feared their children's safety would be endangered by possible cut-through traffic that would use the

road if it was extended after it is further developed.

"The reason Sixth Street was not connected in the past was that the village thought it would be connected when this property was developed," said Village Planner Mark Janeck.

Village ordinance, he said, requires that streets meant to be contiguous be made contiguous.

(Continued on page 9)

uous when new development goes in.

And, now, the village has a proposed development to consider.

Trevor Lehmann, acting as an agent for the owner of the property at 170 N. Sixth St., said plans call for building three single-family houses on the site. One problem, though, is that the property where the houses are to be built is tagged by the village to be used to create the through street.

"The village believes this should be a through street," Janeck said, noting that it

would be easier for emergency vehicles to access homes along a contiguous Sixth Street.

Commissioners last week discussed whether the street should be made contiguous, or whether it should remain separated with two dead-ends.

There already is one house on the site, which Lehmann said will be left standing. The other three homes would be built around a cul-de-sac, maintaining the two separate Sixth Streets.

No resident spoke in favor of creating the through street. A Glendale Avenue resident

presented a petition signed by her neighbors asking that Sixth Street remain separated. Drivers, she said, would use a through Sixth Street to avoid traffic on nearby Wolf Road.

Plan Commission Chairman Terry Steffen suggested Lehmann continue working with staff to iron out details regarding the placement of sidewalks, the size and location of the cul-de-sac and variances that would be needed if the cul-de-sac were moved farther north.

"We've spent the last two months with staff. We're running out of time.

# Wellness on Wheels brings medical services to needy

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Countryside

The Cook County Wellness on Wheels van will pull into the Wheeling Village Hall parking lot Tuesday, giving low-income and uninsured residents a place to seek basic health care.

To county residents who meet financial requirements, the WOW van offers complete physicals, immunizations, pelvic examinations, screenings for prostate cancer, breast cancer, anemia, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol and tuberculosis. Other services, including mammograms for women over 40, urinalysis and health counseling, will also be offered.

Wheeling Health Officer Michael Boyle helps the Cook County Public Health Department find locations in Wheeling for its WOW van to service residents. In August, the van visited the Wheeling Community Resource Center.

"We try to get it out here at least twice a year, usually once in the spring too," Boyle said.

The van serves all county

residents, but bringing it to Wheeling gives local residents more of an opportunity to use it, he said.

"If any questions arise as the results of the screenings, they are referred on for further services, either through the Cook County Public Health Department, Cook County Hospital or physicians in the area they work with," Boyle said.

The WOW van visits Wheeling at no charge to the village or to the residents who take advantage of its services, Boyle said.

Appointments are necessary, as is meeting the county's income requirements. To make an appointment or to determine whether you meet the financial guidelines, call (847) 818-2860.

Those who need accommodations for a disability also may call that number. The appointment number for the speech and hearing impaired is (847) 818-2023.

"We usually get about 13 to 15 people coming out, and 15 is about all they can handle during the time they're here," Boyle said.

The WOW van will be at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday.

"If you take advantage of the screenings and physicals available, you're more likely to catch a problem early on," Boyle said. "The sooner you detect a problem, the easier it is to get people treated and back on their feet."

Caryn Stancik, spokeswoman for the Cook County Health Department, said the 11-year-old Wellness van makes about eight to 10 community visits each month.

"We'd like to take it out more often, but it's staffed by the same people who staff our nonmobile facilities," Stancik said. When the van does go out, "It's always full and people beg for return visits," she said.

The van is especially helpful to those who don't have health insurance. For example, Stancik said, someone who is uninsured but needs a complete physical before starting a new job has limited access to health care.

"We can fill that need," Stancik said.

## COUNTRYSIDE 9-19-96 Voter registration deadline nears

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 election is Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Wheeling residents can register to vote at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Village Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Those wanting to register must bring two forms of identification with their name on both and their current address on at least one. Residents who were not born in the United States need to bring along their naturalization papers. Voter registration also is accepted at township offices.

## Water main work begins Monday

Trine Construction Corp. of Wheaton is expected on Monday, Sept. 23, to begin relocating water mains on Milwaukee Avenue between Wolf and Hintz roads and along Dundee Road, east of First Street. The relocation is required of the village by the Illinois Department of Transportation, which plans to widen Milwaukee Avenue.

Water main relocation will begin near Wolf Road and will continue south to Hintz road. The project is expected to be completed by late January 1997. During construction, temporary lane closures will be required and motorists should expect delays. The contractor will work from morning to evening Mondays through Saturdays.

Any questions can be directed to the Wheeling Public Works Department at (847) 459-2624 from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

## Village honors AmVets, librarian

The Wheeling Village Board on Monday honored the Wheeling AmVets Post 66 in recognition of its 50th anniversary.

In reading the proclamation, Village President Sheila Schultz said the AmVets is an active service organization participating in the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services, Special Olympics, Operation Driver Excellence and the awarding of scholarships. "We acknowledge their many contributions in making our community a better place to live and work," Schultz said.

The board also honored Ken Swanson, administrative librarian of Indian Trails Library, who has announced his retirement.

# Another meeting; the same old response

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

Countryside

As Yogi Berra once said, this visit to the Wheeling Plan Commission was like *deja vu* all over again.

The townhouse proposal for the former Billy & Co. property was once again headed to the Wheeling Village Board Monday night for approval, after the Plan Commission once again favorably recommended the project.

The Plan Commission approved a similar plan submitted by Joseph Freed & Associates in September 1995, but due to a pending lawsuit by residents that alleges the village violated its own ordinances by not acting on that recommendation within six months, a new developer — Realen Homes of Inverness — requested a new public hearing Sept. 12.

Larry Johanssen, vice president of Realen, said prior to the public hearing that he expected the board's approval because there were minimal

changes between his new plan and the one Freed originally proposed.

Realen proposes to build 40 townhouses at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., a 7.8-acre parcel in the village's tax-increment financing district. The Wheeling School District 21 Board, with financial help from the Wheeling Park District, has agreed to purchase 1.9 acres of that site to maintain as a play area for nearby students at Whitman School, 133 S. Wille Ave.

Johanssen said the townhouses will range in size from 1,327 square feet to 1,938 square feet and sell for a base price of \$140,000 to \$200,000. Options, such as basements, would cost extra, he said.

"Wheeling is a desirable place to live," Johanssen said, confident he would find eager buyers for the luxury townhouses. "This is not entry-level housing because of what the costs are."

Residents who formed SPACE, a community action group opposing

the townhouses, want the village instead to find a commercial developer for the site. Johanssen, however, said that's not a realistic request.

"The shape of the property is highly unusual," he said, adding that its irregular layout is not conducive to commercial use.

"There's a very narrow frontage that limits the number of uses, and the bulk of the property is in the rear," Johanssen said. "It clearly does not lend itself to another strip center. This site has been passed over because there are others far superior to it."

Residents voiced concerns about children's safety in regards to traffic and a retention pond on the property. They also wondered whether the school district would fence its playfield off from the townhouse development.

Gary Cohn, spokesman for SPACE, pleaded unsuccessfully with the commission once again to wait until a

more suitable proposal comes before the village.

"This property has been available (for sale) and this is the developer who's come forward," said Plan Commission Chairman Terry Steilen.

Plan Commissioner Christine Dolgopol, who was not on the commission when it approved the Freed plan, said it's time to move on with this development.

"Commercial viability on Milwaukee Avenue has passed us by. It passed us by about 10 years ago," Dolgopol said. "How long do you want us to wait? Do you want us to wait another 10 years? People have been complaining about how bad Milwaukee Avenue looks, and it does. Let's move forward. This is a quality development with quality landscaping."

Dolgopol said she would like to see more townhouse developments approved for construction along Milwaukee Avenue.

## WHEELING

### Trustees approve Union Square plan

9-27-96 Tribune

With a focus on developing the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road area, village officials have given final approval to a town-home project for one parcel and began to consider condominium alternatives for another.

Trustees granted final site-plan approval Monday to the 40-unit Union Square town-home development southwest of the intersection and then began considering options for a 150-unit residential development on 7.2 acres near the northwest corner. Both projects are part of a tax increment financing district.

Of the three concepts presented to trustees by Tekka Associates, an Evanston-based consultant, village staff favored one that consisted of three five-story buildings with 50 one- and two-bedroom units each. Dwelling-unit density would be higher than any other residential development in the village.

Patrick O'Toole

# Water main construction will add to drivers' plight

9-21-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The headaches of driving on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling are about to get worse.

In addition to the road improvements that are now under way on the thoroughfare, crews Monday will begin installing new water mains.

The work is necessary because the main along the stretch of road between Wolf and Hintz roads is antiquated and it also must be moved to make way for future road work, Public Works Director Robert Gray said.

"We have a 1927 water main that is in poor condition," Gray said. "It's reached its usefulness, now it is time to get it out of there."

The main, which is now under Milwaukee Avenue, must be relocated because the Illinois Department of Transportation will begin reconstructing sections of the road later this fall, Gray said. Parts of the pipe, which will be abandoned under the road, are now in the way of where storm water drains will be installed.

At 7 a.m. Monday, crews from Trine Construction Corp., of Wheaton, will begin work at the intersection of Milwaukee and Wolf roads.



The \$1.1 million project, which is expected to conclude Jan. 20, will continue south to Hintz Road. Mains will also be installed on Dundee Road, between Milwaukee and 1st Street.

The work, which will be done on the road's east shoulder, will require the outward, northbound lane to be closed in some sections periodically, Gray said.

He added that this is certain to add to traffic congestion that is already on Milwaukee Avenue near Hintz Road.

"(We) expect a lot of traffic; Milwaukee is one of the main arteries," Gray said. "It's a necessary improvement, but it's unfortunate that it will inconvenience a lot of people."

# Despite lawsuit, developer plans to build town houses

9-28-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A developer is going forward with building 40 town houses on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling, despite a lawsuit against the village seeking to quash the project.

The claims that the project would lower values of nearby homes, create traffic congestion and bring other harms to residents are unfounded, said Larry D. Johannesen, vice president of Realen Homes Inc.

But said William C. Spangenberg, the lawyer representing three residents, about Realen's intent to start building this fall: "(It) proceeds at his own risk."

The lawsuit, which was filed this week, is the second to come from the members of SPACE, or Save Our Precious Acreage for Children & Community Enjoyment. The residents filing the suit are Mary Mozal, Thomas Graf and Gary Hittleman.

The initial suit from SPACE members contended that when the board approved the plan in April it violated an ordinance requiring it to act on a plan commission recommendation within

six months. The commission recommended the plan Aug. 31, 1995. But the residents withdrew the suit last week because the claim was made moot by Realen after it again sought — and obtained — the village board's approval last month. Realen wanted to go through the process again instead of wait until a judge ruled on the lawsuit.

The residents last week attempted to add the claims in the new suit as an amendment to the old lawsuit. But Spangenberg said that the request to add the amendment was rejected because the new claims were not related enough to the original ones.

Meanwhile, Village Manager Craig Anderson said this week that the sale of the land, which once housed the Union Hotel and other businesses, was being finalized.

To improve a part of the village some officials view as blighted, Wheeling is expected to buy the land from four owners for \$1.8 million. It will sell about 6 acres to Realen for \$1.2 million and Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 will buy 1.9 acres next to Walt Whitman Elementary School for \$345,000.

# Citing lack of community support, Wheeling market closes its doors

9-20-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's open arms of support was one of the things that prompted C.K. Finer Foods last year to move to a store vacated by Dominick's Finer Foods.

But after less than 11 months, the private company is going out of business, with an area chain expected to fill the store at 550 W. Dundee Road next month.

The reason, said general manager Chuck Kazmer, is that the store never saw the support it expected from Wheeling.

"We tried, it just didn't work ... we'll just chalk it up as a bad experience and go on," he said.

While Kazmer says it was tough to compete against larger chain

stores, such as Dominick's and Sam's Club, a chamber of commerce member says that higher prices on some items and a lack of selection might have turned some shoppers away from C.K. Finer Foods.

The independent store is finalizing a deal with a chain grocer, which will offer a full-scale service with sections dedicated to produce, meat, fish, bakery goods and a deli, Kazmer said.

Other than saying it is a "reputable" Chicago area company, Kazmer would not identify the company because negotiations are still under way for the 10-year lease of the Lynn Plaza unit, which expires in 2005.

The store is liquidating its stock by offering discounts as high as 50

percent. The remaining cans, bags and boxes resemble islands amid a sea of open shelf space.

The 80-person staff has been pared to about 15.

It is hoped that the new company will take over the store without it having to close, Kazmer said.

Kazmer decided to open the Wheeling store after Dominick's vacated the 37,100-square-foot unit it had occupied for 22 years.

The February 1995 closure sparked frustration in the community and made economic development an issue in the village's trustee election.

"Most everyone in the community wanted a grocery store," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

See GROCER on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

"It's unfortunate that he is having to close. We appreciated his effort to make a go of it."

Kazmer said the store never attracted the people it expected.

Dominick's used to do about \$300,000 a week in sales, he said.

With \$160,000 the most it made in a week, C.K. never reached its projected weekly sales of \$275,000, Kazmer said. Sales hit a low of \$50,000 a week.

Kazmer said customers always look for bargains.

"They wouldn't participate in

the program unless you gave the store away," said Kazmer, who said he is not bitter toward the town.

One difficulty for C.K. was to reacquaint customers with the idea of once again shopping for groceries in Lynn Plaza after the store was vacant for about 10 months, said Denise Kennedy, of the Wheeling and Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

But some customers also were turned away from the store because of limited stock selection or higher prices, she added.

## Fire district officials hope new name ends confusion

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District has had that name since it was created in 1951.

But the district has changed since the group of farmers first created it to protect the then-rural unincorporated parts of the township.

And because most of the district is no longer unincorporated — it's primarily in Prospect Heights — and some residents confuse it with the Wheeling Fire Department, officials changed the name.

"It's confusing to the people," said Anthony Carlin, president of what will be known as the Palwaukee Area Fire District as of Nov. 1.

The new name was selected because it more accurately reflects where the district is located, Carlin said.

While half of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport is in Wheeling, the other half lies within the boundaries of the district, which contracts with other fire districts and departments for service. For instance, the district pays the Wheeling department to protect its half of the airport.

Officials say that while 75

percent of the district is located within Prospect Heights, the board avoided including the city in the name to connote independence and to avoid any confusion with the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District.

Though the district has had the same name since its 1951 inception, the issue that people were confused surfaced while officials looked into the possibility of placing a referendum on next month's ballot. The referendum that would have asked voters permission to dissolve the district wasn't placed on the ballot. "The 'Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District' connotes Wheeling," said Karl R. Ottosen, the district's attorney.

Erv Lemke, who served on the district's board between 1954 and 1978, said the name in the past caused some confusion. But he added it wasn't a problem during that time.

Ottosen said the name change is allowed under state law and won't be costly because the district doesn't have trucks and firefighters' uniforms to alter.

The district is in the process of notifying Lake and Cook counties, and the state fire marshal, he added.

## Officers issue 998 tickets in latest traffic program

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department recently finished sending motorists a message that they should wear seat belts, obey speed limits and follow other traffic rules.

Officers wrote about 1,000 tickets in two weeks.

The citations were the result of a state program in which extra officers are added to the street periodically throughout the year to spur motorists to adhere to traffic laws.

"(It's to) make more people cognizant of the rules of the road," Deputy Chief John Popadowski said.

"The idea is not to write a lot of tickets, but it is to increase traffic safety. It is to make people aware."

On Sept. 15, the department completed its fourth two-week period of increased enforcement of traffic laws in a one-year program that was funded by a \$20,260 federal grant administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The grant helps the department increase enforcement of traffic laws by paying overtime for officers — as many as five at a time — to add extra

patrols in areas where residents have complained about speeding cars or many accidents occur, Popadowski said.

"We'll evaluate the areas that need traffic enforcement and that's where we'll put people," he added.

During this section of the program, officers focused on Dundee Road; Wheeling Road near the Metra station; and Northgate Parkway, between Dundee and Lake-Cook roads.

A primary focus of the program is to spur motorists to wear seat belts and use child safety seats, and to prevent speeding or driving while under the influence of alcohol.

During the last two weeks of the program, officers issued 998 citations.

The next year of the program, for which the department will receive a \$29,987 grant, consists of at least four six-week sections that include safety programs, as well as increased enforcement.

Popadowski said that the program is conducted during periods that contain some holidays, partially because there is increased traffic and more celebrating.

The program for the upcoming year will be conducted in November, February, May and August.



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

Carl Dieball of Globe/U.S. Auto Glass Center etches a car's vehicle identification number into its windows Saturday at the Wheeling Police Department. The etching makes the auto glass worthless on the stolen market.

## Glass etching protects autos

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Forty-three residents brought their vehicles to the Wheeling Police Department Saturday, hoping to deter would-be thieves by getting their auto glass chemically etched.

The Police Department, in cooperation with Globe/U.S. Auto Glass Center in Arlington Heights, offered window

**“They can't turn around and sell it. That's the main purpose for doing it.”**

etchings to residents at a discounted rate of \$15.

Auto glass nets premium prices on the black market, but if a vehicle's identification number is chemically etched in the window, the glass could be traced to the stolen vehicle and thereby considered worthless by thieves, said Amy

Wurzer of Globe/U.S. Auto Glass Center.

"They can't turn around and sell it. That's the main purpose for doing it," Wurzer said. Auto Glass Center employees burn the serial number into the windows by applying acid, she said. "You can see it on the glass once it's done."

Etching auto glass is routine at Globe/U.S. Auto Glass Center in Arlington Heights. Wurzer suggests car owners who are considering etchings first stop by and view etched glass, which is permanently marked with the vehicle's identification number.

Wheeling police officer Brian Baird said the department filled its slots for the day within the first week of the event being announced. Officer Rick Sheffler, who organized the event, had to turn residents away, Baird said.

This was the first time the Wheeling Police Department has sponsored a window etching, but because of its success, Baird suspects it may become a regular event.

## Palwaukee airport fire protection up for grabs

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials thought they had doused a raging debate when they agreed this spring on how the Palwaukee Municipal Airport would receive fire protection.

But the issue is smoldering again.

Wheeling officials want to strike a written agreement with Prospect Heights that sets out what fire department will serve the airport, which is owned by both towns.

"We want to make it very clear; put pen to paper and say this is what our understanding of what it should be," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The debate began in April after the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District, which is responsible for hiring a department to serve half the airport, switched its half to the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District. Wheeling's fire department had served the whole airport, half of which is in the village.

After fears were raised about safety problems of having two departments covering the airport, officials decided it was best to have the airport served by Wheeling. This was a temporary agreement but officials from both Prospect Heights and Wheeling said they wanted the Wheeling department to continue serving the airport.

But now, a debate is brewing over which department should cover Sumac Lane, adjacent to the airport. The issue came up when Prospect Heights district crews responded to calls in the area, which Wheeling officials thought was protected by their department.

Sumac Lane should be covered by Wheeling because it contains two aircraft hangars and is connected to the airport, said Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

But Wheeling Township district officials disagree.

"It's not part of the airport," said district board President Anthony Carlin.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said he thought that since the area is outside the airport, it would be served by the fire district.

Rotchford said he would prefer officials from the district and two towns meet to work out an agreement.

# Grants help cops

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Even if you're not the one being handed the ticket, the mere sight of a police officer stopping a driver can be enough to make you check the speedometer and hit the brakes.

That's the reaction Wheeling police officers were hoping for recently when they recently completed their fourth round of enhanced traffic enforcement.

Officers completed a project on Sept. 15 that targeted seat-belt violations, speeders and alcohol-related offenders.

**'It certainly is a benefit to us.'**

Since Sept. 1, officers focused their attention on Dundee Road throughout the village and Northgate Parkway between Dundee and Lake-Cook Road.

In the last two-week enforcement period, officers issued 998 traffic citations, 259 of them for seat-belt violations.

The special enforcement project was funded by a \$20,260 grant given to the department by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant allows the department to pay officers overtime to target traffic offenders.

"The luxury of this is to hire people back (on overtime), giving us an additional three to four officers on the streets and allows them to concentrate on nothing other than traffic enforcement," said Deputy Chief John Popadowski.

"This year, our accidents are down, and I would hopefully attribute that to the traffic enforcement that comes out of these grants," Popadowski added. "It certainly is a benefit to us."

The Wheeling Police Department was recently notified that it will receive a \$29,987 safety grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the 1996-97 year. The grant will be used for at least four, six-week campaigns to inform and educate the public about the dangers of impaired driving, speeding and the non-use of seat belts, and to enforce those laws.

The next safety campaign will be held in November.

# Realen Homes hopes to finally proceed

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

For now, there appears to be no obstacles preventing Realen Homes of Inverness from breaking ground on a 40-unit townhouse development on South Milwaukee Avenue.

But, when one considers the history behind the project, it is safe to assume that things could once again get a little fuzzy.

Within the last two weeks, the Wheeling Plan Commission recommended approval of the project, trustees voted to approve the plan and a Cook County judge dismissed a lawsuit against the village concerning the proposal.

Three residents filed suit against the village early this year, claiming trustees violated an ordinance by not acting on a Plan Commission recommendation within six months. The Plan Commission on Aug. 31, 1995, recommended approval of a townhouse plan proposed by Joseph Freed & Associates, but trustees didn't vote on the plan until April.

Because of the pending lawsuit, Larry Johannesen, vice president of Realen, requested another round of hearings before the Plan Commission. On Sept. 12, the Plan Commission recommended approval for 40 townhouses at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. Four days later, trustees voted 4-2, with Trustees

Patrick Horcher and Bob Heer dissenting, to approve the plan.

On Friday, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Stephen Schiller dismissed the case and would not allow the residents' attorney, William Spangenberg, to file any amended complaints.

"We are pleased with the judge's decision," village attorney James Rhodes said Monday. "The judge also dismissed his right to file any amendments in this suit."

Residents, though, could file another lawsuit if they can find new grounds.

"People can always file lawsuits, but that doesn't mean they'll be successful," Rhodes added.

Spangenberg said the lawsuit's dismissal was agreed upon by both parties.

"The only thing it asked for was a public hearing," Spangenberg said, noting that the village did just that Sept. 12. After the hearing, the lawsuit was moot.

"I did ask to file an amendment, but the judge felt the amended complaints went into another matter, so procedurally, a new lawsuit will be filed," Spangenberg said. The new suit, expected to be filed this week, claims the rezoning was unreasonable.

"Specifically, the plaintiffs are concerned (Continued on page 12)

# Developer sues 3 residents for fighting town house plan

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A developer has filed a lawsuit seeking at least \$3 million from three Wheeling residents, charging they wrongfully interfered with a project to build 40 townhouses and abused the legal process.

The suit filed Tuesday in Cook County Circuit Court is targeting the residents because they have delayed the project through legal moves and could cause the developer to lose money, said Larry D. Johannesen, vice president of Realen Homes Inc.

The suit, which claims an "abuse of the process" and "intentional interference" with business, seeks in excess of \$3 million, plus interest and court fees and costs.

"There has been a lot of money spent on reliance that this project is going forward," Johannesen said. "We have been wronged by the actions."

But the real goal of the developer's suit is to pressure the residents into dropping their lawsuit against the village, said William Spangenberg, the attorney representing Mary Mozal, Thomas Graf and Gary Hittleman. Their suit is

aiming at killing the project targeted for the majority of 7.9 acres at 124-192 Milwaukee Ave.

"They are trying to intimidate these people," he said. "It's an attempt to try to force the citizens to drop their action against Wheeling."

The residents' suit claims the project will lower values of nearby homes and create traffic congestion, among other things. The suit was preceded by one that alleged trustees didn't follow village rules when they approved the project in April. Resident Effie Myrick, instead of Graf, participated in the

first suit.

Realen then sought and received approval for the project again, which made the first suit moot.

Realen has invested more than \$1.4 million, and therefore risks losing a lot of money since the residents' suit seeks to kill the project, Johannesen said.

He added that it is not certain if Realen would drop its suit if the residents dropped theirs.

But the residents won't drop the suit in order to avoid Realen's suit, Spangenberg said. "It is groundless. They can't prove any of this stuff," he said.

about the diminishing value of their property and homes, traffic congestion, hazardous conditions for their children who attend (Whitman) school, their privacy, stormwater runoff and a land use that doesn't blend in," he said.

The new lawsuit, if successful, will ask the judge to void village ordinances regarding the plan. That would mean that the village could not issue building permits, could not purchase the property, and could not sell 1.9 acres of the site to Wheeling Elementary School District 21 as agreed upon to expand Whitman's play area.

"The homeowners have been very patient about this," Spangenberg said, adding that they have asked the village for compromises to build a commercial building and to sell the school district more land. "They have opposed this for over a year. They've always raised the same questions and there's never been adequate answers in their minds. That's why there will be another lawsuit filed in a couple of days."

## Union Square still in court

Shortly after a lawsuit filed by three residents against the village for the Union Square townhouse project on South Milwaukee Avenue was dismissed, attorney William Spangenberg filed another suit against the village brought by residents Mary Mozal, Thomas Graf and Gary Hittleman.

The lawsuit claims the residents will be adversely affected by the rezoning, zoning variations and site plan of the 40 townhouses to be built by Realen Homes of Inverness at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Residents say the development would lower their property values; further congest traffic; create hazardous conditions for children on the Whitman School playground; diminish adequate light, air and privacy for homeowners; increase floodwater runoff; and create a land use not in conformance with the commercial and single-family home neighborhood.

The suit seeks to declare all ordinances associated with the townhouse development null and void and to stop the village from issuing building permits.

COURT REPORTER  
10-3-96

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, with a copy mailed to the Countryside for publication.

### A sad sight 10-3-96

**COUNTRYSIDE**  
**Wheeling** My name is Margaret, and I'm a senior at Wheeling High School this year. I've lived in Wheeling for 17 years and I am writing to you because I'm very upset. The other day I came home from school and walked in my front door, only to be slapped in the face by a heartbreaking sight. I was halfway to tears when I realized that the trees my friends, family, neighbors and citizens of Wheeling had been fighting to keep alive for more than 18 months, were now being cut down and nullified. It makes me so sick to think that we have to fight for something so hard in our own town.

To my understanding, the government is for the people, but for some reason the town of Wheeling is an exception to this rule. I am feeling both bad and good right now. The bad part is the present. Right now, the people of my town are being ignored, and much precious land is being destroyed to benefit the pockets of our

higher authorities, like yourself.

On the other hand, I'm glad I know what's going on in the village because I'll be 18 in three months, and that means I get my constitutional right to vote. Lucky for me, I know my vote will benefit the people of Wheeling.

Another reason I'm upset is that you alone have allowed this massacre to happen. You are the mayor. You make the final decisions. I do not know whom you are trying to win brownie points from, but, frankly, it's not the Wheeling residents. I do not think the Walt Whitman Brownie Troop would give you their points either.

No one told me to write this letter; it is from my heart, and this is how I feel. I remember in 1992, when I was in 8th grade, my friend and I sent a letter to you concerning the issue of the same trees being destroyed. I have enclosed a copy of that letter along with the letter I got in return. If you had read my letter then, you would have realized how the children of the community care, too. Maybe you would not be ignoring them. Many children are grieving today. You have done the community a great injustice.

This letter can never be

enough to show how much I hurt from the death of all God's beautiful trees he provided. Please do something for your town. Listen to us! Keep in mind, you are the past and present. I am the present and future. When you make harmful decisions, think of me and the Brownies. We are the future, the future is now, and there is no "I" in the future.

Margaret Graf

## Garden Fresh eyes former C.K. site for second store

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling store vacated by C.K. Finer Foods this month may be filled by another independent grocer that wants to open a second location in the village.

The owners of Garden Fresh Market Inc. hope to open a full-service grocery store at 550 W. Dundee Road by the end of the year.

Still under way are lease negotiations for the store in the Lynn Plaza Shopping Center and discussions with Wheeling officials about what incentives — such as sharing of retail taxes — are available, said Arik Amzaleg, a Garden Fresh owner.

He said he expects to know as soon as this week if the move will take place.

C.K. closed 11 months after it opened because of a lack of shoppers. Dominick's occupied the 37,100-square-foot store for 22 years before it left in February 1995.

Garden Fresh wants to open a store similar to the one it has at 1786 Hintz Road, with a full line of groceries, but concentrating on produce, a deli, meat and ethnic foods, Amzaleg said.

Because they intend to operate two stores in Wheeling, Garden Fresh owners expect to lose some business from the current location, but expect to gain customers from the northern part of the village and surrounding towns, Amzaleg said. The company has done business in Wheeling for four years and has two stores in Chicago and Roselle.

Amzaleg said he is "a little nervous" about filling a store vacated by a fellow independent grocer. But Garden Fresh will rely on its produce and other "niche" areas to compete with larger chains.

Meanwhile, officials are considering what type of help to offer Garden Fresh, which Amzaleg said is needed to get the store off the ground. For instance, it will cost at least \$800,000 to renovate the store, Amzaleg said.

To receive help, a business must prove a need, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

"This is something our residents need. ... That even gives us more of an incentive," she said.

Schultz said she is pleased by Garden Fresh's plans because it would bring a full-service grocery store back to Lynn Plaza.

## Airport construction prompts criticism

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

On the verge of celebrating their 10th anniversary as mutual owners of Palwaukee Airport, Prospect Heights and Wheeling officials have expressed interest in rewriting the intergovernmental agreement that dictates how the airport operates.

The discovery that Wheeling extended a water main to service the new control tower and a new Priester Aviation hangar prompted Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford to question the integrity of the agreement at a joint meeting last week.

"I was quite surprised to find out this water main was going in and only serving the Wheeling side," Rotchford said.

Rotchford said it was his impression that when a municipality decided to provide a service to the airport, it would service the entire facility. The water main Wheeling installed services only a portion of the airport, leaving the rest of the airport buildings dependent upon well water.

"Prospect Heights was not notified that this main was going in," Rotchford said. "We both own the airport, yet I feel left out. We were not made aware of this decision."

Had Wheeling been up front with Prospect Heights and decided to service the entire airport, Rotchford said, the intergovernmental agreement would have allowed the village to recapture most of its installation cost through tap-on fees and water fees.

"We could've worked something out," he added. "I think it's time to re-address the intergovernmental agreement. It's up to the two municipalities to open it up and if we don't, I think it will be detrimental to the future development of the airport."

Rotchford also said that extending the water main to just the Wheeling side of the airport inhibits future development in Prospect Heights.

The two municipalities are expected to celebrate their 10th anniversary as mutual owners of the airport in December.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz apologized for the misunderstanding, but said she cannot ask Wheeling taxpayers to foot the bill to install water mains throughout the airport.

Also, she said, an agreement with the Northwest Water Commission limits the village's lake water allocation and how much of an area the village can serve. Extending the water main also goes against the village's policy of not providing lake water to areas outside Wheeling's corporate limits.

"Water being brought to the control tower and the Priester hangar is a good thing. At the moment, it's of no benefit to the village of Wheeling," added Village Manager Craig Anderson, noting that the project cost the village over \$1 million.

"We put a big investment out there to meet the needs of both communities. It's a service to the airport for the benefit of the airport," Anderson said.

Schultz said the information about the water main extension should have been included in construction plans for the new control tower, which Prospect Heights approved.

"The city of Prospect Heights did approve the building of the tower, but there was never anything (written) about Wheeling supplying the water," Rotchford said. "I think every building out there should have the same service."

Palwaukee Airport Commission Chairman Tony Altieri said the miscommunication, if one existed, was probably an oversight on the part of his board.

"I feel we are not fulfilling our role of commissioners if this was not communicated to the council," he said.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart agreed to review all correspondence regarding the new control tower to determine where Prospect Heights was misled.

Both Rotchford and Schultz agreed that there are several issues not addressed in the agreement that could be clarified if both municipalities decide to review the document.

## Friction prompts calls for new contract on Palwaukee Airport

By AMY McLAUGHLIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Prospect Heights city officials are calling for a new intergovernmental agreement for joint ownership with Wheeling of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Specifically, fire and water service to the airport, which is owned by both towns, needs to be worked out, Prospect Heights officials said.

Some Prospect Heights City Council members, during a meeting this week, complained about how they were treated at a Sept. 30 meeting between both towns and the airport commission.

"I was completely insulted. We were guests at a party for Wheeling, and we were treated as such," 4th Ward Alderman Carole Dujmovic said.

City officials said they weren't aware until after the fact that Wheeling had installed a water pipe to serve the airport control tower, as well as some surrounding businesses.

"We own this airport equally. We were, in Prospect Heights, never notified of this," Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila E. Schultz said she and other village officials would be open to discussing a reworking of the intergovernmental agreement. She said, to her knowledge, Prospect Heights officials have known about the water main, and signed off on it.

For Schultz, the main problem

"I was completely insulted. We were guests at a party for Wheeling, and we were treated as such."

Prospect Heights  
Alderman Carole Dujmovic

is clearing out fire service for the airport to have the Wheeling Fire Department be the sole provider. She said Prospect Heights officials should endorse a resolution calling for the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District, which also contracts with the Wheeling Rural Fire Protection District, to stay out of the airport.

"The Wheeling Fire Department should be, must be, the sole provider of fire services to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport," Schultz said.

Rotchford said the Prospect Heights fire district is separate from the village. If such an agreement was reached for Wheeling to be the sole provider of fire service, it's something to be considered in a new intergovernmental agreement.

"I think we've reached a point that tells us that we need a new intergovernmental agreement," 2nd Ward Alderman Tom O'Donoghue said.

# Schultz: fire protection should rest with village

CountrySide

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

10-10-96

The uncertainty over which agency is providing fire protection service to Palwaukee Airport should soon end.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz has asked her trustees and the Prospect Heights City Council to issue written statements agreeing that the Wheeling Fire Department should provide fire protection to the entire airport, which was purchased by the two municipalities 10 years ago.

The confusion over exactly who has jurisdiction over the state's third largest airport began in April, when the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District voted to extend its fire protection service to parts of the facility.

But the airport is also located in the Wheeling Rural Fire Protection District, which exists on paper only, and has for years contracted fire protection service for the airport to the Wheeling Village Fire Department.

After submitting a Freedom of Information request seeking an explanation as to exactly what officials had in mind when they extended service to the airport, Schultz received what she considered a vague agreement from the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District stating that it would cover "operational areas" of the airport.

"That's unclear and not a satisfactory response," Schultz said. "They don't have the equipment, and they don't have the training" to service the airport.

Both Schultz and Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford have verbally agreed that the Wheeling Fire Department is best suited to handle emergencies that may occur at Palwaukee.

"We want to make sure the airport is safe," Schultz said. "I'm looking to protect the village of Wheeling's interest in this airport."

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said Wheeling trustees may consider a resolution stating that they believe the village's fire department is best equipped to handle emergencies at Palwaukee.

"We've got the manpower; we're in close proximity to the airport. We've done it for 10 years, and I think we know what we're doing," Anderson said. "It is no reflection on the firefighters of the Prospect Heights District. I'm sure they're very qualified people, but it's a question of what resources do they have."

Airport Commission Chairman Tony Altieri agreed.

"I think the concern is that you need special radios to communicate with the tower, which I don't believe they (Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District personnel) have. That is a bit of a problem," Altieri said.

# Suit alleges trio harassed Realen Homes

CountrySide

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

10-10-96

The legal battle continues over the controversial Union Square townhouse development to be built on South Milwaukee Avenue.

Residents opposing the development now find themselves on the other side of the legal fence, facing a \$3 million lawsuit filed by the developer.

Realen Homes, the developer of the 40-unit townhouse project, filed a lawsuit Oct. 1 against three residents, Mary Mozal, Thomas Graf and Gary Hittleman. The three residents have a lawsuit pending against the village of Wheeling to stop the development.

Realen is seeking at least \$3 million in damages from the residents, saying the defendants have filed the suit to maliciously harass the developer and to halt the proposed development at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

The residents' lawsuit was "not to challenge the validity of the ordinances or for any proper purpose, but for the ulterior and selfish purpose and motive of forcing (Realen) to utilize the parcel solely for the benefit of (the residents)," Realen's suit states.

Each day Realen is delayed, the company loses money, the suit states. Realen also claims the defendants are part of a group that has been sending threatening fax messages and placing similarly harassing telephone calls.

A previous lawsuit, filed by Mozal, Hittleman and resident Effie Myrick, was dismissed after the village held a recent public hearing on the proposal. The Village Board subsequently approved all necessary ordinances to allow Realen to build on the 7.8-acre site.

Residents, though, continue to fight the development. They would prefer a commercial development along Milwaukee Avenue and have said the townhouses would create too much traffic in their neighborhood.

"The residents have every right to sue the village," said their attorney, William Spangenberg. "We feel this (suit from Realen) has been brought in bad faith to intimidate Mary, Tom and Gary directly. Certainly, these residents are not going to bend for something like this."

Spangenberg said Realen knew when it took over the proposal from Freed & Associates that nearby residents had been protesting the plan for more than a year.

"The property was purchased at a \$310,000 loss to the taxpayers. Why Realen thinks everyone would take this lying down, I don't know," he added.

Spangenberg has not yet decided how he will respond to Realen's lawsuit, but he believes his clients will prevail.

"They can't prove any malice or bad faith here," he said. "Everything the residents have done has been done legally."

Likewise, Realen has followed all village ordinances, said C. Grant McCorkhill, an attorney with Hill, Steadman & Simpson of Chicago. With winter quickly approaching, Realen wants to get the project under way.

"We respect (the residents') concerns, but they need to respect ours," McCorkhill said. "We have a client who has proposed to build a viable residential development in Wheeling."

Village officials already have approved the townhouse plans, and Realen is ready to begin building.

# Firefighting training center should be open by spring

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After three years of planning and some delays, construction of a training center for area firefighters could begin as early as this month.

The Combined Area Training Facility will provide firefighters from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and the Long Grove Rural Fire Protection District a place to practice removing victims from wrecked cars, extinguishing fires and performing other emergency tactics.

Buffalo Grove trustees next week are expected to decide whether to approve paying the village's \$151,750 share of the \$458,650 cost to transform about 4.5 acres at the southeast corner of Deerfield Parkway and Krause Drive in Buffalo Grove into a training center. Wheeling and the Long Grove fire district have already approved paying their shares.

Pickus Construction could begin work on the center as early as this month, said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling, and is expected to finish the job by next spring.

Planning has been in the works for three years. The project encountered a few delays, including hiring a new architect and the Vernon Fire Protection District opting out of the partnership.

Officials are now awaiting the completion of the center, which will enable fire crews to train without long drives to other facilities.

"The sooner it is built, the sooner we can have this facility close by," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Originally, the three departments wanted to begin construction by this fall on a four-story tower that would simulate a burning building.

But Balling said that they will have to wait until the 1997-98 fiscal year to pay the estimated \$150,000 cost.

However, training will still be done at the site, using such equipment as a "Swede flashover unit" that simulates spontaneous combustion within a room, Balling said.

"It will be put into productive use right after we open it," Balling said. "It will be an important performance boost for all three departments."

Commission members also ordered Bell Liquor, 767 W. Dundee Road, be closed for four days beginning Nov. 15 and that the bar owners, S.I.C. Inc., pay a \$750 fine. Alfred D. Stavros, a lawyer representing S.I.C., said that owners are

served. The commission, composed of trustees and Village President Sheila H. Schultz, ordered that for four days starting Oct. 18, A-1 Liquors, 50 N. Milwaukee Ave., will be closed and that the store owners, Colony Lakes Liquors Inc., must pay a \$1,000 fine. Attorney Art Wenzel, who represented Colony Lakes, said the company admits that a "mistake" had been made and that steps will be taken so that other minors won't be

served. Wheeling officials Tuesday night ordered a liquor store and a bar to close for four days and pay fines because they allegedly served alcohol to a minor during a police sweep. The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission rulings came during hearings for four liquor license holders who were accused of selling alcohol to a minor.

Two other establishments appeared before the commission, but their hearings were continued to 8 p.m. Oct. 28 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. These businesses were D.I.G.D. Inc., which owns Holsch's Tavern, 322 N. Milwaukee Ave., and Duffy Enterprises, which owns Maty's Place, 1750 W. Hintz Road.

The charges came during a Dec. 1, 1995 sweep, when the police had a minor pose as a customer. When a sale was made, the minor would signal an officer waiting nearby.

Wheeling police routinely sweep the village's approximate 30 liquor license holders.

"It's to assure ourselves that the liquor laws are being followed," Schultz said.

# Wheeling liquor store, bar told to close shop for 4 days

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

not admitting guilt but "pleading no contest" to the charge.

Two other establishments

appeared before the commission, but their hearings were continued to 8 p.m. Oct. 28 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. These businesses were D.I.G.D. Inc., which owns Holsch's Tavern, 322 N. Milwaukee Ave., and Duffy Enterprises, which owns Maty's Place, 1750 W. Hintz Road.

The charges came during a Dec. 1, 1995 sweep, when the police had a minor pose as a customer.

When a sale was made, the minor would signal an officer waiting nearby.

Wheeling police routinely sweep the village's approximate 30 liquor license holders.

"It's to assure ourselves that the liquor laws are being followed," Schultz said.

Village attorney James Rhodes said the commission considered past violations of Bell Liquor and A-Liquors when they assessed the penalties. Bell Liquor has been cited three times in the last nine years for selling alcohol to a minor and A-1 has been cited three times since 1993.

# Meig's loss, Palwaukee's gain

Country side 10-17-96

With the demise of Meigs Field in Chicago, more traffic is expected at local airports, including Palwaukee Municipal Airport. That increase could translate into increased business for local shops and service providers.

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

With the closing of Meigs Field last month, local officials are preparing for an increase in Palwaukee Airport traffic that could bring an additional 2,800 flights annually to the municipally owned facility.

When Chicago's lakefront airport closed Sept. 30, Meigs recorded 51,000 flights a year.

**‘It's good for Wheeling and Prospect Heights. All of the businesses receive some new customers by new customers coming to the airport.’**

## Don Augustine Priester Aviation

said Barrett Murphy, director of marketing for the Chicago Department of Aviation. It is only logical, Murphy explained, that some of those flights would end up at Wheeling's local transportation center.

“Palwaukee is expected to get between 6 and 7 percent of those (flights),” Murphy said. “That puts it second behind Midway,” which was expected to get about 56 percent of the flights previously destined for Meigs.

Murphy expects Midway to pick up most of the business travelers who have a final downtown Chicago destina-



Todd Heisler/Pioneer Press

**Air traffic is expected to increase at Palwaukee Municipal Airport now that Meigs Field in Chicago has closed. Chicago officials esti-**

**mate that as many as 2,800 new flights could go in and out of the locally owned facility annually.**

tion, while Palwaukee will most likely see an increase in its number of leisure travelers.

Don Augustine, director of marketing for Priester Aviation at Palwaukee, said the

closing of Meigs Field could translate into new customers for local businesses.

Augustine, who serves as president of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, said restaurants,

rental car agencies, limousine services and nearby hotels are among businesses that may see an increase in business due to the expected increased traffic at Palwaukee.

At Priester, Augustine said, the company will have more planes to service and to fuel.

“All of that means increased revenues and business for the service providers at the airport and the ancillary services needed by people who use the airport,” he said. “It's good for Wheeling and Prospect Heights. All of the businesses receive some new customers by new customers coming to the airport.”

Though Murphy predicted Palwaukee will see an increase in leisure flights, Augustine said Palwaukee is used primarily by business clients.

“Nine out of 10 flights in and out of here are business planes,” he said.

The estimated 2,800 additional flights a year represents less than a 5 percent increase in Palwaukee's number of flights, he said. Therefore, Augustine said he doesn't expect any additional airport improvements would be needed to accommodate the growth.

The airport is currently undergoing a multi-million-dollar improvement project which includes a new control tower, new taxiways and new runways.

## A little help

“(The closing of Meigs) may help pay off the improvements sooner by adding more traffic,” Augustine said. “As the improvements are completed — the taxiways, the tower — we'll probably see that traffic grow even more over the next 10 years.”

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said more flights are predicted at Palwaukee, but just how much of an increase is realized and what impact that will have on the community is yet to be seen.

Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart could not be reached for comment.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport was purchased 10 years ago by the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights.

## Wheeling proposes tax break to keep Peer Bearing in town

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Peer Bearing Co. has done business in Wheeling for 10 years, and growth has it looking to move into a new building. But instead of relocating to Lake County to benefit from lower taxes, the company may stay put because of a move by Wheeling officials.

The village board recently recommended that Cook County grant Peer an incentive that would lower its taxes for 10 years.

“The incentive will keep us here,” said Laurence Spungen, the company's president. “That is the equalizer from running to Lake County.”

Usually, a business is taxed on 36 percent of its assessed property value. But with a “6B” exemption, the business would be taxed on 16 percent of its assessment for the first eight years of operation; 23 percent in the ninth year; and 30 percent in the 10th year, said Village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski. The property normally would be assessed after the 10th year, he added.

“Their taxes go down because

the assessed value is a lot lower than without the 6B,” Fialkowski said.

The business — an importer and distributor of ball bearings — plans to use the exemption for a new plant it wants to build at 77 W. Hintz Road. Growth in the business is spurring Peer's decision to move to the proposed 159,000-square-foot facility from its 70,000-square-foot plant at 241 W. Palatine Road.

The exemption benefits the village because it enables it to keep businesses in town, which adds to its tax base, Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

For a business to get the village's backing, it must show that it could benefit from moving out of Wheeling, Schultz said.

Schultz added that Peer has “been a real good industrial resident” that the village wanted to keep.

Spungen expects that the county will decide within two weeks whether it will grant Peer the exemption.

The move into the new facility, which is expected to increase the number of employees from 200 to 250, is anticipated to take place next spring, Spungen said.

## Northwest overnight

A DIGEST OF LATE NEWS REPORTS, COMPILED BY JERRY CRIMMINS

### PROSPECT HEIGHTS/WHEELING

## Palwaukee Airport board to seek OK to lengthen runway

Tribune 10-17-96

The commissioners of the Palwaukee Airport Commission voted 5-1 Wednesday night to seek permission from Wheeling and Prospect Heights to lengthen the airport's main runway by 680 feet.

An intergovernmental agreement between the towns prohibits the proposed runway lengthening. But the commissioners, made up of representatives of the two communities, agreed to ask that the agreement be changed.

Fred Stewart, Palwaukee airport manager, said a longer runway is needed for safety reasons and to meet the changing requirements of airplanes now and in the future.

Voting against the proposal was Commissioner William Rogers of Wheeling. Rogers said the communities had agreed to the runways at specific sizes, and he saw no reason to change them.

Tony Perri

# Plans dead for new Wheeling Target store

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A development that was expected to bring Wheeling about \$550,000 annually in sales taxes, but was not well received by some officials and residents, will not be built.

Centrum Properties Inc. has decided not to build a Target store on 15 acres on the south side of McHenry Road, east of Weiland Road, said Trustee Patrick Horcher, whose family owns the land.

"(It's) dead, all done, bye bye," Horcher said.

Horcher did not know exactly why Centrum decided to spike the project, but said there were too many things going against it.

"It was just falling apart," Horcher said. "Target was kind of pulling out and the village wasn't giving any signs of being open about this project."

Horcher said Target is concentrating on developing stores in other areas and the Wheeling project faced several questions from residents and officials.

Chiefly, some officials were concerned about changing the village's master plan to allow the store to be built instead of houses. And some officials also gave a cool reception to the Chicago-based developer's request that the village help it pay for part of \$1.7 million worth of necessary sewer system work. Usually, installing such infrastructure is the developer's responsibility.

Residents also feared that the project could increase traffic.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said those issues would have continued to have been addressed during the development's approval process.

Schultz acknowledged the development's taxes might have benefited the village, but she said that is not the primary issue when a proposal is under consideration.

"The income that that could produce is always welcome, but you don't make planning decisions solely on the basis of financial (gain)," Schultz said. "It's a factor but not the only factor."

Regardless of the reason, not getting the store will be a loss for Wheeling, said Denise Kennedy, of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

# Food store closes

10-17-96  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
Less than a year after it opened, C.K. Finer Foods has closed its doors.

The small independent grocery store opened early this year, filling a vacancy left when Dominick's closed its store in Lynn Plaza at 550 W. Dundee Road, Feb. 1, 1995.

Dominick's had served Wheeling residents for 22 years, but company officials said the building housing the store was just too small for the chain's expanding needs.

Village officials were pleased when C.K. Finer Foods announced in the fall of 1995 that it would fill the former Dominick's location. Now, after only several months of business, it appears as though the owners just couldn't make it.

"We're not sure of the status of the company," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson, who added that the company filed for bankruptcy prior to closing.

Officials at C.K. Finer Foods could not be reached for comment. Phone numbers for their former Wheeling and Hanover Park stores have been disconnected, with no forwarding numbers given.

Once again, the village hopes a grocery store can be found to fill the vacancy.

"There have been some discussions with an interested grocer and I know the management of the shopping center has been talking with one or two (others)," Anderson said. "I think it's a pretty good location. Dominick's was successful there for many years."

The village had heard complaints that C.K. Finer Foods was not well-stocked, which may have discouraged some customers, Anderson said.

"We need a store that's fully stocked, one to equate to the former Dominick's, and try to bring in lost customers who may have went elsewhere" when Dominick's closed, he said. "It's hard to compete with the (full-service) Jewels and Dominick's."

During the last year, management of the Lynn Plaza shopping center was turned over to Hallmark & Johnson from James Kaplan Cos., both Chicago firms. No one from Hallmark & Johnson could be reached for comment.

# Wheeling police union says officers' morale at 'all-time low'

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer  
10/18/96

The morale of Wheeling police officers is at "an all-time low," claims the president of the officers' union.

Wheeling officials say the village is addressing some officers' complaints, but issues the department is facing aren't unlike those in most communities. Wheeling patrol officers' vented their concerns during confidential meetings for a department morale survey, said William Stutzman, an officer and president of the local chapter of the Combined Counties Police Association.

In those meetings, a majority of the approximate 50 patrol officers complained about how Chief Michael Haeger runs the department, among other issues, Stutzman said. He would not be more specific because he did not want to violate the officers' confidentiality.

"Morale is at an all-time low," Stutzman said Thursday. "There is a high level of frustration amongst our men."  
"We're looking for the village to address some of our concerns," Stutzman said.

The survey, begun in May by Stutzman & Associates, sought to identify both the department's weaknesses and strengths, said village Manager Craig Anderson. He added it's uncertain whether the survey will be made public.

"No doubt, there are some issues we are working on," Anderson said. "I don't know if we are that different from other departments."  
Because it is a personnel matter, Anderson and Haeger wouldn't reveal many of the specific problems and how the village plans to remedy them.

One comment that was addressed was the lack of work space in the station, Anderson said. To help alleviate the problem, the village made space available in another area.

Haeger said Thursday night it was "unfortunate" that the union "chose to speak out" without giving the department a chance to fully address the problems.

"I think we should have the opportunity to address those issues," he said.

Haeger also defended how he has run the department since 1982.



Tribune photos by Michael Budrys

To expand its main runway, Palwaukee Municipal Airport could pour concrete at the north end (above) near Hintz Road.

# Palwaukee wants a worldly look

A proposal would lift a ban on lengthening runways and make room for globe-hopping corporate jets

By Jerry Crimmins  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

You'd never guess it from the view from the road, but a small, landlocked airport wedged between Wheeling and Prospect Heights has become a venue for international business travelers.

In fact, corporate jets now fly out of Palwaukee Municipal Airport on a regular basis, going east to Europe and west to Alaska and then to the Pacific Rim.

When the next generation of executive fleets comes on line, corporate clients will soon want to fly non-stop from Palwaukee to Tokyo, said Charles Priester, president of Priester Aviation.

But this will require a longer main runway, a subject that is expected to spark controversy in Prospect Heights and Wheeling. The two municipalities have owned the airport since 1986, when they bought it from the Priester family.

"The intergovernmental agreement that the communities entered into has a condition in it that there will be no lengthening of any existing runway," said Fred Stewart, airport manager. "We need the communities to consider whether or not they want to continue with that restriction."

Stewart proposed recently to the airport commissioners who represent both communities that the intergovernmental agreement be changed to allow the main runway to be lengthened by 400 or 680 feet, depending on how the numbers are crunched.

The commissioners voted 5-1 to approve the proposal and passed it on to the City Council of Prospect Heights and the Village Board of Wheeling, where decisions will be made.

William Rogers of Wheeling, the airport commissioner who cast the only no

vote, said, "I've gotten six calls from residents already who are pretty upset about making the runway longer."

"I'm sure it will be very controversial," said Anthony Altieri, chairman of the Palwaukee Airport Commission.

Those in favor of a lengthened runway say people should see the idea as a safety issue for planes, especially corporate jets, that might have to abort a takeoff for any reason. They will need a little more runway to stop in the event of an aborted takeoff, said Stewart.

The maximum range, fully loaded, of corporate jets that currently use the airport is about 4,500 miles, according to Dennis Jans, general manager, and Chuck Schelhas, assistant general manager of Service Aviation, which, like Priester, provides maintenance and refueling services at the airport.

The current length of the runway, 5,000 feet, does not usually give these planes enough room to take off fully loaded, they said.

SEE AIRPORT, PAGE 6

## Airport

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The newer aircraft will have a range of up to 6,500 miles, enough to reach Tokyo non-stop. Those aircraft will need a longer runway yet to stop in the event of an aborted takeoff.

Stewart said the airport has room to lengthen the main, north-south runway for a margin of safety.

The runway can be lengthened by pouring 400 feet of concrete at the north end, near Hintz Road, and by squaring off the south end, where the runway curves near Palatine Road, to allow for 280 more feet, he said.

"The acreage of the airport stays the same," Stewart said. "The use of the airport stays the same. . . . It will be business aircraft."

If approved by the two towns as well as by the Federal Aviation Administration, the longer runway, for takeoff safety purposes,

would be 5,680 feet. But for landing, it would remain 5,000 feet, Stewart said.

He said the runway is marked differently for landings and is restricted to the shorter length by obstructions at either end of the airport.

Airport Commissioners Altieri, Dan Quiery and Madeleine Monaco as well as Stewart said that without a longer runway, some corporations might move their private jets to airports in Waukegan or Aurora, which already have longer runways.

If that happens, Palwaukee would lose revenue, as would surrounding businesses such as hotels, car rental agencies and restaurants.

But Rogers said the agreement not to extend any runways at Palwaukee should be kept.

"There are two schools within a mile of that runway, one in direct line," said Rogers, who has been on the commission since it was formed 10 years ago.

He said the new generation of

corporate jets will also be too heavy for Palwaukee, with planes weighing up to 91,000 pounds apiece.

Stewart and airport commissioners agreed the current aircraft weight limit at Palwaukee is 77,000 pounds. But Stewart said the commission and both towns have already approved a weight exception for three of the newest models of corporate jets that will soon be available.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford said they would oppose a longer runway if the extension were intended to be used regularly as a runway. Rotchford said he would not object to a "stopway," and Schultz said she would consider it.

The longer runway issue is expected to come before Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen in early November.



'The acreage of the airport stays the same. The use of the airport stays the same. . . . It will be business aircraft.'

Fred Stewart, manager of Palwaukee Airport

### Health fair targets children

A health fair for children ages 8 and older will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. The fair is being presented by KIDWATCH, the Neighborhood Watch program for children, as part of Make a Difference Day.

At the fair, children will share health and safety tips from first aid to skin care. Parents, police officers and firefighters will assist in this communitywide event. A winner will be chosen in the "Where's your milk mustache?" contest. Children attending will receive a free doctor cap, mask and gloves.

Canned food items for a local food pantry are considered admission to the fair. For information, call Pat Drewes at (847) 541-6325 or Cpl. John Teevans at the Wheeling Police Department, (847) 459-2693.

COUNTYSIDE 10-24-96

# Wheeling wants condos on vacant lot

10-22-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has a plan for how it wants to develop a part of its old downtown.

Now, officials want to see it become a reality.

The village this month will notify area developers that officials would like to see three condominium buildings built on 7.5 acres on the west side of Milwaukee Avenue, north of Dundee Road.

The plan was designed by a consultant the village hired to devise

a way to spruce up what is now an eyesore.

Officials say they wanted to have a plan drafted so developers know in advance how the village wants the land developed.

"We are making the opportunity known ... that this is what we would like to see on it," said Village Community Development Director Michael Klitzke.

Klitzke said the village within two weeks will send the plans of the design to area developers who construct those types of developments.

There have been about four de-

velopers who are now waiting to see the design, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

The plans, drafted by Teska Associates Inc. of Evanston, call for three five-story buildings that would each contain between 40 and 60 condominiums.

Each building would include parking lots and indoor parking garages.

"I don't think we will have a problem (finding a developer)," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "But we need to do it ... we need to be soliciting a developer now."

The village has tried to improve

the vacant land for six years. In 1985, the village established a special tax district to improve the property and it bought the 7.5 acres that was once occupied by a couple of houses and businesses.

Schultz said a developer may propose a project different from the condominium design. But she said the board probably wouldn't support a plan that strays far from the design.

"Many of us have been looking at this corner for a long time," Schultz said. "(The condominium project) will work there and it will look good there."

## '2000' plan ready for unveiling

Wheeling officials will soon make public the much-anticipated — and sometimes criticized — "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" study.

10-24-96  
By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

10-24-96  
CountrySide  
Wheeling residents who are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the village's strategic improvement plan should mark their calendars for Nov. 16.

That's when Village President Sheila Schultz plans to publicly unveil the final results of the year-long study at a morning meeting at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The study, called "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond," is expected to give the village direction for the future.

Trustees embarked on the project in September 1995, when they voted to spend a minimum of \$22,000 to hire the Denniston Consulting Group of Naperville to facilitate the project. The final cost will not be known until Denniston delivers the final report.

### Count us in

On Oct. 28, 1995, an initial public meeting at Chevy Chase attracted nearly 110 residents who wanted to be involved in the creation of the village's strategic improvement plan.

After another public meeting in November, residents volunteered to serve on various focus committees, formed according to residents' input of what issues in the village need to be addressed to make Wheeling a better place in which to live.

The seven focus committees studied such topics as economic development, community (marketing and image), education, infrastructure, government, community diversity/cultural integration and community services.

Committees had been meeting for the last year and submitted final reports to the Denniston Group late this summer. About a week ago, the Denniston Group presented a rough draft of the final report to village trustees.

"I'm really very excited about it. I'm so impressed and appreciative of the work everyone put into it," said Schultz. "The enthusiasm that comes through and the commitment of the people to this village is very heartwarming."

### What next?

While the plan is expected to give the village direction for the future, the real challenge will come in implementing the outlined strategies. From the beginning, trustees Pat Horcher and Bob Heer questioned the hiring of the Denniston Group and said the plan would be worthless if the resulting suggestions were never implemented.

"The follow through is very important to everyone involved," Schultz said.

Schultz hopes residents who attend the Nov. 16 meeting to hear the results also will volunteer to help with implementation.

Though the details have yet to be worked out, Schultz expects an implementation committee will be formed to sort through the recommendations.  
(Continued on page 11)

## Study Continued from page 5

dations after the holidays. Some recommendations will go to the village for review and implementation, while others may be forwarded to the schools or park district, she said.

"Then we'll go from there," Schultz said. "The final report is very upbeat and positive. There are some good, creative ideas in it," she said, adding that representatives of the Denniston Group called the report "inspiring."

"It's realistic and idealistic at the same time. It's realistic about where we are and idealistic about where we can be," Schultz added.

### Chamber thoughts

The Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce opposed the hiring of the Denniston Group last year. Chamber leaders said the village would benefit more by focusing on economic development and seeking advice

from a professional on how to attract and retain businesses in the community.

Despite their earlier objections, however, several Chamber members volunteered to serve on the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" committees and give their input, particularly in regard to economic development.

"A lot of the recommendations that came out of the committee were recommendations we have been making for years," said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Chamber who served on the economic development committee. "We need to wait and see what the implementation process will be."

Pollack said the Chamber was pleased to participate in the project and is optimistic about the results.

"We certainly were willing to go through the process. We're all working for the betterment of Wheeling," Pollack added.

## Wheeling offers to handle fire calls for Palwaukee

10-24-96  
By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling this week officially asked Prospect Heights to join a pact that one fire department will continue to serve the Palwaukee Municipal Airport — Wheeling's.

Prospect Heights may consider reviewing such an agreement but Mayor Edward P. Rotchford also wants the two towns to consider other possibilities in serving the airport the towns jointly own.

One such option, Rotchford says, is the airport could be served by Wheeling's department and the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, which would be contracted by the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District, to cover its half of the facility.

But Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she wants an agreement struck now to solidify who is responsible for covering the airport.

The debate about how the airport will be served began in April, after the Wheeling Township district, which is responsible for hiring a department to serve half of the facility, switched its half from being

served by Wheeling to the Prospect Heights district.

But concerns about potential safety problems from having two departments cover the airport spurred officials to agree that Wheeling would temporarily serve the airport.

The issue recently surfaced again because of confusion about which departments will cover some aircraft hangars on the fringe of the airport.

Schultz said safety is why Wheeling should continue to serve the airport.

Aside from the fact that Wheeling firefighters are already specially trained for aircraft emergencies, Schultz said having two departments serve the airport could create confusion.

Once Prospect Heights crews are trained in fighting aircraft fires, Rotchford would want officials to consider the possibility of both departments responding to all emergencies at the airport.

Wheeling Township board President Anthony Carlin said the Prospect Heights district should be used because they have a station near the airport.

# Garden Fresh seeks location, tax breaks

10-24-96  
By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
*Countryside*

Wheeling village trustees may help a local grocer expand his business into the former C.K. Finer Foods store at Lynn Plaza, 550 W. Dundee Road.

Garden Fresh, which has a store in Wheeling at Hintz and Buffalo Grove roads, has approached the village and the plaza's management about opening a second store in Wheeling and filling the vacancy left by C.K. Finer Foods.

"We had a discussion with (Garden Fresh) recently," said Michael Kolodny of Hallmark & Johnson, the management team for Lynn Plaza, adding that a sound, independent grocer may be a good tenant in the shopping center. Garden Fresh also has a store in Roselle and one in Chicago.

Kolodny said the size of the available space precludes a larger chain from locating at the plaza.

"The Dominick's and Jewels are looking at mega-stores now," Kolodny said. Kolodny said his firm is actively searching for a replacement after less than a month of managing Lynn Plaza.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said Garden Fresh owners met with village staff about filling the C.K. Finer Foods vacancy. During that meeting, the Garden Fresh representatives said they were seeking a sales-tax revenue sharing agreement with the village that would relieve them of some of their tax burden. The village had begun similar negotiations with Butera after Dominick's vacated the store.

"They are interested in that location and a sales-tax sharing agreement," Anderson said. "We've indicated we're more than willing to investigate that."

The agreement would offset some of the rent Garden Fresh would pay at Lynn Plaza, said store owner Adi Mor.

"I don't think we'll move in without some concession from the village. Wheeling is a

great village for our type of business," Mor said, adding that his store caters to the various ethnic groups found in Wheeling. Moving to the new location will require the store owners to conduct numerous promotions to attract new customers, Mor said.

"Before C.K. (Finer Foods) opened, we talked with the village, but then Butera came in," Mor said. "We're basically looking for a similar agreement" to what the village had proposed with Butera before the chain turned down the Wheeling location.

The village has stated that it prefers a full-service grocery store, something Anderson said Garden Fresh owners are proposing. The Garden Fresh store at 1786 W. Hintz Road is a full-line grocery store with a large produce area.

"We need something that's more in line with what's been there in the past," Anderson said, referring to the Dominick's that was successful in that location for 22 years. Dominick's closed in February 1995, saying the store was no longer large enough to fill its needs.

Anderson is not sure when an agreement with Garden Fresh may come before the Village Board, but noted that more discussions with staff and the center's management team are needed before that happens.

"We're obviously interested in doing something reasonable, something that's fair to the management, the village and the grocer. It has to be an agreement good for all parties," Anderson said.

While working to fill the C.K. Finer Foods location, Hallmark & Johnson is dedicated to finding tenants for the shopping center's other vacancies.

Blockbuster Video has proposed to open on the south end of the shopping center along Dundee Road and there are discussions ongoing with a women's clothing retail store to open by the end of the year. A child-care center also is interested in opening in the shopping center.

"We're very aggressively going after tenants right now," Kolodny said. "We want to fill the vacancies that are there."

## Meaning of life

*Wheeling/ Editor's note: the following letter was written in response to a letter*

*(The name of the person who submitted the letter has been changed to protect privacy) previously published in the Countryside and written by Margaret Graf.*

Yes, Margaret, just like Virginia found out, there is a Santa Claus.

Life means nothing.

Liberty is just a noun, and the pursuit of happiness is found in how much wealth you can accumulate. Along with wealth, you must associate greed. You, Margaret, in your journey through life, will find out how true this is.

Mr. Goldin, owner of Union Hotel Property, made a speech before the Wheeling trustees and myself in attendance that made me cry. He extolled how much in taxes he has been paying on this property. Thousands of dollars lost every year. What he didn't say was how much he paid for this property and the millions of dollars awarded him by the Village of Wheeling trustees: (Heer and Horcher voted no). Wealth he divided among his grandsons.

Luck of the draw, Margaret. Freed and Frank pulled out, Realen of Philadelphia came in. So, Margaret, you can't blame Sheila alone for this loss of space. You can't cut trees down in Lake Forest or Long Grove without permits, but we are not them. We are Wheeling. But then, again, Sheila is a tree authority. Your trees in Wheeling are low quality. In Barrington these same trees would be valuable and not destroyed.

Sheila sure is an authority on taxes. Ask your parents to look at their recent tax bill. Up, up and up, even before

Realen came in. Sheila is also an authority in SWANC and NIPC and now is president of the RR authority that runs through the village.

Now the "King" appears. Stu Shapiro of Wheeling, who feels that only he can have an opinion or run for trustee. Mr. Spangenberg need not apply. What happened to "free speech" is for everyone, "King" Shapiro?

And, Margaret, remember for your next civics lesson, social studies or political science class, that the more residential property that is zoned from commercial or industrial, the more children are created, more schools are needed, more teachers, more principals, more administrators, more social workers, more psychologists, more health workers, more counselors, more custodians, more security, more probation officers, more police problems and, lastly, more higher taxes to buy the above and more schools. Commercial and industrial doesn't need the above.

So, Margaret, Wheeling is the "Santa Claus." Realen got a bargain. Mr. Goldin got another million and we taxpayers got "Snookered."

Steven Telow

## LETTERS

### Taking credit

*Countryside 10-24-96*  
**Wheeling/** Now that all the hate mail has come in from the opposition, I would like to remind everyone that Village President Sheila Schultz's plan was for 48 townhouses on the entire parcel behind Walt Whitman School. This would have left zero acres of playfield. It is a shame that she is taking credit for working with the Park and School districts to set aside the 1.9 acres that we saved.

Because of the hard work of many Wheeling residents who opposed the 48 townhouse plan, we stopped the Schultz plan and saved part of the Whitman playfield. The kids now play on 1.9 of the four acres they used to play on, and only 40 townhouses were built.

Wheeling taxpayers saved over \$700,000 by SPACE forcing the village to sell the school the cheaper vacant land, instead of the school district condemning houses and paying a premium as in the Field School expansion.

The three Wheeling residents should be praised for forcing the village to plan for the future, by setting aside the land for the school to buy. Now these three residents have been sued by a spiteful developer. I think that as a small token of

appreciation, that those of you who care please contribute to their legal defense fund. Call (847) 976-HELP (976-4357).

**Gary Cohn, President,**  
**Wheeling.com**

### Brushing up

**Wheeling/** In a presidential election year, many of us feel a heightened sense of citizenship and American values. Others do not recognize the significance of our democracy and constitutional rights and even look upon such rights with ridicule and contempt.

Consider the case of Mr. Stuart Shapiro, whose letter was published in the Oct. 10 **Countryside**. He denounces the **Countryside** for publishing stories about a community group called SPACE (which seeks open space at the Old Union Hotel site, a larger playground at Walt Whitman School and commercial development on Milwaukee Avenue). Yet he avails himself of the First Amendment to make groundless allegations about tax increases resulting from this group's activities.

His rage about clients of my law practice is offensive but constitutionally permitted. He describes the zoning challenges, which he

obviously never read, as "frivolous" and concludes without explanation that such lawsuits are "ripping off" taxpayers. Evidently Mr. Shapiro believes citizens who file lawsuits to oppose decisions by their local government should be punished. He urges "the village and/or developer (of the Union Hotel site) to file some sort of action against SPACE and the individual residents who have burdened the taxpayers with these frivolous lawsuits."

Ironically, Mr. Shapiro cautions people about me. He claims I have "many clients in actions against the village" (there is only one group) and, without a whisper of reference to any statute or ordinance, "a potential conflict of interest he (I) would have if he (I) were ever elected into office in the village of Wheeling." I have done my homework about conflict of interest. I urge Mr. Shapiro to brush up on American democracy and the Constitution.

**William C. Spangenberg**

### Community effort

**Wheeling Corporal Thomas G. Lorenz directs "P.C." around Randhurst Shopping Center Sunday during an exhibition sponsored by 20 law enforcement agencies throughout Cook, Lake and DuPage counties.**

Daily Herald Photo/  
Gilbert Boucher



SEE STORY ON PAGE 4

# Area police turn out en force for expo

By EILEEN O. DADAY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

Six-year-old Nicholas Abruscato of Rolling Meadows loves to play cops and robbers at home. But his weapons pale in comparison to the firearms he saw on display at Randhurst Shopping Center in Mount Prospect over the weekend.

He and his mother stopped at the exhibit sponsored by members of the Cook County sheriff's SWAT team. Their arsenal included bulletproof vests, machine guns and a bomb suit used by the bomb technicians when disarming bombs.

"So far this year we've answered 342 calls," bomb technician Jerry Rimas said, "and that only takes in the collar counties. Chicago handles their own."

But rather than scare the general public, the display was meant to open up police departments to the public, to make them accessible to the citizens they serve.

"Most people think we're just too busy to answer questions," said Bill Roscop, a crime prevention officer with the Mount Prospect Police Department, which has organized the display for the last 21 years.

"This puts police work in a positive image; it's a more relaxed atmosphere where people can see the latest equipment and ask us questions," Roscop said.

Marge Poteracki of Mount Prospect did just that. She comes every year, she says, and this year she inquired about railroad crossing safety.

"I just think it's important to stay informed, to know what's happening, and know what the issues are," Poteracki said.

Common concerns ranged from residents inquiring about how to protect themselves from burglaries to residents asking about gang presence in the Northwest suburbs, Roscop said.



Metra police Capt. Richard Jacobsen holds his 20-month old grandson Troy Ocon of Schaumburg as they watch a puppet show Sunday by the Wheeling Police Department at Randhurst Shopping Center, where 20 law enforcement agencies took part in an exhibition.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

Nearly 25 local police departments participated, sending their crime prevention units and DARE officers. Local departments included Arlington Heights, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Elk Grove Village, Wheeling, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Des Plaines, Wheeling, Park Ridge, Morton Grove, Lake Zurich, Bloomingdale, Cook County sheriff's police and

the Chicago Police Department.

Each unit brought its own signature vehicle to the exhibit, from antique cars to flashy DARE vehicles confiscated from drug dealers.

The Mount Prospect Police Department returned with its 1974 Dodge Monaco, similar to the Bluesmobile used in "The Blues Brothers" movie. The Chicago Police Department showcased its

1968 Bel Air police car.

Nancy Walters of Elk Grove Village took the opportunity to look inside the Elk Grove Village police car on display, to see just what it is that officers have at their disposal when they pull motorists over.

"I have to admit I'm not around police cars very often," Walters said. "And this is as close as I hope I ever get."

## Target misses mark Plans scrapped for Horcher property

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

For now, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club will stand alone on the northwest corner of Wheeling as the village's two largest discount stores.

Plans have been abandoned to build a Target store on the Horcher family farm just across McHenry Road from Sam's Club, but now the family says it will put twice as much farmland up for sale in hopes of attracting another commercial development.

"I honestly don't know why Target pulled out. (The developer) Centrum, even at the end, was still interested. The whole thing just started to unravel," said Wheeling Trustee Patrick Horcher, whose family owns the 50-acre farm. Horcher said he has heard Target is shifting its attention to develop new stores on the East Coast.

Centrum Properties Inc. had proposed to build a Target store on 14.5 acres of the Horcher farm, located on the southwest side of McHenry Road and southeast of Weiland Road.

Developers told village trustees in May that the store could generate \$460,000 a year in

sales tax for the village and would hire 150 to 200 employees. That possibility, however, couldn't convince trustees to dole out money to help Centrum build a gravity-type sanitary sewer through the site. The sewer would have cost an estimated \$800,000 because deep digging would have been required.

The village for years has wanted a gravity sewer to go through the Horcher farm to service future residential development proposed for the farm property. However, village officials said the Horchers wouldn't give the necessary easements.

Centrum also asked to build a standard lift-station sewer that would cost about \$20,000 instead of the gravity system. Both Wal-Mart and Sam's Club are serviced by lift-station sewers.

Coming to an agreement on a money-sharing proposal for the sewer was considered a deal-maker for the project. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village has never subsidized a developer for the purpose of installing a sewer, and doing so would be a decision for the Village Board to make.

"(Building the sewer) would be a concern for any development" on that property, Anderson said.

(Continued on page 11)

## ■ Horcher *Continued from page 5*

Anderson said.

Anderson said the village never decided whether a retail development would be the best use for the Horcher property. He has not heard from Target representatives but said they previously had discussed other possible store locations in Wheeling.

"There was never any real deal between Target and Centrum. They dismissed the Sportmart site (on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue) and they were interested in the area of McHenry and Lake-Cook roads, but there are other underutilized properties" in the village, Anderson said.

In addition to coming to an agreement about the sewer, Horcher said a zoning change would have been necessary for Target to build on the farm. The farm was zoned residential when the village forcibly annexed it three years ago.

Village officials told the Horchers they were hesitant to rezone the property while the Plan Commission was reworking the village's comprehensive plan, Horcher said. However, that did not stop the

village from rezoning the former Billy & Co. property from commercial to residential to allow the building of 40 controversial townhouses along Milwaukee Avenue, he said.

"It just didn't look like it was going to happen," Horcher said of the Target proposal, noting that the family's exclusivity contract with Centrum to develop the farm has expired. "We weren't making any notable progress with the village. The reason we were looking for the deal with Target is because we have a mortgage to pay. It would've been a good deal for the village."

"Our next step is to market 30 acres of property with commercial potential to anyone who wants to develop it," Horcher said. That 30 acres stretches from McHenry Road to the Arlington Club townhouse development and includes the proposed Target site. "The clock is still ticking on our mortgage," he added.

The Horchers, who have farmed in the village for 150 years, hope to continue their greenhouse business after the 30 acres is sold.

# Wheeling bar owners defend serving minor: He's a village official who wouldn't break law

10-28-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling bar was ordered to close for a day and pay a \$1,000 fine because Wheeling officials ruled Monday night it served liquor to a minor during a police operation.

Though the owners, Duffy Enterprises Inc., admitted the minor was allowed into Matty's Place, 1750 West Hintz Road, and was served a beer, they questioned who was used for the sting — Prospect Heights Alderman Greg Koeppen.

David Borenstein, an attorney representing the owners, said Koeppen, who was hired by the

**"You don't expect a public official acting as an undercover agent."**

— David Borenstein,  
attorney for bar owners

Wheeling police department for the Dec. 1, 1995, operation, was not asked for identification and was served because employees recognized him.

And since he is a public official, employees didn't think he would have passed himself off as being 21 if he wasn't, Borenstein added. Koeppen turned 21 in May.

"You don't expect a public official acting as an undercover agent," Borenstein said.

Wheeling officials see it differently.

"Not only do I think it is not misleading, but the real issue is what (is) your obligation before you serve somebody," said village prosecutor Steven Handler. "The obligation is absolute, it is simple: Don't serve a minor."

Matty's Place, which will be closed Nov. 15, was one of two bars that were found by the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission to have served a minor during a sweep of establishments.

In the sweep, Koeppen tried to buy alcohol, and when he was able to, a nearby police officer was signaled.

**"No one should assume. I think everyone should be carded."**

— Greg Koeppen  
Prospect Heights alderman

The commission also ordered DIGD Inc. to pay \$300 and conduct a class teaching employees how to keep from serving alcohol to minors at Hotshots Tavern at 322 North Milwaukee Ave.

This ruling came despite owner David Iglori's question that Koeppen might have not purchased the beer, but instead gave the officer a bottle he had picked up in the bar.

Koeppen testified that he bought the beer. Koeppen said he doesn't think it was misleading that he was used during the operation, which he called a "public good."

"No one should assume," Koeppen said. "I think everyone should be carded."

# Officials insist they're still working on rent complaints in Wheeling

10-30-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials obviously were interested in complaints residents have about Whippletree Village Mobile Home Park, namely rent that is perceived as too high.

From June to August, the village held three special meetings to hear concerns.

But as another new year approaches — and possibly a rent increase — residents are frustrated officials haven't made a decision whether to grant their request to pass a rent-control ordinance.

"They went through the motion of having the public meetings, now nothing," said Elayne Hettinger, a resident of the park at McHenry Road and Route 83. "Why are they

holding it up?"

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village remains concerned about the issue, but wants to fully consider if the ordinance is the best solution to the problem. If the village passes the ordinance, it would be the first municipality in the state to do so.

"The decision would have to be how effective a rent-control ordinance would be," Schultz said. "We are still concerned and anxious to do what we can for it."

Wheeling officials within a month want to get residents, officials and the owners, Capital Development Corp., to meet and discuss possible solutions to the complaints, such as a cap on annual rent increases.

The goal of the meeting is to see what residents and the company

think about the possible solutions.

Scheduling difficulties and other problems in arranging a meeting have caused the delay, Schultz said.

Hettinger said residents are eager to see a decision made about the rent-control ordinance because they have to renew their leases by Jan. 1. "There is an awareness that their leases (are) out there ... time is of the essence," Schultz said.

"We did make a commitment that we would move as quick as possible and that has not been as good as we have hoped," she said.

Meanwhile, Hettinger said residents have also sought help from state Rep. Lauren Beth Gash, who is running for re-election in the 60th District, and Terry Link, candidate for the 30th Illinois Senate District.

## WHEELING 10-30-96 Tribune Cable service plans technology upgrade

Over the next four months Wheeling cable TV provider Tele-Communications Inc., Mt. Prospect, plans to upgrade its network within the village.

The work, TCI officials told trustees this week, will make it possible for the company to test local phone and other services in the village next year.

Village officials, while not opposed to the proposal, expressed deep concerns over the type of equipment that would need to be installed in the village, particularly the installation of 12 four-foot-high utility boxes on concrete slabs around the village.

Dwayne Gibbs, director of construction for TCI, told village officials that the company was willing to choose compatible locations for the boxes and would also provide landscaping to shield them.

Gibbs also noted that while other communities in the northwest suburbs are in the process of receiving similar upgrades, Wheeling will be the first community to have a centralized power service that will require the 12 utility boxes. More than 100 pole-mounted and ground-mounted smaller cable units will be removed during three proposed construction phases, he said.

In addition to testing local phone service sometime in the second and third quarters of next year, the company also plans to offer high-speed Internet access, digital music channels and about 150 TV channels.

Several trustees and members of the community expressed displeasure with TCI's existing service and wondered how they would be able to contemplate adding more.

Said village resident Stuart Shapiro, "You are talking about doing all this stuff in the future when you can't maintain the system you have."

Patrick O'Toole

# Crash heightens airport neighbors' worries

## Fears about safety, noise common

By AMY CARR  
AND BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Wheeling resident Pat Tufano goes to bed each night worrying about whether a low-flying plane will smack into his building while he sleeps.

On Wednesday, his fears were realized far too close to home when a plane taking off from Palwaukee Municipal Airport crashed into an embankment and parts of it came to rest in the parking lot of the Foxboro Apartments — a complex located just across Wolf Road from Tufano's condominium.

"Absolutely, absolutely, absolutely (I've worried about this)," Tufano said. "You pray every night you will get up the next morning. But what can you do? You can't move."

The airport's close proximity to residential buildings and houses has long been a bone of contention among residents who are concerned about noise and safety. But, like Tufano, most agree there is little that can be done to resolve the issue at this point.

"If you were putting a new airport



The scorched path left by a crashing corporate jet is strewn with airplane parts, including the two engines. The plane came to rest near an apartment building north of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

somewhere, you'd have an entirely different situation," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said. "You're dealing with an existing airport."

The proximity of the residential buildings complies with federal standards, but Schultz said the village did take the safety concerns into account many years ago when it placed a moratorium on new construction on the southwest corner of Wolf and Hintz roads.

"I think that was a very wise decision," she said.

The open field through which the plane skidded will remain undevel-

oped because of its close proximity to the airport, said Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger. The land is believed to be partially owned by the village and state.

But Haeger said the fact that businesses and houses are located nearby the airport is not an unusual safety concern.

"Anytime you have an airport there is always that concern," Haeger said. "But I think Palwaukee with its pilots who fly in and out have a tremendous safety record."

Schultz is well aware of the concerns of residents. In fact, the vil-

lage president herself lives just north of where the crash occurred.

"You worry, but no more than you would about any other unexpected occurrence," she said. "But, as we all know, anything can happen."

Ian Taylor, who lives just across from the airport, said his fears escalated once Palwaukee started serving larger, corporate jets.

"I'm just scared to death. A few more seconds and that plane would have been over my place," Taylor said. "Every time a plane passes over, when you hear the motor sputtering overhead, you worry it's

## Crashes at Palwaukee

Palwaukee Municipal Airport, the third-busiest airport in the state, has been the site of several mishaps in the last decade, but none were as serious as Wednesday's crash.

- **Aug. 1, 1996:** Twin engine plane skids off runway upon landing. No one hurt, but plane extensively damaged.
- **May 29, 1996:** Rear wheels of a turboprop Rockwell International 690 strike a delivery truck traveling west on Palatine Road. No one injured.
- **Aug. 16, 1995:** Single-engine Cessna loses power just north of runway; crash-lands near an industrial building north of Hintz Road. No one hurt.
- **Oct. 18, 1994:** Single-engine plane veers off runway and crashes during landing. No one hurt.
- **Aug. 2, 1991:** Plane driven by student pilot veers off runway and flips over during landing. No one hurt.
- **Dec. 17, 1988:** Single-engine Cessna crash lands on Route 22 in Bannockburn when its engine fails just after takeoff from Palwaukee. No one hurt.
- **Aug. 29, 1987:** Cessna flips over on a runway. No one hurt.
- **July 26, 1987:** Plane carrying a pilot and his student crash lands in a field near Lake-Cook and Weiland roads in Prairie View while heading for Palwaukee. No one hurt.

Source: News articles

Daily Herald Graphic

going to crash into your place."

Taylor and other residents worry the situation will become worse if officials approve a proposal to lengthen the runway by 400 feet. Authorities say the extension is needed to give pilots more room to stop in the event a takeoff must be aborted. But Taylor fears the plan would clear the way for larger planes to land at Palwaukee.

It's a fear shared by Howard W. Edison, president of Partnership Concepts Reality Management Inc., the Hinsdale company that owns the Foxboro Apartments.

"We're concerned about the noise and safety issues," Edison said, noting that expansion would bring more frequent and larger traffic and additional risk. "I think today's an indication of what could happen."

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford, however, said that absolutely will not happen.

"I would not consider lengthening the runway to bring in heavier, bigger planes," Rotchford said. "The airport's threshold of landing and weight restrictions prohibits the landing of larger planes."



The wreckage of a corporate jet rests alongside a car destroyed when the plane crashed just feet away from a building at Foxboro Apartments in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh



Scorch marks show the path of the jet when it crashed.

Associated Press Photo

# Plane crash kills 4, spares apartments

## 'Fireball' plows across busy road before slamming into creek gully

By JON MARSHALL AND BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

10-31-96

Michael Behenna said it sounded "like two trucks in a head-on collision, right in the front room."

Behenna had no idea what had shaken him in the Foxboro Apartments in Wheeling until he ran outside and saw the burning shell of a crashed corporate jet less than 20 feet from his building.

"I just saw the front of the plane burning and engulfed in flames," said the 26-year-old salesman. "If it was 15 more yards (further) I'd be — you know."

Four people, including an Elgin man and the chairman of the Illi-

nois Board of Higher Education, were killed Wednesday afternoon when the Gulfstream IV jet crashed shortly after taking off from Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

But the accident narrowly missed being a much worse disaster as the burning plane skidded across a busy suburban road and came to rest within 20 feet of the Foxboro Apartments.

"If it would have continued, it would have gone right into the patio window," Wheeling police Chief Michael Haeger said, adding it was only "the grace of God" that prevented more people from getting hurt or killed.

After take-off at 1:09 p.m., the jet is believed to have hit the ground

■ Victim helped reshape college system — Page 4

■ Nearby residents feared planes before crash — Page 5

once on airport property before taking to the air again, flying low over Hintz Road. The jet then struck the ground just before Wolf Road, north of the intersection of Hintz Road, skidded through a field and slammed into Buffalo Creek's gully.

"I saw the plane taking off, and I saw a big fireball while it was heading back down," said Luke Vuco of Mount Prospect, who was working at a nearby construction project when the plane crashed.

Crews worked into Wednesday night to remove the victims from

See CRASH on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

the wreckage.

The plane's only passenger was Arthur F. Quern, 54, of Evanston, chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and chairman and chief executive officer of Aon Risk Services Companies Inc., the U.S. insurance brokerage arm of Aon Corp. of Chicago.

Authorities said the other three people on board the Burbank, Calif.-bound flight were the plane's pilot, Martin L. Koppie of Elgin, 53; co-pilot Robert Whitener; and flight attendant Catherine Moi-Anderson. Authorities said Moi-Anderson was married just two weeks ago. Hometowns of Whitener and Moi-Anderson were not immediately known. Koppie is the brother of Chad Koppie, an anti-abortion activist who is the U.S. Taxpayers Party candidate for the U.S. Senate in Illinois.

A police officer who hurt his leg while evacuating people from the Foxboro Apartments was the only person on the ground injured.

Federal officials this morning plan to continue their investigation of what caused the crash, which will include searching for the cockpit's voice recorder and gathering the wreckage.

The accident is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Illinois State Police and the Cook County Sheriff's Police.

But what might have caused the crash was undetermined Wednesday night, authorities said.

Three areas are being investigated: the effect of the weather, operation of the plane and mechanical failure, said Jim Silliman, an NTSB safety investigator.

Shortly after take-off, the jet left a trail of debris and dirt across Wolf Road and the field, ending at



Firefighters work on the smoking fuselage of a Gulfstream IV corporate jet that faltered on takeoff from Palwaukee Municipal Airport and crashed just feet from an apartment complex across Wolf Road in Wheeling, killing three crew and a passenger.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

it was so close," said one fire official.

It took firefighters about 15 minutes to douse the cockpit, but the fact the plane was believed to be fully fueled made it difficult to extinguish the remaining parts, the firefighter said.

couldn't see anything, it was pitch black," said John Mesa, 38, who lives across Wolf Road from where the plane crashed.

Witnesses said the plane probably never got more than 100 feet off the ground.

It barely missed apartment

But they would not confirm the witnesses' accounts of how the crash took place.

Alberto-Culver Co. of Melrose Park, which makes health and beauty products, owned the two-engine Gulfstream. The 88-foot-

spokesman, said the Gulfstream IVs have been in service for 10 years but this was their first accident. There are currently 283 in service, he said.

Palwaukee is the state's third busiest airport, with more than

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Palwaukee is of Wheeling an for permission safety area at 1 foot main run room in case their flights.

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Three areas are being investigated: the effect of the weather, operation of the plane and mechanical failure, said Jim Silliman, an NTSB safety investigator.

Shortly after take-off, the jet left a trail of debris and dirt across Wolf Road and the field, ending at charred section of trees, where the jet is believed to have exploded.

While most of the jet — the tail, fuselage, and engines — remained in the gully, the cockpit continued to travel on its northwesterly path. The flaming hulk crashed at least one parked car.

"There was a lot of fear because



Firefighters work on the smoking fuselage of a Gulfstream IV corporate jet that faltered on takeoff from Palwaukee Municipal Airport and crashed just feet from an apartment complex across Wolf Road in Wheeling, killing three crew and a passenger.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

it was so close," said one fire official.

It took firefighters about 15 minutes to douse the cockpit, but the fact the plane was believed to be fully fueled made it difficult to extinguish the remaining parts, the firefighter said.

About a dozen cars and a boat caught fire as the plane's cockpit burned in the parking lot, Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said.

Dozens of people ran to the plane to try to rescue the passengers but the flames and smoke drove them back, Vuco said.

"I looked out my window and I

couldn't see anything, it was pitch black," said John Mesa, 38, who lives across Wolf Road from where the plane crashed.

Witnesses said the plane probably never got more than 100 feet off the ground.

It barely missed several cars and trucks on Wolf Road, said Bob Thompson of Evergreen Park, who saw the crash as he was driving nearby.

"I didn't see one car get hit, and that was amazing," Thompson said.

Authorities confirmed that the plane nearly missed a motorist who was driving on Hintz Road.

But they would not confirm the witnesses' accounts of how the crash took place.

Alberto-Culver Co. of Melrose Park, which makes health and beauty products, owned the two-engine Gulfstream. The 88-foot-long Gulfstream can carry up to 22 people and is one of the largest executive planes made, according to the FAA.

Dan Stone, spokesman for Alberto-Culver said Quern was using the plane under a reciprocal agreement between Aon and Alberto-Culver, which purchased the plane in 1989.

David Henderson, a Gulfstream

spokesman, said the Gulfstream IVs have been in service for 10 years but this was their first accident. There are currently 283 in service, he said.

Palwaukee is the state's third busiest airport, with more than 200,000 operations a year. It is used mostly by private and corporate planes.

Some nearby Wheeling residents have complained about noise and the danger of planes crashing from the airport.

Last year a single-engine Cessna crash-landed in a field near where the Gulfstream hit the ground. Nobody was hurt in that accident.



Palwaukee is asking the villages of Wheeling and Prospect Heights for permission to add a 400-foot safety area at the end of the 5,000-foot main runway to allow extra room in case pilots need to abort their flights.

Corporate jets have had to reduce the number of passengers and amount of fuel they carry so they are light enough to stop in case of an emergency, Palwaukee Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford said it was too early to know if any safety measures would have averted the accident. It also is too soon to tell whether the proposal to extend the runway at Palwaukee would have made a difference Wednesday, he said.

"If he was going to abort on take-off, yes, it would have made a difference," he said. "But we don't know if he was going to abort."

Some witnesses said flames and smoke already were coming out of the plane's left engine as it headed down the runway.

Last fall, the airport completed the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection north and west of its former location to increase the safety zone between the roads and the main runway.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the reconfiguration of the intersection may have helped avoid more injuries in Wednesday's crash.

Daily Herald staff writers Amy Carr, Diane Dungey and Dwayne T. Wong and the Associated Press contributed to this report.



Investigators gaze at a fresh gouge scraped in the earth by a crashing Gulfstream IV jet. The jet bounced off the embankment along Wolf Road before coming to rest less than 20 feet from an apartment building.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Churnick



# Investigators sift through plane wreckage for clues

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Investigators found plenty of clues but no answers Thursday as to why a corporate jet crashed the day before as it left Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling.

The only thing they know for sure was that the Gulfstream IV plane already was in trouble as it headed down the runway.

Both sets of landing gear and a wing flap fell near the runway, said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Jim Silliman.

They also found wheel marks on the shoulder of the runway, skid marks on the runway itself and scorch marks on the ground nearby, he said.

The plane first veered off the 5,000-foot main runway about 1,500 feet down its path, Silliman estimated.

Four people died when the plane

■ Catherine Mio-Anderson, a 33-year-old Wheeling flight attendant, had only recently returned from her honeymoon.

■ Colleagues remember Arthur F. Quern as an extraordinary individual and international businessman.

■ Robert Hampton Whitener was known as one of the pilots who helped make Palwaukee a friendly place.

— See stories on Page 10



Catherine Mio-Anderson

crashed Wednesday afternoon as it tried to take off from Palwaukee. The plane hit an embankment on the side of Wolf Road, skidded across the road and a field and sent fiery debris within 20 feet of the Foxboro Apartments. Miraculously, no one on the ground was injured.

But Pilot Martin L. Koppie, copilot Robert Whitener, flight atten-

dant Catherine Mio Anderson and passenger Arthur F. Quern, chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, all died in the crash.

The answers to why the plane crashed are not likely to come quickly, Silliman said.

"We're looking at a very long time," he said. "We're still at the

See CRASH on Page 10



Investigators sift for evidence Thursday through charred remains of the corporate jet that crashed Wednesday in Wheeling. A piece of the wing was lifted on a flatbed truck and taken to a hangar for further examination.

Daily Herald Photo/Bill Zars

## CRASH: Plane considered top-of-the-line by ex

Continued from Page 1

very early, preliminary fact-finding phase."

All possible reasons for the crash are being looked at, including strong winds, pilot error, problems with the plane itself or even a bird flying into the plane's engines, he said.

"We haven't ruled out any possible causes," Silliman said.

Thursday evening investigators still were sifting through the debris searching for the plane's voice recorder, which could contain the crew's last conversations before the crash.

If the voice recorder is found, it will be sent to the safety board's lab in Washington, D.C., Silliman said. But it could be damaged and not tell investigators anything, he cautioned.

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"They need to tag all the debris and photograph the parts before they move anything," Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

The investigators used a front-end loader and flat-bed truck to remove the larger debris. The parts will be reassembled in a Palwaukee hangar for further analysis, Silliman said.

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Investigators also looked at another possible clue: Wind equipment at Palwaukee was not working at the time of the accident because of a power failure.

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But even when wind gauges are not working, pilots can check with

the control tower and aviation businesses at the airport to get updated weather conditions, said Brian Kulpin, a spokesman for DuPage Airport. The Gulfstreams themselves have safety features that indicate wind gusts, he said.

"We're sure the pilot was well aware of the wind conditions," the NTSB's Silliman said.

The Gulfstream IVs are considered the cream of the crop of corporate aircraft, industry analysts said Thursday.

"I don't think there's anyone in the industry that wouldn't say the Gulfstream in general, and the Gulfstream IV in particular, has a fabulous safety record," said Drew Callen, president of Boston Jet Search Inc., which assists businesses in buying planes.

The Gulfstream IVs have had only one minor accident since they went on the market in 1987, said Robert E. Breiling, who analyzes accidents for insurance companies and aircraft operators. In that incident last year, a landing-gear bolt came loose, punching a hole in a wing but not injuring anyone, he said.

Corporate planes, and the Gulfstream IVs in particular, have safety records as good or better than commercial craft, Breiling said.

The Rolls Royce Tay 611 engine on the Gulfstreams also has an excellent reputation and is used on many kinds of planes, said Frank Pray of Avitas Aviation Inc., a consulting firm for the airline industry.

But a larger version of the Rolls Royce engine was on the TAM Regional Airlines plane that crashed in Brazil Thursday, killing all 96 people on board, he said.

The aircraft that crashed in Wheeling had no history of problems, said John Clabes, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration's division in Oklahoma City.

"There were no accidents, incidents or problems in their service

## Palwaukee still needs work, officials

By BOB MCKEE  
AND DEEDRA LAWHEAD  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Officials acknowledge Palwaukee Municipal Airport needed a lot of work when Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought it in 1986.

So far, \$65.6 million has been spent in federal, state and local money to make the once-private airport comply with the more stringent safety standards attached to a public airport.

Even though at least four more years of work remains to be done, the number of corporate jets using the airport has taken off. That's provoked concern among community residents.

In 1986, just 10 corporate planes were based at Palwaukee and now there are 60, said William Rogers, a member of the Palwaukee Airport Commission.

And though Wednesday's crash of the Gulfstream IV jet has not been linked to any airport shortcomings, Rogers said it should raise a caution flag about how many more — and if larger — corporate jets should be allowed at the airport.

"The issue is the kind of planes they are using in this airport compared to when we first bought it," Rogers said. "The question is could this airport handle the cor-

porate jets ... the volume and the bigger ones."

"When you have something like (what) happened yesterday occur ... you bet you have concerns."

Wheeling is now considering an airport proposal to lengthen a runway to increase safety and allow planes to take off from Palwaukee on non-stop international flights.

But the extension of the main runway by 680 feet would break a 1986 agreement made by the two communities not to expand the airport.

Airport officials and some aviation companies said the additional space is needed to provide more space for planes to make emergency stops.

"The smaller and shorter you get ... the less safety margins you have," said Dennis Jans, president of Service Aviation, an airplane maintenance and fuel company based at Palwaukee.

The longer runway also would allow companies to use a new style of jets, said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Because these planes can carry more fuel, they weigh more and require extra space to take off.

Some airfield business employees have heard pilots question the safety of the field, particularly since apartment buildings sit near the airfield.

Wheels Police Department personnel took part in the investigation.

The smell of burnt fuel still filled the air around the Foxboro Apartments as they worked.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency placed barriers around the wreckage in Buffalo Creek to

prevent the plane's fuel from spreading, Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said.

The investigation came to a standstill for 10 minutes around noon as family members of the victims came to mourn at the crash scene.

Silliman said investigators are

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## Pilot's family shared passion for flying

By ALLISON KAPLAN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Flying was a family affair for Martin L. Koppie.

On Thursday, as federal investigators combed through the wreckage of his airplane near Wheeling's Palwaukee Airport for clues, relatives and friends mourned the loss of the man they describe as an excellent pilot and a caring family man.

The 53-year-old Elgin man came from a large family of professional pilots and flying enthusiasts. He was head pilot of the corporate jet that crashed Wednesday moments after taking off. All four people aboard the plane, including Koppie, two other crew members and one passenger, were killed when the jet went down near the Foxboro Apartments.

"He was one of the finest pilots around," said older brother Chad Koppie of Gilberts, who taught Martin "Larry" Koppie to fly when he was 21.

Chad Koppie, also a professional pilot who retired just three weeks ago from Delta Airlines, is the U.S. Taxpayers Party candidate for the U.S. Senate in Illinois. Koppie is not abandoning the race but said he will campaign "less vigorously" in the few remaining days before the election.

Although Koppie's late father was afraid to fly, nearly all of his eight



Martin L. Koppie

children developed a love of flying, Chad Koppie said.

Martin Koppie's first inspiration to become a pilot came from his older sister, Kay Moore, a flight attendant for ValuJet. Another older brother flies private planes, as do two nephews.

His son, Devin, 24, also is a pilot for AON Corp. of Chicago, where Koppie had worked as a corporate pilot for more than a decade.

"He was very mechanically inclined," said Koppie's ex-wife, Mary, who lives in Hampshire. "He could fly anything, in all types of weather. That's why his son wanted to be a pilot."

Koppie was experienced flying larger planes like DC-3s, and Chad said his brother was an "expert" on the Gulfstream IV, which he piloted

Wednesday.

"It's the ultimate nightmare that pilots have to worry about," Chad Koppie said of the crash. "We all know that it can happen, and you do as good as you can do."

Family members said they take comfort in knowing it was Koppie's expert skills that helped divert the plane from hitting the apartment complex and injuring people on the ground.

Koppie, who grew up in northwestern Iowa, spent much of his adult life in Hampshire. He is survived by two sisters, three brothers and three children: Kalyn Alwin, 33, and husband Cliff; Devin, 24, and wife Kelly; and 16-year-old Karen, a junior at Hampshire High School.

He also was a grandfather to 2-year-old Victoria Alwin.



Workers search through Buffalo Creek in Wheeling for the voice recorder of the plane that crashed Thursday. It took off from Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

## Businessman praised for work as school official

## Pilot who died remembered as

# CRASH: Plane considered top-of-the-line by experts

Herald 11-1-96

Continued from Page 1

very early, preliminary fact-finding phase."

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## Palwaukee still needs work, officials admit

By BOB MCKEE  
AND DEEDRA LAWHEAD  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Officials acknowledge Palwaukee Municipal Airport needed a lot of work when Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought it in 1986.

So far, \$65.6 million has been spent in federal, state and local money to make the once-private airport comply with the more stringent safety standards attached to a public airport.

Even though at least four more years of work remains to be done, the number of corporate jets using the airport has taken off. That's provoked concern among community residents.

In 1986, just 10 corporate planes were based at Palwaukee and now there are 60, said William Rogers, a member of the Palwaukee Airport Commission.

And though Wednesday's crash of the Gulfstream IV jet has not been linked to any airport shortcomings, Rogers said it should raise a caution flag about how many more — and if larger — corporate jets should be allowed at the airport.

"The issue is the kind of planes they are using in this airport compared to when we first bought it," Rogers said. "The question is could this airport handle the cor-

porate jets ... the volume and the bigger ones."

records," Clabes said. The main runway at Palwaukee remained closed Thursday as the investigation continued.

Dozens of FAA, safety board, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Cook County Sheriff's Police, Illinois State Police and

Wheeling Police Department personnel took part in the investigation.

The smell of burnt fuel still filled the air around the Foxboro Apartments as they worked.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency placed barriers around the wreckage in Buffalo Creek to

prevent the plane's fuel from spreading, Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said.

The investigation came to a standstill for 10 minutes around noon as family members of the victims came to mourn at the crash scene.

Silliman said investigators are

The crash Wednesday narrowly missed the Foxboro Apartment complex.

But Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association President Ray Granzow said, "Probably 95 percent of business jets flying would come into and out of Palwaukee with no problem."

"Obviously it would be nice to have clearer approaches to the main runway, but it's doable," Granzow said.

Rogers, who as one of eight commissioners has oversight of the airport, sees the extension of the 5,000-foot runway not as a way to make the airport safer — just larger.

But, he said, there are already signs the airport has reached its capacity, both in space and traffic.

For instance, the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads last year was moved to allow more room between the main runway's northern edge and Hintz Road.

But instead of the regular 1,000 feet of space, the Federal Aviation Administration agreed to allow only 750 feet between the road and runway, Anderson said. Moving the road further north would have required businesses and homes to be razed.

There are still about \$33.4 million worth of projects — including new taxiways, runway reconstruction and additions, control tower

improvements, interior road work — that will be made during the next five to 10 years to complete the FAA's plan to bring the airport in compliance with its safety regulations and to improve it for the future, said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

"Not everything that needs to be done has been done (yet)," Anderson said. "It is going to take some time to do this. We are in compliance now as much as we need to be now."

"We can't come in overnight and make everything meet FAA standards; that's not going to happen," Anderson said. But, he said, "The airport is extremely safe."

In fact, he said the work that has been done at the airport has made it more safe.

Besides the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads, federal and state grants have helped pay for repairs to airport aprons and taxiways, relocation of a drainage ditch and removal of trees and an old building on the southern portion of the airport, said Martha Schiebel, spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The decision whether to expand the runways will be up to the communities, Anderson said. Wheeling officials will discuss it at 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

pleased with the pace of the search. "I think it has gone along fairly well," he said. "We're still going about it in as methodical a process as we possibly can."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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larger planes like DC-3s, and Chad said his brother was an "expert" on the Gulfstream IV, which he piloted

junior at Hampshire High School. He also was a grandfather to 2-year-old Victoria Alwin.

## Pilot who died in crash remembered as caring

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Robert Hampton Whitener for more than three years was known as one of the pilots who helped make Palwaukee Municipal Airport a friendly place.

But the mood was turned somber Thursday as the people who knew Whitener as a funny and nice guy mourned his death.

"It wasn't the usual smiling faces," said Greg Faires, a sales representative of Priester Aviation. "You always miss someone ... who is a nice guy. He was well-liked by everybody."

Whitener, 50, of St. Charles, died Wednesday after the corporate jet, of which he was the copilot, crashed in Wheeling shortly after taking off from Palwaukee. Two other crew members and a passenger also died.

Since 1994, Whitener was a pilot for Alberto-Culver Co. of Melrose

Park, which owned the Gulfstream IV involved in the crash.

The jet was flying to Burbank, Calif. It was common for the pilot to fly executives across the country and world, said Dan Stone, vice president for Alberto-Culver.

Though Whitener was one of 12,000 employees, "shock and grief" resonated throughout the worldwide health and beauty products company, Stone said.

"He was a true gentleman and warm and caring," Stone said. "We will miss him immensely."

It was his charming demeanor that helped land Whitener a job at Alberto-Culver. It was prior to 1994, Stone said, and Whitener flew a few executives to China as a charter pilot.

"(He was) a super nice guy, very professional, kind of funny," Faires said.

Whitener is survived by his wife, Theresa, and two children, Amanda and Ethan.

## Businessman praised for work as school official

By DON THOMPSON  
Daily Herald State Government Writer

A formal memorial service won't be until Saturday, but colleagues spent Thursday remembering Arthur F. Quern as an extraordinary individual who managed to combine public service with his job as an international businessman.

The insurance executive and chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education died with three flight crew members Wednesday when their corporate jet crashed on takeoff from Wheeling's Palwaukee Airport.

Quern, 54, of Evanston, "was just first-rate, the highest quality guy," said Ed Moore of Lincolnshire, himself a corporation president who served on the state board with Quern for the past six years.

"He was a wonderful person to work with," said Harry W. Kontos, 25, of Buffalo Grove, a Northern Illinois University political science major who was a student representative on the board in the

last year.

"I think he took his job as chairman very seriously. It's a volunteer position, and I think that someone whose time is as valuable as his ... shows what kind of person he really was," Kontos said. "It really shows that he cared about education and about the taxpayers of the state of Illinois."

"He has been such an advocate for quality higher education," said fellow board member Jane Williamson of Kenilworth. "His loss is immeasurable."

Ross Hodel, the state's board's deputy director, noted that Quern was "a major force in higher education," leading the state's university system in a sweeping review that ended in the elimination of hundreds of lightly used or redundant programs. Quern also helped



Arthur F. Quern

mediate a dispute that resulted in more money and autonomy for the state's growing community college system. And he oversaw the elimination of two higher education boards, the Board of Regents and Board of Governors.

Quern was appointed board chairman in February 1991 to fill an unexpired six-year term. He was reappointed by Gov. Jim Edgar in 1993 and had three more years to serve.

In addition to helping guide Illinois' entire public higher education program, Quern was a trustee of the private University of Chicago, chairman of the board of the University of Chicago Hospitals, a regent of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois and chairman of the board of the Field Foundation of Illinois.

"Arthur Quern's sudden and tragic death leaves a void in our university, the higher education community, the state and the nation," said University of Chicago President Hugo F. Sonnenschein.

A memorial service will be at 2

p.m. Saturday at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel, 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago. Memorials may be dedicated to the University of Chicago Hospitals, 5841 S. Maryland Ave., Chicago, 60637.

In addition, Quern was chairman and chief executive officer of Aon Risk Services Cos. Inc. of Chicago, as well as senior vice president and corporate secretary of Aon Corp.

He joined the insurance firm in December 1983 after serving four years as chief of staff to former Gov. James R. Thompson. Prior to that he served on the White House staff as deputy assistant to the president for domestic affairs from 1975-77. He was assistant to New York Gov. Nelson D. Rockefeller over five years. He leaves behind his wife, Jacqueline, and their two children, Margaret and Susannah.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Jon Davis contributed.

## Newlywed flight attendant always 'full of life'

By AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Catherine Mio-Anderson and Craig Anderson lived just four weeks as husband and wife, but friends say they were among the happiest days of Catherine's life.

The 33-year-old Wheeling flight attendant was killed Wednesday, when the corporate flight she was working on crashed during takeoff at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Three others were killed in the crash.

Catherine was married on Oct. 4 and had only recently returned from her honeymoon, said Tami Conroy, a Cary resident and friend since high school.

"She was extremely happy and thrilled," Conroy said. "They just got back from their honeymoon and were building a house in Wheeling. She was looking forward to starting

a new life."

Wheeling resident Patty Modica was a bridesmaid at Catherine and Craig's wedding. Two weeks earlier, Catherine stood up for Modica in her own wedding. The loss of her best friend was devastating.

"She was my best friend. We were together since birth," Modica said. "She was everything to me and I can't believe this happened."

Modica finds some comfort in the happiness her friend enjoyed in her last weeks.

"Her and Craig were a match made in heaven," she said. "I thank God they found each other and got married."

Catherine usually worked for American Airlines, where she had been a flight attendant since 1989. She frequently accepted side jobs, however, working on flights for private companies and corporate executives, including Arlington

International Racecourse owner Richard Duchossois, Conroy said.

She was scheduled for a day off on Wednesday, but instead accepted an extra job working on a Burbank, Calif.-bound corporate flight for Aon Risk Services Companies Inc. But shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday, that jet faltered on takeoff, burst into flames and crashed into the parking lot of an apartment complex near the airport.

"She was supposed to go somewhere with her husband that day so we didn't think she was on that flight," Conroy said. "She must have decided at the last minute."

Friends described Catherine as someone who was always smiling, loved her family and loved to travel. On Thursday, Barb Crepas-Abraham returned to the site of the crash to leave a bouquet of pink carnations for her friend.

"She was the sweetest, most bub-

bly person," said Crepas-Abraham, who went to Wheeling High School with Catherine. "She never said a bad word about anybody."

Modica echoed her thoughts. "Cathy was just such a full-of-life person — happy, happy, happy," she said. "She just never had a down day."

Funeral services will be held this weekend. Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Matz Funeral Home, 410 E. Rand Road in Mount Prospect and from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Sunday at South Church, 501 S. Emerson St. in Mount Prospect.

A private graveside burial will be in All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines.

Memorials may be sent to Parc Home, 4100 Litt Drive, Hillside, Ill. 60162.

Daily Herald staff writer Jon Marshall also contributed to this story.



Catherine Mio-Anderson and her husband, Craig Anderson, pose after their wedding four weeks ago.

# Village seeks computer expert

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

10-31-96  
*Courtesy*

Wheeling is on the verge of hiring a computer coordinator to maintain the village's various computer systems and bring them up to their optimal efficiency levels.

"We want someone who can come in and help us with any upgrades we may need to do, look at networking our computers, pull everything together and be a troubleshooter," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

The village is advertising for the full-time position, which Anderson hopes to fill within a month. The salary, as listed in the 1996-97 village budget, is \$44,000.

The first project for the computer coordinator will be to improve the dispatching system in the Wheeling Police Department. Anderson said dispatchers are using less than half of the system's capabilities.

"It needs some refinement to make that system as valuable as possible and bring more benefit to the village," Anderson said. "It has the potential

to do things that would be helpful to other departments, such as recording water valve locations."

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said fully utilizing the department's dispatching system will save dispatchers time and improve efficiency within the department.

"It has the capability to be a totally computer-aided dispatch system. The calls can be dispatched by computer rather than voice dispatched," he said. Officers would see the computer dispatch on their patrol cars' terminals, as would the watch commander at his desk. "It doesn't eliminate the voice transmissions, but for routine calls it doesn't tie up our airwaves."

The system also would improve the department's records management. Routine print-outs would include all the calls received, categorize them and note their time and location, Hermes said.

"It will eventually be hooked up with the fire and burglar alarm panel. That would tell the dispatcher on the (computer) screen where

the call is coming from," Hermes said. Addresses also would appear on the officers' computers through a 911 interfacing so the dispatchers would no longer need to type in the addresses.

"It should save them a lot of time," he added.

Until the new position is filled, Finance Director Robert Fialkowski will continue in his informal role as resident computer expert, but Anderson said, "We're at the point where we need some assistance."

Just as owners of personal home computers call "help lines" for advice, the computer coordinator will help village employees solve computer problems as they arise.

Future projects will include creating a home page for Wheeling on the Internet and allowing village employees to communicate with electronic mail. The home page may benefit Wheeling's economic development by introducing the community to businesses looking to relocate to the northwest suburbs, Anderson said.

# Annexation dropped by Cook County residents

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

10-31-96  
*Courtesy*

Wheeling has decided not to pursue a voluntary annexation of unincorporated Cook County property on Forest View Drive.

Northbrook village officials have notified Wheeling that they have signatures of a majority of the 24 homeowners in the subdivision, saying they will annex into Northbrook when, and if, they decide to annex to a municipality.

This spring, Forest View residents approached Wheeling trustees and asked for voluntary annexation the night before the Northbrook Village Board was expected to forcibly annex their properties. Wheeling trustees

**'We knew this was the way it was going to go. I think they got a feeling of comfort knowing they don't have to annex now.'**

agreed to put the issue to referendum on the November ballot and let the residents decide.

Forest View Drive is east of Portwine Road, north of Dundee and backs up to the Cook County forest preserve. Residents said they wanted to annex into Wheeling because they had close ties with the village. Their children attend District 21 elementary schools and District 214 high schools. They also are in the Indian Trails Library System.

After receiving copies of annexation agreements with Northbrook signed by 13 property owners, Wheeling trustees voted Oct. 23 to repeal an ordinance they passed in April expressing their intent to annex the subdivision by

referendum. Wheeling never pursued placing the referendum on the November ballot, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"I think their real concern in the spring was not being involuntarily annexed to Northbrook," Anderson said. "In order to avoid that, they approached us."

Asking Wheeling for help did buy the residents time to meet with Northbrook officials and determine what village services, if any, they would be required to pay and what ordinances they would have to follow if annexed.

"We pretty much told them, 'We're not going to ask you to do anything, but don't expect us to do anything,'" said Anderson, referring to hooking on to village services, such as water and sewer. The only apparent benefit to Wheeling would be a few more property tax dollars.

Anderson said it is logical for Forest View residents to annex to Northbrook since the village's corporate limits are adjacent to their homes. The notice from Northbrook came as no surprise to village officials.

"We knew this was the way it was going to go. I think they got a feeling of comfort knowing they don't have to annex now," Anderson said. "It's on a property-by-property basis."

Northbrook Village Manager John Novinson said the annexation agreements satisfy Northbrook trustees' concerns, although the homeowners have the option of when to annex, if at all.

"They voluntarily agreed to make no changes to their property without seeing whether the change is consistent with the zoning of Northbrook," said Novinson. This addresses the village's concerns of residents erecting large cellular towers and the like just outside Northbrook's borders.

"Our interest wasn't revenue. Our interest was to have land-use control over the prop-

(Continued on page 14)

## Pavilion hosts craft show Saturday

The Wheeling Senior Pavilion, 199 N. First St., will host its annual Holiday House craft fair and bake sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. New craft items will be available, as will a white elephant sale, bake sale, raffles and lunches.

Instant pictures can be taken of children with Santa and Mrs. Claus for \$1. Children also can participate in craft projects.

For information, call the Senior Pavilion at (847) 459-2670.

## Trustees endorse village fire service

10-31-96  
*Courtesy*

Wheeling trustees recently passed a resolution indicating their support to maintain the Wheeling Fire Department's service to Palwaukee Airport. Some of the airport, which is in the Wheeling Rural Fire Protection District, has been contracted to the Prospect Heights Rural Department for service.

"We're the best staff, we're the best trained, and we're the best equipped to do it," said Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson. From a public safety standpoint, Anderson said it is only logical to have one department service the entire airport.

Wheeling will ask Prospect Heights, which jointly owns the airport with Wheeling, to pass a resolution also asking that the Wheeling Fire Department provide fire protection service to the entire airport.

## Wheeling police attend conference

Wheeling police officers Frank Lozano and Rick Sheffler will represent the Wheeling Police Department next week at a national conference in San Diego. Approximately 300 departments from throughout the nation attend the conference, which features the best community policing programs.

Among the community policing programs the Wheeling department has recently implemented are the installation of television screens that continually display safety information at the village's new Metra train station, sponsorship of vehicle window etching program and launching Operation Smoke Free at Wheeling High School, a program aimed to eliminate smoking among high school students.

## Annex

Continued from page 9

erty," Novinson said. "It's a concern Northbrook has of all unincorporated properties in the area."

Approaching Wheeling for voluntary annexation did give the homeowners time to negotiate with Northbrook, Novinson said. However, if they would have annexed to Wheeling, those homeowners would have essentially cut themselves off from ever receiving reasonably priced municipal services, such as water and sewer.

"It's hard to say whether a majority would have voted to annex" to Wheeling, Novinson said, calling the annexation agreements a situation in which everyone wins.

# Bayou banquet

## Eatery brings cajun culture to life

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

From the beginning, John Liautaud Jr. and his father, John Sr., wanted to open a seafood restaurant, and they knew they wanted it to resemble a Louisiana bayou.

Several years later, a step inside the new Crawdaddy Bayou restaurant at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling shows just how well the pair accomplished their mission.

"Together, we worked on this project for three years.

My son decided he wanted to open a restaurant, and we had the same vision," said John Liautaud Sr. Though the food is the main attraction of the restaurant, Liautaud said, the casual, down-home atmosphere gives customers a genuine taste of Louisiana life.

"What we're really trying to do is bring an authentic slice of Cajun food and the Cajun way of life to the northwest suburbs, not some Hollywood version," said Liautaud, whose father was born in Louisiana and whose son, co-

owner John, lived there for 14 years before returning to Chicago to open Crawdaddy Bayou.

Dan Heuertz, of Downtown Restaurants Inc., which manages the restaurant, said his firm knew Crawdaddy Bayou would fit in well with Wheeling's famed "Restaurant Row."

"We loved the location," Heuertz said. "As soon as we heard their concept, we knew this was the perfect site. We did some research on the area. We ran the demographics. It made sense business-



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

**Crawdaddy Bayou principals, from left, general manager Jim Lederer, Dan Heuertz of Downtown Restaurants Inc. and John Liautaud Sr., who owns the restaurant with his son, talk about the new restaurant.**



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

**Crawdaddy Bayou executive chef David Teichman flambes some New Orleans style barbecue shrimp in the restaurant's state-of-the-art kitchen. The kitchen is open so customers can watch the chefs prepare their dinners.**

wise to work here."

Though a restaurant gets its "bread and butter" by serving people within a 5-mile radius, Liautaud expects the restaurant to become a destination for those who will travel much farther. On a recent Saturday night, 850 customers were served.

Customers enter the restaurant through a general store, featuring a number of Cajun and Creole cookbooks, bottles of hot sauces and jars of Southern jellies and jams. A small theater shows a film of Louisiana bayou life as customers wait for tables.

Liautaud credits his son for the restaurant's character and authenticity.

"He must have talked to more than 100 people to come up with six to eight good resources" on what represents Louisiana life and how it would best be portrayed to Northerners, the elder Liautaud said.

Everywhere one looks, there is something to see. A stuffed 50-pound alligator gar fish adorns a wall near the bar. A wild boar's head graces the fireplace mantle in one of the private dining rooms, which are separated from the main dining room by a facade of a bayou shack.

Along the back wall of the main dining room is a 90-by-8 foot mural by Cajun artist Vincent Darby that brings the bayou into the restaurant.

"The mural has 158 lights on it with 63 dimmers," Liautaud said. Over an hour and a half, he said, the lights can be programmed to take the scene from dawn to dusk. Also in the dining room, a Cypress tree has been recreated, and Spanish moss, taken from a Louisiana swamp, dangles from the darkened ceiling.

In a recreated swamp, a 13-foot stuffed alligator watches over her nest. The kitchen is open, giving guests a peek, and live Cajun or Zydeco music is performed nightly.

"Most people are really blown away by the level of commitment to authenticity," said Liautaud. "The conversation at the table is about the mural and the decorations, not just about the food."

Although open for less than a month, Liautaud said many customers already have returned. "That's our No. 1 compliment," he added.

"Cajun food is not as unapproachable as people may think. Many people have visited New Orleans and are not intimidated by the menu. It makes our job easier. They're willing to try everything," he said, adding that it's a misconception Cajun food is spicy hot.

Though Liautaud says Crawdaddy Bayou is an authentic representation of Louisiana life, a visitor couldn't find a restaurant like Crawdaddy's in Louisiana.

"We spared no expense to make this a one-of-a-kind restaurant," he added.

Both Liautaud and Heuertz complimented Wheeling village officials for their cooperation on the restaurant, and said the village works well with entrepreneurs.

"They gave us guidelines and told us what they wanted. They understood the signage we wanted was essential in creating the restaurant's atmosphere. They worked with us. That's a big compliment to Wheeling," Heuertz said.

"It seemed like they were on our team. They were able to school us in what to do," Liautaud added.

### 'Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond' unveiled

Next Saturday, Nov. 16, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz will unveil the findings of the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement plan that residents have been working on for over a year.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., with coffee and rolls served beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting is expected to end by noon. The purpose of the study was to determine what improvements can be made to make Wheeling a better place in which to live. The public is invited. *Countyside 11-7-90*

# Runway extension meets resistance

By Patricia Tennison  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents crowded into a Village Board meeting Monday night to urge trustees to reject a planned runway extension at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Expressing the sentiments of some 25 people who packed the village boardroom, Stuart Shapiro, who lives in south Wheeling near the airport, said the runway plan should not be

approved under any circumstances.

"Unfortunately, a tragedy occurred here last week, and four people lost their lives," Shapiro said, referring to Wednesday's crash of a corporate jet that was taking off from Palwaukee.

But countering airport officials who say a longer, safer runway could have averted the crash, Shapiro said: "Whose safety are we really talking

about here? Nobody is talking about the safety of the residents. Their safety should come first."

Wheeling trustees also responded skeptically to discussion of adding 680 feet of concrete to Palwaukee's main, north-south runway.

Some trustees said a longer airstrip would violate the spirit of an agreement made with residents when they relocated two major roadways to provide a greater setback from the run-

ways.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart, though, argued that calling the project a runway extension was a matter of semantics, and that added length essentially would provide only more stopping room for aircraft.

Meanwhile, in Prospect Heights Monday night, the City Council approved a motion by Alderman Tom Shirley seeking more information about construction waivers and safety in

connection with the proposed runway lengthening.

Ald. Madeleine Monaco, a member of the Palwaukee Airport Commission, which is proposing the extension, said she would present the information at a council workshop scheduled for 8 a.m. Saturday in the clubhouse of Rob Roy Golf Course, Prospect Heights.

The airport commission is a governing panel made up of rep-

SEE RUNWAY, PAGE 2

## Palwaukee plane crash raises concerns over runway safety

By Amy McLaughlin  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights city officials are calling for a safety report on Palwaukee Municipal Airport after a plane crashed last week after takeoff.

Both Mayor Edward P. Rotchford and 1st Ward Alderman Dolores "Dolly" Vole called for a separate moment of silence to honor the four people killed when the Gulfstream IV crashed last Wednesday.

"Last week, we suffered a tragedy here in the city when we had that plane crash," Rotchford said.

Third Ward Alderman Thomas Shirley also recognized the victims of that crash when he called on the Palwaukee Airport Commission to present a report to alderman that includes information on how conditions at Palwaukee measure up to FAA safety standards.

His request was approved unanimously by other aldermen. Fifth Ward Alderman Madeleine Monaco, who also represents the city on the airport commission, said that information can be provided as soon as the city's Saturday workshop meeting.

The airport is owned by both Wheeling and Prospect Heights. While Prospect Heights city offi-

cials were discussing the crash at this week's city council meeting, Wheeling village board members heard a proposal to add about 400 feet to the end of a runway to create a safety stop zone.

Shirley said he wants to see what waivers have been issued in the past for redevelopment work at Palwaukee. He said a waiver is issued when something doesn't meet certain standards.

"I do feel in the business of developing an airport, there are other things done that I'd like to know about," Shirley said. "It's like saying one thing that really means another."

Shirley said he'd also like to make sure if any extra space was added to the runway, it wouldn't bring bigger planes to the airport. For example, Shirley said widening runways may be what's really needed for safety instead of adding more room at the end.

"Somehow we may have gradually permitted bigger and bigger planes to use that airport," Shirley said.

Rotchford said he was in favor of the safety stop area because it wouldn't violate the agreement to keep the runway to 5,000 feet and provide more room in case of emergency.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

representatives of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airfield. It has asked the two municipalities to allow Palwaukee to lengthen its primary runway to 5,680 feet from 5,000 feet.

Some corporate jets that use Palwaukee must take off with less than a full load of fuel, passengers or cargo because the runway is too short to provide a safe stopping distance, airport officials say.

Proponents of the longer strip, including Charles Priester, president of an aviation services company at the airport and son of Palwaukee's former owner, say that if the extended runway had been in place, Wednesday's fatal plane crash might have been prevented.

The Gulfstream IV twin jet encountered problems just after takeoff. It glanced off two embankments at the end of the runway, went over an airport fence and across Hintz Road, and exploded into flames when it slammed into the ground just short of a nearby apartment complex.

The crash killed three crew members and the plane's only passenger, business executive and civic leader Arthur Quern.

Jim Silliman, an investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said experts will look into the possibilities that a bird strike or high winds contributed to the crash.

Wind-monitoring equipment was not working because of a



Tribune photo by Mike Budrys

A jet lands at Runway 16 at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Safety to nearby residents is a major concern as Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airfield, consider a runway extension of 680 feet.

power outage at the time of the accident. At O'Hare International Airport, about 8 miles south of Palwaukee, winds were blowing at 23 m.p.h., with gusts of up to 35 m.p.h.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford has hesitated to endorse a runway improvement that would attract bigger and heavier planes.

However, airport manager Stew-

art has said the types of planes using Palwaukee today are essentially the same as when Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought the field in 1986.

Palwaukee is the third-busiest airport in the state, after O'Hare and Midway Airports, and promises to be even busier with the recent shutdown of Meigs Field in downtown Chicago.

More than \$80 million is being

spent on a variety of Palwaukee safety and modernization projects, including relocating the intersection of Wolf and Hintz Roads to distance it from the end of the main runway, moving a drainage ditch that runs through the airport, and constructing new taxiways.

Free-lance writers Patrick O'Toole and Cal McAllister contributed to this article.

# Debating safety, dangers of runway extension

## Pilots say it's necessary, residents fear disaster

BY BOB MCKEE  
AND DEEDRA LAWHEAD  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Investigators agree the Gulfstream IV was in trouble before it left the Palwaukee Municipal Airport runway last week.

But would a longer runway have helped save the ill-fated flight?

Those same investigators don't know. But the crash that killed four people has lent added significance to the debate over whether Palwaukee's main runway should be 400 feet longer.

The issue pits those who say a longer runway would increase safe-

ty against those who fear it will draw more and heavier jets to the airport.

Particularly concerned about more jet traffic are residents of apartment buildings near the airfield. The crash last week barely missed the Foxboro Apartment complex after the plane made it over the airport fence.

"We are talking about the safety of pilots, but we are not talking about the safety of residents," said Wheeling resident Stuart Shapiro. "If it looks like an extension and it smells like an extension, it is an extension."

"I can't see us lengthening the

runway for any reason," Shapiro said Monday night during a Wheeling village board meeting about extending the runway.

Several people in the crowd of 50 who are concerned by the plan responded to Shapiro's comments with applause.

Central to the debate is whether the proposal would violate a 10-year-old pact between owners Prospect Heights and Wheeling not to expand the airport.

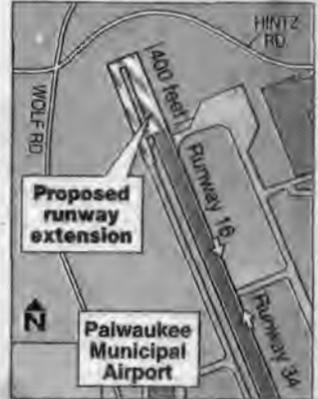
Both communities would have to agree to extend the runway.

National Transportation Safety

See AIRPORT on Page 4

### If Palwaukee's main runway is expanded:

- 400 feet would be added to the north end of the main runway. Airport officials say the extra length is needed for safety and to accommodate new, heavier jets.
- The distance between the northern edge of the runway and Hintz Road would shrink from about 750 feet to about 300 feet.
- The southernmost 280 feet of runway, now used as a safety margin, would be used for general takeoffs to the north.
- "Blast fences" would be installed at both the northern and southern ends of the runway to deflect jet thrust.
- The project requires approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, Prospect Heights and Wheeling.



Source: Members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport commission

## AIRPORT: Prospect Heights not eager to expand

Continued from Page 1

Board Investigator Jim Silliman said he will look at the runway to see if it played a role in the crash.

Investigators know the plane experienced difficulty before it left the runway because they found portions of the plane on the airport grounds and skid marks on the runway.

"This is a major investigation with a lot of factual gathering," Silliman said.

Silliman briefed victims' families on the course of the probe Monday.

Investigators continued the meticulous work of going over charred remains of the aircraft to see if it shows any defects. Analysts in Washington, D.C., are set to review cockpit voice recordings this week.

Nothing has been ruled out as a cause of the crash, Silliman said, including weather conditions, pilot error, birds flying into the engine or other problems.

While the investigation continues, community leaders and residents focused on the runway.

The additional space on the run-

way's northern end would give pilots extra room to make emergency stops, said Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford. And the extra stretch of pavement, he said, would not break the promise to keep the runway its current length.

"It does not change the 5,000-foot runway, the landing and the take-off points don't change," Rotchford said. "I don't think we are looking to break this agreement."

"This is a safety issue, it has nothing to do (with business)," Rotchford said. "That is the only way I would go for it."

Prospect Heights will not discuss the proposal for a longer runway until airport officials create a more detailed plan and that plan is approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, Rotchford said.

A number of Prospect Heights council members said Monday night they were concerned with the proposal. Council member Thomas Shirley called for a detailed safety study for the airport.

Ron Arnett, a corporate pilot who flies out of Palwaukee, told officials Monday night that the emergency

stop area would improve safety.

"You have more surface area to stop in," Arnett added.

But former pilot and Wheeling resident Jack Nikolich thinks that increasing the length of runway could heighten the danger to people who live nearby.

"If you increase this runway, you are asking for disaster to happen," Nikolich added.

Tony Altieri, chairman of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, however, says the proposal would make the airport safer but also accommodate businesses.

The idea to add onto the runway was prompted by airport-based companies looking to replace their corporate jets with new, heavier planes that require a larger emergency stop area, Altieri said.

"We're looking at what we can do to accommodate the corporate (jet) people, while keeping it safe," Altieri said. "That's (businesses) what helps to pay the bills there."

Although the types of planes using the airport may change, the number of flights the airport handles is expected to remain the same despite a longer runway,

Altieri said.

The airport, which is designated to divert some jet traffic from busy O'Hare International Airport, now handles 200,000 flights annually, Altieri said. It is the third-busiest airport in the state.

In addition to the extra space on the northern end of the runway, officials want to move the takeoff point forward 280 feet from the most southern point to create a safety stop area, said airport Manager Fred Stewart. The entire emergency stop area on both ends would be 680 feet. The airstrip is now 5,137 feet long and has no paved emergency stop areas, Stewart added. Only 5,001 feet can actually be used for takeoffs and landings.

Airport Commissioner William Rogers fears jets will use the entire length of the runway to takeoff and land despite other views that the extra space will be used only in the event of an emergency.

"It's not a stop area, it's to make the runway (longer)," Rogers said.

To guard against that, Rotchford said pilots who violate airport rules on using only the main portion of the runway could be suspended



Wheeling resident Marlene Padovano of Shamrock Estates shows her frustration while listening to Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart during a meeting Monday. Her house is 200 yards from the crash site.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

from using the airport or given other punishments.

Wheeling officials will consider whether the runway benefits business or increases safety as it weighs the proposal, Village Presi-

dent Sheila H. Schultz said. A decision is not expected quickly.

Daily Herald staff writer Amy McLaughlin contributed to this report.

## Wheeling 2000 plan ready as officials ponder next step

By Bob McKey  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of 100 officials, business leaders and residents is finished with its ideas on how to shape Wheeling's future. Now it is up to the whole community to make the plan a reality.

"This the ending of one process and the beginning of the other," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "The challenge is to all of the village, that these things will come about."

The village will release the results of "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 16 at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Wheeling.

The project included hundreds of meetings during the last year on such issues as government, image and economic development.

Suggestions that were given by the group on what the community should do to prepare for the future will be presented to the public at next month's meeting.

The community is encouraged to not only hear about what went into the report and its results, but to offer their comments and help in making the plan a reality.

Schultz said. Day care will be provided for children 2- to 5-years-old of people who want to attend the meeting. Call (847) 459-2600 to register.

Schultz said community participation is important because while some of the goals would need to be accomplished by the village, local school districts and the Wheeling Park District, there are others that could be completed by residents. These would include neighborhood watch programs and community celebrations, for instance.

"It's going to take a cooperative effort from everyone in the village," said Avi Poster, principal of Booth Tarkington Elementary School and chairman of the Wheeling 2000 public relations committee.

After the report is released, the suggestions will be prioritized by what is feasible, practical and affordable to accomplish, Poster said.

The suggestions are nonbinding, but Schultz expects that "everything will be given strong consideration."

The volunteer groups that are charged with fulfilling the goals could begin doing so by as early as the beginning of next year, Schultz said.

## Milwaukee Continued from page 5

lays. Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson hopes it won't deter people from patronizing businesses and restaurants located along Milwaukee.

"We'll try our best to keep the road as accessible as possible," Anderson said.

Such assistance, restaurant officials say, is definitely needed.

"Anything they can do is going to help," said Gary Brandofino, general manager of East Side Mario's at 550 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Already, construction on the south end of Milwaukee has cut into the restaurant's lunch and dinner business and virtually eliminated afternoon drive-by customers.

"We definitely notice it, there's no doubt about it. It's a hindrance. People just want to avoid it. It's going to be a very hard thing for the next year," Brandofino said.

One suggestion Brandofino has for village officials, who want to keep customers from avoiding Milwaukee, is to post alternative route signs. Instead of using Milwaukee to reach Mario's, he said, a sign on Dundee could direct drivers south on Wolf Road then east on Manchester Drive.

"That would help. This is going to hurt everybody," he added.

From Hintz Road south, the Illinois Department of Transportation is currently widening the road, adding a median and constructing a new bridge. The Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which is being diverted from Palwaukee Airport to the recently purchased Twin Drive-in property, will drain into the Des Plaines River under that bridge.

Traffic is limited to one lane in each direction, and IDOT expects the \$3.6 million portion of the project to be completed by Dec. 15.

Further north on Milwaukee from Manchester Drive to Strong Avenue, the village has contracted ComEd to bury electrical and phone lines. Trustees decided to pay the \$1.5 million difference to have the lines buried rather than relocated above ground in hopes of improving the appearance of Milwaukee Avenue.

Before that work can begin, crews are first relocating water mains along Milwaukee near Dundee Road, Anderson said.

Construction to bury cables and water pipes is expected to continue sporadically until next summer, Anderson said IDOT is expected to begin widening Milwaukee next spring. The road will be widened to five lanes for its length throughout Wheeling and straightened out in areas.

# Milwaukee work hits locals where it hurts

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

After 17 years of operating Daniello's Mangia Fresco restaurant near Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road, owner Daniel Casale

**"It was a bear, and now the people south of us are going through it."**

knew it would take some ingenuity to make it through the lengthy reconstruction of that intersection.

After fearing that some customers were frightened away by the construction and the anticipated traffic delays, Casale took it upon himself to hand-deliver menus to local businesses and start a lunch-hour delivery serv-

ice.

Even now, with the roadwork at the intersection completed, customers are slow to return to the dinner hour, he said.

"Business is coming back," Casale said. "My lunch business is phenomenal, and the delivery business is good."

But at night, he said, customers aren't stopping by because they don't know the construction is finished.

"I'm lucky I had the staying power to remain in the business," he said. "It's called survival. People circumvent any type of problem or congestion. It was a bear, and now the people south of us are going through it."

With roadwork on the extensive project expected to last through next year, village officials say they'll work to keep the road accessible to local businesses and encourage customers to use the road.

Though drivers may be frustrated with de-

(Continued on page 13)

## Residents don't like idea of expanded runway

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents who attended Monday night's Village Board meeting are concerned that longer runways at Palwaukee Municipal Airport would bring in larger aircraft and thereby increase the potential for more accidents like the one that occurred Oct. 30.

The Airport Commission,

which oversees facility operations, proposes to add 400 feet of pavement at the north end of Palwaukee's major runway and re-stripe the south end to provide a 280-foot paved safety buffer, said Airport Manager Fred Stewart. The available runway length would remain 5,001 feet, he said.

"It's the same situation we have now. However, it would allow an aircraft to start take-off earlier," Stewart said.

Residents fear that such a change means that Palwaukee would be able to accommodate larger, heavier planes carrying more fuel and more passengers — a charge Stewart denied.

"Our purpose is to try to provide as much pavement as possible in front of the aircraft," Stewart said. Stewart's statements, however, didn't ring true with some.

"I can't visualize the fact

too populated."

Trustee Jeanne Selander and Village President Sheila Schultz said it is too soon after the fatal crash for the Village Board to make any decisions about changing Palwaukee's dynamics.

"In light of last week's accident, I feel we shouldn't make a decision until we see the results of the investigation by the (National Transportation Safety Board)," Selander said.

that you're going to be flying the same aircraft as you are now if you lengthen that runway. How is the length of the runway at Palwaukee going to benefit Wheeling residents?" asked Sherwood Drive resident Andrew Vargo.

"The extending of this runway means they're looking forward to the next generation of planes," said resident Diane Massarsky. "I don't think its good for the area we live in — it's much

# 'The flames just roared'

## Eyewitnesses share horror of crash

BY ANDREA L. BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

It was difficult to tell without asking if the tears glistening from the corners of John Hutchinson's eyes were because he stood, clad in a thin gray suit, facing a frigid wind or because he had just witnessed a fatal airplane crash last Wednesday afternoon.

But he did speak of his desire to help when he realized the aircraft was in peril, as well as his frustration when he knew there was nothing he could do.

**MORE CRASH  
COVERAGE**  
■ Pages 7, 8 & 9

"I have a (pilot's) license, you kind of empathize," he said.

A corporate Gulfstream IV jet owned by Alberto-Culver of Menomonee Park crashed shortly after 1 p.m. as it attempted a takeoff at Palwaukee Airport from a runway near the southeast corner of Wolf and Hintz roads in Wheeling.

Hutchinson, a consultant from Minneapolis, remained composed as he described what he had witnessed barely a half hour before. On a business call, he had just checked in with the receptionist at Acco USA, on the

Something was definitely wrong with the plane before it left the airport property, according to eyewitnesses driving on Wolf Road.

### Early trouble

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the jet veered off the runway about 1,500 feet into takeoff on a clear day with temperatures in the low 40s. Winds were reported up to 20 mph, gusting to 30 mph from the west.

"The left landing gear went off into the grass and broke off," Hermes said of the plane's descent down the runway. "Then the plane was totally in the grass, and the right landing gear broke off. The left wing flaps fell off, and the wing dipped down and ruptured the fuel tank, spewing fuel out. It was in trouble by then."

The plane continued to skid in the grass along the runway, bobbing up and down twice before it hit an

earthen berm, where Wolf Road was located before last year's relocation of the intersection with Hintz Road.

"Hitting that berm actually gave him enough lift to get over the airport fence and Hintz Road," Hermes said.

The plane then hit an embankment (Continued on page 8)



Firefighters work to extinguish the burning wreckage of the Gulfstream IV airplane that crashed near the Foxboro Apartments last week.

Todd Uelster/Pioneer Press

northwest corner of Hintz and Wolf roads, when he heard two explosions.

He ran outside and saw the airplane, its engines ablaze, unable to gain altitude as it approached Wolf Road, just north of the Hintz intersection.

"The flames just roared," Hutchin-

son said. "It was burning before it hit," Seifert said. "Once he hit, it was a big ball of flames. There was one poof of smoke after another."

An engine dropped in the field near the creek, while the fuselage and another piece landed in the Foxboro Apartments parking lot.

### Resident roused

Thanks to a power outage at work, Michael Behenna was relaxing in front of the television in the front room of his apartment on the 700 block of Donna Court in the Foxboro complex when he heard what sounded like two semi trucks colliding outside his window.

"I was out in 10 seconds," Behenna said. "I saw the cockpit. It was engulfed. I tried to see if anyone was inside, but I couldn't see anything."

Behenna, who had just moved into the Foxboro apartments from a building across the street, said he had not been concerned about the airport's proximity. But he now definitely hopes there won't be a repeat.

"You know what they say about lightning never striking twice in the same spot, I hope that's what's going to happen here," he said. "I was just glad (the airplane) stopped where it did."

### No jokes

Living so close to the airport has been something Alison Bergett has joked about in the past, but it will not likely be a source of humor any longer.

"I've lived here nine years," Bergett said. "It gives you something to think about."

Ernie Rakstad, of Prospect Heights, who is studying for a pilot's license, said he is not concerned about some of the smaller aircraft that fly in and out of Palwaukee. But he has some worries about some of the larger jets.

"It's an unfortunate thing waiting to happen," he said. "I don't like the sizes of some of the airplanes."

Staff writer Cheri Bentrup contributed to this report.

## ■ Crash *Continued from page 5*

on the east side of Wolf Road, just south of the bridge that goes over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

"It was on the ground skidding across Wolf Road and down an embankment, on fire the whole time," Hermes said. The plane continued skidding across an open field and into the Drainage Ditch. The nose of the plane came up the north side of the ditch, stopping 20 to 30 feet short of the Foxboro Apartments.

The nose cone of the plane separated from the aircraft and hit the apartment building. Hermes said the cone was found near the building that evening.

"Thirty feet further and it would've gone through the building," he said.

One car in the parking lot was destroyed, as were a canoe, boat and trailer. Three other cars were damaged by fire.

Another witness, Brent Seifert, who works for a Wauconda printing and advertising company, was driving north on Wolf Road.

"I looked to the right and saw the airplane on the runway. It was just about to take off. I could see the fuel burning as soon as he got up and tried to elevate," Seifert said.

As he drove south on Wolf toward Hintz, Brad Koenig, of Des Plaines saw a similar sight.

"There were flames down the runway," Koenig said. "He was on fire when he was taking off. I think he had problems even before it took off."

Still, the jet managed to clear a fence at the end of the runway. Then it appeared to veer off course.

"It started to do a dipsy dive," Seifert said. "As he started to climb, the fuel leaked."

### Close calls

The left wing touched an embankment on the northeast corner of the Hintz and Wolf roads intersection. The plane then bounced, and the back end of the aircraft clipped the roadway and skidded across Wolf Road.

Koenig saw the aircraft fill his entire field of vision through the sun roof in his vehicle. He sped up to avoid the aircraft.

"I could feel the heat," Koenig said. "I could feel the impact when it hit."

# Buffalo Grove proves popular for new Metra line

BY C.L. WALLER  
AND JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Buffalo Grove is the most popular station on Metra's new North Central Service line.

Each weekday an average of 322 people are getting on the commuter line at Buffalo Grove, according to a new Metra survey.

Buffalo Grove was running well ahead. The next busiest boarding point, Prairie View near Lincolnshire, had 139 passengers getting on every morning.

Mundelein had 126 riders boarding, Wheeling 117 and Prospect Heights 101.

Counting trips both ways, daily passengers on the Antioch-to-Chicago line total 2,186, about 200 more than in early September.

Metra opened the North Central line Aug. 19 using the Wisconsin Central's freight line. Metra runs three trains each way in the morning and in the evening and one round-trip train in the afternoon.

With the exception of Union Station in downtown Chicago, O'Hare International Airport and the station at Buffalo Grove proved to be the most popular places to get off the line, an earlier survey showed.

Buffalo Grove has several corporate offices within walking distance of its station off of Busch Parkway. Metra is halfway toward its goal of

2,250 one-way riders by 2002, Metra spokesman Tom Miller said. Meeting that goal depends on a second rail being built for the line, he said.

Metra expects more people will start using the line once they learn more about it and when their annual and quarterly parking passes for stations on other lines expire.

"It takes time for ridership to build up," Miller said. More riders also are expected to use the line once Vernon Hills opens its stop in late November or early December, he said.

In addition, passengers are just

"It takes time for ridership to build up."

— Metra spokesman Tom Miller

starting to get on the new line at the Prairie Crossing/Libertyville stop, which opened Sept. 7. Last week's survey found only 17 passengers got on at the new station last Thursday.

Libertyville is the only community along the line with an existing train station, located in the downtown at the Milwaukee District North line.

So far Metra hasn't seen many riders abandoning other lines — such as the nearby Union Pacific North-west and Milwaukee District North lines — to use the North Central, Miller said.

"We haven't noticed any decline in riders," he said.

Many stations on those nearby lines have waiting lists for their parking spaces, so Metra expects any passengers who switch to the North Central will be replaced by new riders, Miller said.

## A day's ridership on the North Central

Town	Boarding totals
Buffalo Grove	335
Prairie View	145
Mundelein	132
Wheeling	122
Prospect Heights	110
River Grove	106
O'Hare transfer	51
Lake Villa	56
Round Lake	49
Beach	49
Prairie Crossing/Libertyville	17
Vernon Hills*	1
*Station not open	

Source: Passenger check list by Metra for North Central Service line on Oct. 30

# Fire chief: Training exercise prepared crews for real thing

Things may have been a bit reversed but the Wheeling fire chief says a training exercise held last year made all the difference in the world when it came time for emergency crews to deal with a real tragedy last week.

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Just last winter, the Wheeling Fire Department participated in a "tabletop" drill for the opposite scenario of last week's fatal accident at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

During the drill, firefighters discussed how they would best approach a rescue if a south-bound plane crashed into the clubhouse at the Foxboro Apartments on landing, engulfing the plane and the building in flames.

"A lot of what happened (Oct. 30) was because of the training we have had," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac of the Gulfstream IV crash that killed four on take-off from Palwaukee.

"No training replaces the real world (experience), but when you plan and train for it, certain automatic traits kick in," he said.

It's that type of ongoing training that reaffirms Village President Sheila Schultz's belief that the Wheeling Fire Department should be responsible for handling all emergency calls at Palwaukee. A week before the crash,

Wheeling trustees had passed a resolution to that effect.

"There should be no misunderstanding of the dispatching. Emergencies by their nature require the quickest response, and any hesitation whatsoever is not acceptable," said Schultz.

Though last week's incident occurred entirely within Wheeling's village limits and was in the jurisdiction of the Wheeling Fire Department, there is question about where jurisdictional lines are drawn on airport property.

Schultz first brought the issue to light Sept. 30 at an intergovernmental meeting with Prospect Heights, co-owner of the airport with Wheeling. The confusion over which fire department responds to airport emergencies must end, as it puts public safety in jeopardy, Schultz said.

The airport is located largely in the Wheeling Rural Fire Protection District, which exists only on paper. For years, the district had contracted with the Wheeling village department for fire protection service at Palwaukee.

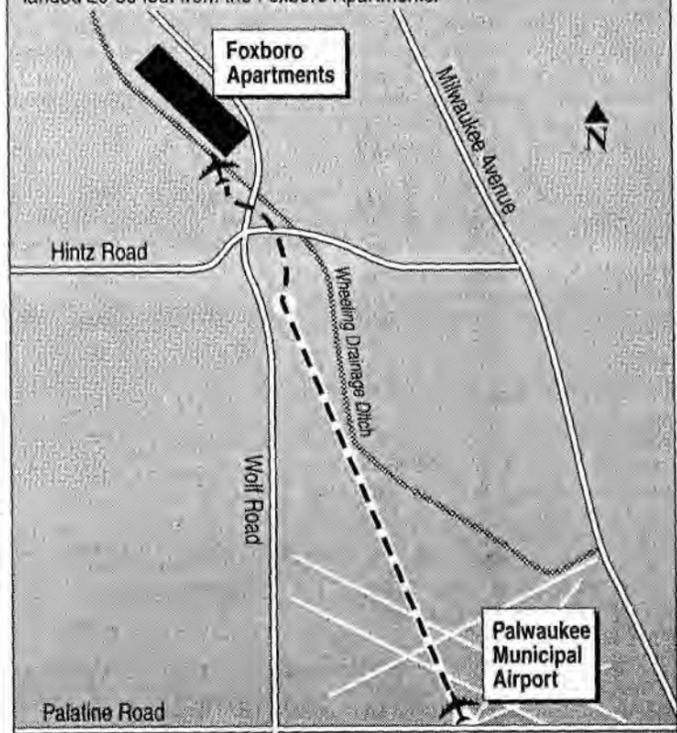
Recently though, the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District voted to expand its fire protection service to include parts of the airport. Just where that imaginary line is drawn is something Schultz has been trying to determine.

Schultz contends the Wheeling Fire Department has the equipment, manpower and

(Continued on page 11)

## Flight of fatal crash

The Gulfstream IV jet that took off shortly after 1 p.m. Oct. 30 from Palwaukee ran off the side of the runway before hitting an earthen berm, jumping over Hintz Road and skidding across Wolf Road engulfed in flames. The jet landed 20-30 feet from the Foxboro Apartments.



Source: Wheeling Police Department

Pioneer Press/LRK

## Chief Continued from page 7

training to service the airport and any emergencies that may occur at Palwaukee.

"I do believe the Wheeling Fire Department's training and equipment served everyone well," Schultz said of the recent crash. "There was nothing to be done to save the passengers, but they did ensure safety of those around the crash.

"The Wheeling Fire Department, since the inception of the airport, has improved on its training and equipment. It's not something that happened overnight," Schultz said. "You do those things hoping you never have to use them, but it's good to have them when you do (need them)."

Schultz has asked Prospect Heights aidemen to consider a resolution identical to the one passed Oct. 21 by Wheeling trustees. So far, the Prospect Heights City Council has not acted on the issue.

Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford said he just recently received a copy of the resolution from Wheeling.

"I basically thought after the joint meeting we'd have a chance to see it before Wheeling approved it but that didn't

recently as July, Wheeling firefighters spent three days at O'Hare International Airport training for aircraft emergencies.

Because no area department has the resources to successfully handle an emergency situation such as the downed Gulfstream, MacIsaac said, he was thankful for assistance from nearby departments. Those responding included Northbrook, Glenview, Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights Rural, Mount Prospect, Arlington Heights, Countryside, Highland Park and Vernon.

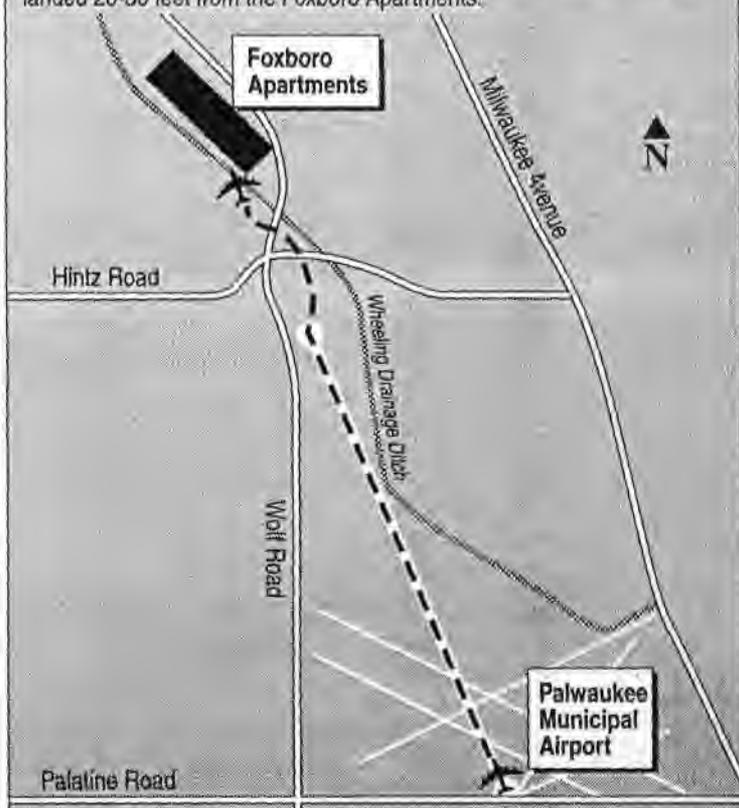
"The assistance from our neighbors was exceptional, and you're always going to be dependent on assistance," MacIsaac said.

A Wheeling fire inspector who was driving on Wolf Road last Wednesday witnessed the crash and immediately called to report it. MacIsaac said Wheeling firefighters were first on the scene within three minutes and had the fire extinguished in 15 minutes or less.

The jet had a 4,300-pound fuel capacity, though MacIsaac did not know how much

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"I basically thought after the joint meeting we'd have a chance to see it before Wheeling approved it, but that didn't happen," Rotchford said.

Rotchford said last week's crash did prompt him to think about the fire service to the airport, but he declined to comment until he could discuss the issue with Schultz.

Fire Chief MacIsaac said the issue is not one of professionalism, but of training. As

recently as July, Wheeling firefighters spent three days at O'Hare International Airport training for aircraft emergencies.

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The jet had a 4,300-pound fuel capacity, though MacIsaac did not know how much fuel the California-bound plane was carrying at the time of the crash.

"It was an unfortunate situation, but I think we were able to contain it. Our people leaped right in. We've done drills preparing exactly for this type of situation and it was evident," MacIsaac said.

# Residents ponder good fortune, future

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Starting at the charred remains of the crashed jet last week in the Foxboro Apartments parking lot, residents said they are always cognizant of their proximity to Palwaukee Airport and how quickly accidents could happen.

It seemed miraculous to most bystanders how the plane stopped just as its front half entered the parking lot, never damaging the apartment building or injuring anyone on the ground. How it managed to cross busy Wolf and Hintz roads without striking any cars is another mystery.

Residents realize that living so close to Palwaukee has its dangers, but the airport, they believe, is relatively safe. Those interviewed said they have no reason to move. For many, this was the first major accident they could recall since moving to the complex years ago.

Still, the possibility of an accident and realization that this accident could have been a worse tragedy, weighs heavily in the minds of nearby residents.

"I think about it all the time," said Foxboro resident Todd Glassman. "I've lived here four years and I've never seen anything like this. This is



Lurt Butcher/Pioneer Press

Firefighters extinguish the flames at the fatal crash site of a Gulfstream IV jet that faltered on takeoff from Palwaukee Airport and came to rest just 20 to 30 feet from the Foxboro Apartments seen in the background.

the first incident I've ever heard of at Palwaukee."

Though the potential for an accident is always in the back of his mind, Glassman said he can't allow himself to dwell on it.

"If you did, you'd never sleep," he

Palwaukee is the third busiest airport in Illinois, and, with the recent closing of Meigs Field, the airport is expected to pick up another 2,800 flights a year. That increase represents less than a 5 percent increase in

Upon returning home, the couple  
(Continued on page 12)

## Residents *Continued from page 7*

found their building cordoned off with police tape and had to ask an officer for permission to enter their apartment.

"You think about the possibility of something like this all the time when you hear planes going overhead so low, and they're so loud," Magnan said.

Just across Wolf Road from the crash site, Misael Purata lives in the Plum Grove condominium complex. Though the condos are not directly in line with the runway, as are the Foxboro Apartments, Purata said he occasionally worries about living so close to the airport.

"You never know what's going to happen. It's the first time I've seen anything like this, and I've lived here six years," Purata said.

The night of the crash, police officers had Wolf Road blocked off, leaving Purata no way to get home.

"People can't come out, and I can't get in," he said, as he watched firefighters work on the crashed jet.

Many residents credited the Wheeling Drainage Ditch for averting a more devastating disaster. After hitting a berm at the end of the runway, the plane flew across Hintz Road and skidded across Wolf Road before hitting the ditch and landing in the Foxboro parking lot.

As part of a multimillion-dollar safety improvement project at the airport, the ditch is being moved away from the runways and onto the former Twin Drive-in theater property. The part of the ditch near where the plane landed would not be affected by the construction.

Plum Creek resident Jacqueline True has been closely following discussions about extending the runway. Since moving into the condominium complex nine years ago, True said, the airport has gotten busier and the planes have

gotten larger. Though Plum Creek was built after the airport, it's time for airport officials to consider the safety of nearby residents, she said.

"I see them trying to turn the airport into something it wasn't meant to be," True said. "They moved (Hintz and Wolf) roads and got more space around the airport. Now they want to extend the runway back to the roads they moved. It doesn't make any sense.

**"I think about it all the time. I've lived here four years and I've never seen anything like this. This is the first incident I've ever heard of at Palwaukee."**

"They want to make the airport accommodate larger traffic than restrict it to aircraft that can safely use it," she said. "They're pushing their luck and our luck."

Arlen Gould, president of the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board, said the airport and its safety record are always on the minds of board members and school administrators. School bus routes include the Palwaukee Airport area and Holmes Middle School, 221 S. Wolf Road, is in a flight path.

"It's always been a concern but I don't know what can be done about it," said Gould. "We have buses and schools in the area and an accident like this is a great concern of the district."

Gould hopes the accident prompts a thorough review of safety measures at the airport.

11-7-96  
**Runway expansion**  
*COUNTRYSIDE*

**Wheeling/** Regarding Palwaukee Airport's proposal to lengthen their Northwest-Southeast runway, several years ago airport officials promised up, down and sideways that there would be no runway extension when they moved Wolf and Hintz roads north and west, respectively. The runway is adjacent to densely populated apartment and condominium complexes.

At that time, they tried to quell strong community opposition to their plans by stressing that the relocation was for safety. The roads, they said, had to be further from the end of the runway in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Residents who live near the airport verbalized their opposition to the plans at a public hearing before FAA officials. They knew that the ultimate aim of the project was to expand the runway so the airport could get more business. That testimony is a matter of public record and the reasons for the opposition are still valid, even though community concerns didn't influence the decision-makers at the FAA.

Have the FAA regulations changed? Or is safety not a concern now that Palwaukee wants to extend the runway closer to the new roads? Where is the FAA in this situation? Does the airport no longer need FAA funds to extend the runway and, therefore, can thumb its nose at FAA safety standards?

Airport officials are guilty of blatant duplicity. They had every intention of planning this runway extension from the beginning of the Wolf/Hintz project. Their credibility in the community is zero. Their promises are worthless. We don't believe anything they say.

**Jacqueline True**

# Crash theory

CHUCK WENK



*Countryside 11-7-96*

The Fall/Winter Aircraft Bluebook Digest lists a 1989 Gulfstream-IV at roughly \$19.35 million. This was the plane that crashed last week in Wheeling. An average plane could seat as many as 18 passengers plus a crew of three. The Alberto-Culver jet was on its way from Palwaukee's longest runway, 34: length 5,000 feet, width 100 feet. Departure was to the northwest.

Barely long enough and wide enough for an aircraft weighing 74,600 pounds! Not long enough OR wide enough when the temperature hits 80 degrees or if the wind is gusting broadside at 35-40 knots. Temperature at the time of the crash was 34 degrees, but winds were erratic out of the west at 40 knots.

The National Transportation Safety Board will stonewall this one for 10 months or so until the shock wears off. Then the FAA will come up with a compulsory advisory or two that will make the Gulfstream even "safer," although not one Gulfstream-IV had packed it in since production on the model began. After discussing this with two extremely experienced and current Gulfstream captains, both in the area, and after flying out of Palwaukee for 30 years, I think I have an answer for those concerned right now. (Call it at the least a theory.)

A complex, computer-like, guidance system controls departures in this aircraft. The throttle levers are auto-controlled, and the G-IV had just taken off with about 20,000 pounds of fuel for the trip to California. Only

four people were on board, including the crew, but the airplane was still quite heavy. Whether it hit a gust of wind, a windshear or for whatever reason, the aircraft veered off the runway about 1,500 feet down and then popped back on.

No telling if a tire blew following that slip off the concrete or even a portion of the landing gear was torn off. In any event, the takeoff should have been aborted, the ship guided into the mud or anyplace else — but not careening straight ahead with the throttles locked on "auto-control" and all systems still set for departure.

There is a button/lever that releases the automatic throttle, but getting to it under emergency conditions is not easy, the Gulfstream captains said. Both these

pilots stick to manual throttle control in spite of training procedures that advocate using the automatic system. One of the pilots showed me this "release" button in the cockpit of his company's G-IV. Odd location. Under the control wheel. Tough to deploy, at least it would be for me. My thought is that the "pilot error," if any, began after the tires left the runway and the aircraft should have been abruptly brought to a stop in whatever concrete or grass or mud that was left ahead. Let's see what they say next year sometime!

*Wenk, a Highland Park resident, is a commercial pilot who has just completed a term as the chairman of the Illinois Aeronautical Advisory Board.*

Robert Hampton Whitener, a pilot for Alberto-Culver, was one of two pilots on the plane that also was carrying Art Querr, a senior executive of the Aon Corporation. Larry Koppie, an Aon pilot, and Catherine Anderson, a cabin attendant, were the other individuals on board. All were killed.

He said the plane underwent regular maintenance checks and it never had any major problems. He did not know how many flight hours the plane had accumulated.

"It's main purpose was to move senior executives to operations around the country," Stone said.

The Alberto-Culver owned corporate jet that crashed Oct. 30 as it attempted to take off from Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling had no previous history of problems, and the pilots had excellent and lengthy flying records, company spokesman Dan Stone said last Friday.

While the Melrose Park-based company owned the Gulfstream IV that went down about 1 p.m. on Oct. 30, only one of the four people on the plane was an employee of the company.

By KRIS BRUNST  
STAFF WRITER

## Corporate jet had no history of maintenance problems

*Countryside 11-7-96*

Hampton was an outstanding pilot who we highly respected and had come to know as a close friend in the time we flew together," Howard B. Berrick, president and chief executive officer of Alberto-Culver, said in a written statement.

Not only did both pilots have extensive hours of flight time, they also had extensive hours on the same type of airplane, Stone said.

Stone said the corporate jet, which had a capacity of 20, had been hangered at Palwaukee Airport since Alberto-Culver purchased it in 1989.

Family members (right) visit the crash site to mourn relatives killed aboard the Gulfstream IV jet Oct. 30. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board said that type of

jet is a very reliable aircraft and officials at Alberto-Culver Co., which owned the jet, said it never had any significant maintenance problems.



Joel Lemov/Pioneer Press

# Investigators refuse to guess on cause of fatal plane crash

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board continue their work to determine what caused the fatal crash of a Gulfstream IV during takeoff from Palwaukee Municipal Airport last week.

The jet, owned by Alberto-Culver Co. of Melrose Park, crashed on takeoff into the parking lot of the Foxboro Apartments, located north-

west of the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads, shortly after 1 p.m. Oct. 30.

The next morning, safety investigators began recovering pieces of the jet, which is believed to have slipped off the runway, hit an earthen berm and crossed Hintz and Wolf roads before coming to rest just north of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch in the apartment building's parking lot.

Investigators were vague about specific clues they

were searching for, saying they wanted to consider all evidence before speculating on a cause for the crash.

"We're using a very methodical approach to the areas we're interested in," said Jim Silliman, an investigator for the NTSB.

One group of investigators was collecting wreckage from the airport, while another team was searching the crash site.

Pieces recovered from the (Continued on page 12)

## Voice recorder yields little in Palwaukee crash probe

By **Joseph Sjostrom**  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Investigators learned little new information from a cockpit voice recorder of the corporate jet that crashed last week after takeoff from Palwaukee Municipal Airport, federal officials said.

"Unfortunately, the quality is marginal. . . . There is a hissing noise that covers up most of the voices," said James Silliman, an air safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board.

He discussed the recorder and other aspects of the crash investigation at a press conference Thursday at the airport's administrative offices in Wheeling.

Silliman said investigators could hear muffled voices of the pilots going through their pre-flight checklist. He said they could also hear the airplane accelerating down the runway and leaving the ground. There were four more seconds of sound on the tape before it quit working, Silliman said. NTSB technicians tried to filter out the hissing noise.

"Unfortunately, as you filter the noise out, you also filter the voices out because they're in the same frequency range," Silliman said.

"We did the best we could, and we got some good information, but not as much as we had hoped," Silliman said.

The Gulfstream IV twin-engine airplane, owned by Alberto-Culver Corp. of Melrose Park, did not have the kind of flight data recorder found on larger commercial airliners, but it did have a

**'We got some good information, but not as much as we had hoped.'**

James Silliman of the NTSB

computer that recorded some engine and performance data, Silliman said.

The engines themselves were turned over to Rolls-Royce, their manufacturer, and will be inspected next week, he said.

Four people were killed in the crash: Arthur Quern, 54, of Evanston, a passenger on the airplane who was chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and chairman and chief executive officer of Aon Risk Services Cos. of Chicago; the pilots, Martin L. "Larry" Koppie, 53, who worked for Aon Corp., and Robert Hampton Whitener, 50, who worked for Alberto-Culver; and Catherine Mio-Anderson, 33, the flight attendant.

What is known so far is that the plane's left wheels went off the pavement at about 1,500 feet down the 5,000-foot runway. Both the right and left landing gears and wing flaps broke off and fell to the ground.

The airplane did lift off the runway, clearing a fence at Hintz Road on the northern boundary of the airport. Continuing in a northerly line off the runway, the plane flew over Hintz Road, pancaked onto Wolf Road, then crashed and burned just short of the Foxboro apartment complex east of Wolf Road.

jet were being stored in a hangar at Palwaukee, where they are being reassembled piece by piece.

Investigators on Friday morning found the plane's cockpit voice recorder in the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, said Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes. That instrument would have recorded all noises and voices in the cockpit that may give a clue as to what caused the crash, he said.

The recorder was flown to Washington, D.C., where information will be retrieved from it, Silliman said. It is unknown when that information will be made public. The plane did not have a flight data re-

recorder as is required for larger, commercial airline jets.

Gulfstream IV jets are "beautiful planes and very reliable," Silliman said of their overall performance. The jet's landing gear was recovered on the airport property near the runway, Silliman said. Investigators also will determine if weather, namely high winds that reportedly gusted up to 30 mph, played a role in the crash.

"It's certainly something we will look at. We had high winds, but it was a clear day," Silliman said. "We'll take it into account, but what role it plays in this investigation, we don't know yet."

## Towns may have found solution to land debate

Nov. 11, 1996  
By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

If an Amoco station is built on the southwest corner of Lake-Cook and McHenry roads, it apparently will be a tale of two villages.

Part of the station would be located in Wheeling, with the other in Buffalo Grove.

This might prove to be confusing when it's time to construct the station under two sets of building codes or deciding what police department to call when someone locks their keys in the car.

But after more than two years of trying to build the station, Amoco is pleased the debate regarding which town will claim the approximate four acres seems to be ending.

"It has been a very complicated situation," said Amoco attorney Edward Graham. "We hope now to proceed."

Officials from both towns still have to approve the intergovernmental agreement. But Buffalo Grove trustees recently said they agree with an idea by Wheeling to keep the property in each of the towns.

Buffalo Grove had proposed that the entire parcel be brought within

its borders since it would provide the business with utilities, and the mini-mart and gas pumps are planned to be located in that village. The village also proposed to split sales tax with Wheeling.

But Wheeling doesn't want to relinquish the land. Doing so, Village President Sheila H. Schultz has said, would mean the village would lose land and property taxes. She also said it is not certain the village would always receive sales tax from the property because the station may not remain in business.

So, Wheeling proposed to keep the border where it is — through the property.

Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said he would be pleased if such an agreement lets the station get built. But he said: "I see more problems in doing it this way."

"There are questions out there we are working on," Mathias also said.

Graham said keeping the property in both towns shouldn't pose any difficulties for the station, which Amoco hopes to build by next spring.

"It won't be a problem for Amoco at all," Graham said.

# Crash hangs over airport as business carries on

11-8-96

By BOB MCKEE  
AND DEEDRA LAWHEAD  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

They came to Palwaukee Municipal Airport and did their jobs.

Five members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission completed a nearly one-year process of devising where such things as hangars or taxiways could be built in the future.

And besides a couple of references to "last Wednesday," none of the commissioners, nor a handful of people who work at companies based at the airport, discussed last week's corporate jet crash.

But that shouldn't be taken as an indication the tragedy is out of mind.

"I would imagine it is on the mind of everyone," airport manager Fred E. Stewart said. "It might not be discussed, (but) I know there is not a day goes by that I don't think about it."

As the joint commission of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own and operate the airport, met and formed proposals for the airport's future, the National Transportation Safety Board continued its investigation into what caused the crash.

The Gulfstream IV corporate jet crashed last Wednesday in Wheeling as it took off from Palwaukee. The three crew members and one passenger were killed.

The safety board has not ruled out any possible causes, including weather conditions, pilot error, a bird flying into an engine or problems with the plane itself.

On Thursday, NTSB Investigator Jim Silliman said cockpit voice-recorder tapes contain a squealing sound that make them of limited value to investigators.

It's unclear whether the tapes were damaged in the crash.

But the recorder did include conversation between pilot Martin L. Koppie and co-pilot Robert Whitener in the seconds before the crash.

Silliman would not say how useful the pilots' conversation would be in determining a cause of the crash.

"We really have to look at it and put it together with the other information that we have," Silliman said. "It gives us some information, but how useful it will be we'll have to determine later."

The tapes show the two went through their pre-flight checklist.

"We do know the aircraft was going down the runway and about four or five seconds later the recorder stopped," Silliman said.

Otherwise, Silliman would shed little light on what if any clues the investigation has uncovered so far as to the cause of the crash.

"We have a lot of work to do," Silliman said. "We're really in the early days of the investigation. As we continue looking at the wreckage, tying all the pieces together, I think we'll be able to paint a good picture."

The aircraft's engines, Rolls Royce Tay 611, are being analyzed by the manufacturer, Silliman said.

The aircraft went into a drainage swale on the runway's west side, but he said it is not yet known how the plane or its controls were affected.



Jim Silliman of the National Transportation Safety Board fields questions Thursday during a news conference near Palwaukee Airport about the Oct. 30 crash that killed four people.

Daily Herald Photo/Daniel White

## Wheeling police department, trustees respond to survey

NOV. 11, 1996

BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently saw for the first time a survey of what police officers think of their department.

Some officials say the 57 issues raised in the survey didn't show that morale is at an "all-time low," as the patrol officers union claims.

But there are some problems — including morale — that need to be remedied, said Trustee Robert Heer.

"I think there are concerns in the survey that should be addressed," Heer said. "Those concerns are being addressed and hopefully, problems should be rectified."

The board in a closed-door meeting discussed the issues raised by the department's approximately 50 patrol officers during the survey that began in May.

Officials have not said specifically what the problems include because it is a personnel matter.

Last month, the president of the local chapter of the Combined Counties Police Association, William Stutzman, said there is a "high level" of frustration among the officers and morale is at an "all-time low."

Village President Sheila H.

Schultz said she did not get that impression.

"Wheeling came out fairly well," she said.

But she added: "As with anything ... we do, there's always room for improvement."

Heer said the village should use the information to improve the department. But Heer added he'd like to see the village take action on the changes.

"If changes are ... to be, let's see some follow ups on them and see if they are for real," Heer said.

Schultz said the village is addressing the concerns.

The issue of whether the surveys will be discussed publicly was also raised.

Schultz said officials are still considering if the information will be released.

"Confidentiality is always an issue," Schultz said.

But while officials are looking at how it can be improved, Schultz said the village's department is of high quality. As an example of that, Schultz mentioned that the force was recently re-accredited by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. This means that the department complies with national standards.

"It says a lot," Schultz said.

Chgo. Tribune - NOV. 11, 1996  
Runway signals

WHEELING—In light of the tragedy at Palwaukee Airport, it's important to remember past events as airport officials continue their attempt to lengthen the main runway.

Several years ago these same officials promised up, down and sideways that there would be no runway extension when they moved Wolf and Hintz Roads west and north, respectively. The reason for these promises was strong community opposition from residents in the densely populated apartment and condominium complexes adjacent to the runway.

At that time, airport officials stressed that the relocation was for safety. The roads, they said, had to be farther from the end of the runway to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations. Nearby residents expressed opposition to the plans at a public hearing before FAA officials. They knew the ultimate aim of the project was to expand the runway so the airport could increase its business. That testimony is a matter of public record, and the reasons for the opposition are still valid, even though community concerns didn't influence the FAA.

Have FAA regulations changed? Or is safety not a concern now that Palwaukee wants to extend the runway closer to the new roads? Where is the FAA in this situation? Does the airport no longer need FAA funds to extend the runway and, therefore, can thumb its nose at FAA safety standards?

Airport officials now are using the accident as an excuse for the runway extension. The airport position is that if the runway had been longer, the pilot might have been able to attempt to abort his takeoff.

The real reason airport officials want to extend the runway is because they have grandiose plans for becoming an international airport. Palwaukee was built for small, propeller planes, but over the years it has serviced larger and faster jet aircraft. For an airport built on a relatively small plot of land near homes and apartments, this is risky. Up until this accident, airport officials have been lucky. Now they've pushed their luck—and ours—too far.

Jacqueline True

### FENCE POST

letters to the editor

Letters must be signed and include address and telephone number; none will be published anonymously. Letters are subject to editing; a maximum length of 300 words is recommended. Send letters to: Fence Post, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.

Herald - 11-12-96

### Not for the residents

Regarding the Daily Herald headline in the Neighbor section on Oct. 22, "Wheeling wants condos on vacant lot," I think we need to clarify this by stating "Wheeling officials" so no one would get the idea that Wheeling "residents" want this. How many more cars can this area handle during the rush hours? I thought we were aiming for commercial development, not more burden on our school system?

Francine Bentley  
Wheeling

# Palwaukee crash focus turns to plane's engines

11-16-96

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The investigation of last month's crash of a corporate jet at Palwaukee Municipal Airport is shifting its focus to the plane's mechanical systems.

The National Transportation Safety Board is sending the jet's two Rolls Royce Tay engines for testing to Montreal, where they were manufactured, lead investigator Jim Silliman said Friday.

The safety board also is sending an investigator to Savannah, Ga., where the Gulfstream G-IV jet was made, Silliman said. The investigator will study the Gulfstream's

nose-cone steering system, which guides the planes when they are on the ground and taking off, he said.

In addition, the safety board is using computer models to try to simulate what may have happened to the plane, Silliman said.

Investigators may use flight simulators to try to find out what occurred, but those are better at figuring out what causes accidents in the air than ones on the ground, he said.

Although the safety board is now looking at the mechanical systems, Silliman emphasized the NTSB has not eliminated any possible causes.

"It would be premature to rule anything out," he said.

The jet crashed Oct. 30 as it took off from Palwaukee, killing all four people on board. Its flaming debris came within 20 yards of a Wheeling apartment complex.

The Gulfstream's landing gear and a wing flap fell near Palwaukee's main runway. Investigators also found skid marks on the runway, wheel marks on the runway's shoulder and scorch marks on the ground nearby.

The safety board has finished its inspection of the crash site and airport grounds, Silliman said. It is also done working at a Palwaukee hangar where the accumulated debris was studied, he said.

Shpanik said the young council member misled the bar's employees, who recognized Koeppe as a Prospect Heights official.

"They thought he was 21 because he was a public official," Shpanik said.

Kathy Mark, one of the owners of Matly's Place, admits Koeppe was allowed into the bar and served a beer. She said her doorman had seen him before at another local bar.

"I thought you had to be 21 to be an alderman, and

Gregory Koeppe says he never had a drop of alcohol as a minor, not even a glass of wine at the Thanksgiving table. He believes firmly that minors should not consume alcohol.

Koeppe is a newly minted adult — he just turned 21 — and says he has no regrets about the three years of undercover stings he did to help area police departments expose bars that sold alcohol to minors.

But Koeppe is a Prospect Heights council member — one of the youngest ever elected in Illinois — and his mayor has told him he embarrassed the city of Prospect Heights by helping to nail two Wheeling bars last December, when Koeppe was still 20 and legally unable to drink.

The bar, Matly's Place at 1750 W. Hintz Road, admits it let Koeppe in and served him a beer. The owners were assessed a \$1,000 fine and must close for the day Friday.

Elsewhere, the owners of Hotshots Tavern at 322 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, will pay a \$300 fine and must conduct a class teaching employees how to identify minors and not serve them.

Koeppe, who was recruited by police for the stings several years ago, has gotten some heat from Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotebord and 5th Ward Alderman Edwin Shpanik. Shpanik said he thinks police sweeps of bars are valuable, but said Koeppe shouldn't have been involved in these last two.



Gregory Koeppe

# Young council member told tavern stings, politics don't mix

Nov. 13, 1996

By Amy McLaurin  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

# KOEPPE: Council member glad stings over

Continued from Page 1

so did (the doorman)," Mark said.

But Koeppe, who has also gotten support from some city officials, said his work with the police was more in the line of public service than entrapment.

"I don't think it was deceiving," he said. "I was performing a public service, if anything."

Koeppe, who was elected to represent the 3rd Ward in April 1995, is referring to a Dec. 1, 1995 Wheeling police operation in which he was able to buy a beer in both establishments. He turned 21 in May.

Koeppe said that since he was recruited out of high school, he's visited a number — he prefers not to be specific — of taverns at police behest in Prospect Heights, Wheeling and other towns he said he can't name.

These last two are the only ones he worked with while he's been on the council, and he admits that made him hesitate a little before saying yes.

Still, after consulting attorneys who told him he was perfectly within his rights to help police, Koeppe decided to go ahead.

"My goal wasn't to shut down somebody's business," Koeppe said. "I have no regrets. A majority of them (taverns) are doing their jobs."

Wheeling police Chief Michael Haeger said Koeppe was asked

this last time because he did well in the previous operations, and because police felt they could trust him.

"Bar owners sometimes come up with convenient excuses as to why they don't comply with state statutes," said Haeger.

Koeppe, who graduated from Wheeling High School in 1993, said alcohol was prevalent at parties and other social events when he was in school.

Koeppe said some of the stings he saw about underage drinking when he served on an advisory committee with the Illinois Board of Education spurred him to get involved further.

It was the exposure on the board of education, and other civic activities, that brought him to the attention of the local police.

He wrote letters to the editors of local newspapers commending villages that adopt stricter rules to assure alcohol isn't served to minors.

Koeppe said typically the names of those who participate in the police operations are kept confidential, but he was called to testify at an Wheeling liquor commission meeting in October when Hotshots contested the penalty.

Although he believes in what he's done, Koeppe said he's glad it's over.

"I'm relieved I'm 21, and I won't have to do it again," he said.

# Wheeling may hire expert to hammer out TCI pact

Herald, Nov. 14, 1996

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

made the cable industry more complicated since the mid-1980s.

But officials realized about two months ago that they would need assistance from someone who is well-versed in the cable industry, Anderson said.

Aside from the specialized knowledge, Trustee Judy Abruscato said the village needs help, in addition to the efforts of staff members, because of the amount of time negotiations could take.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said she doesn't doubt that the village's staff could negotiate the contract, but this would require them to take the time to learn how to do so.

Another reason for hiring a consultant, officials say, is to ensure that the various complaints residents have about the company are addressed during negotiations.

"We need to serve the residents better because we have many complaints," Abruscato said.

Anderson added it is common for municipalities to hire consultants to assist in specialized areas.

The deal between TCI and Wheeling probably won't be struck before February, Anderson said.

Slow customer service is just one of the complaints Wheeling residents have about TCI of Illinois Inc.

Long waits on the phone for help at TCI and the fact laws that govern the cable TV industry are ever-changing are among the reasons why Wheeling is considering hiring a consultant to help it negotiate a contract with TCI.

"We want someone who can help us with this process and so that we don't miss anything ... covering all the bases," said Village Manager Craig Anderson. "We want to make sure that the village's interests are well protected."

The board Monday is expected to decide whether it will pay between \$8,000 and \$9,000 for a consultant from MSA Inc. of Hoffman Estates to negotiate the contract. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The village in July extended the 15-year-old agreement to give officials time to negotiate. Officials then said the additional time was needed because new regulations and advanced technology have

PIONEER PRESS

Nov. 14, 1996

# Village extends refuse contract

By Cheri Bentrup  
Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees recently extended the garbage collection contract with Waste Management-Northwest for two more months.

The contract, which expires Dec. 31, was extended to Feb. 28, 1997, to give village staff members time to review bids from various collection services before making a recommendation to the board. Rates will not change during this two-month extension.

In October, staff mailed a voluminous request for proposal and an accompanying scavenger service contract to 10 prospective bidders. Judging from the number of companies represented Oct. 18 at a pre-submission conference, the village expects to receive several proposals.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said it's possible the process would be completed before the current three-year contract expires, but he wants to ensure that collection and recycling services are not interrupted should any delays occur.

"We want to be sure we have enough time. We want to make sure there's no gap in service," Anderson told trustees.

Even if Waste Management is awarded the next contract, it would be the first time multifamily housing is included for service.

Among items to be negotiated are frequency of pick-up, length of the yard-waste collection season and possible expansion of the recycling program. Anderson is not sure whether a one-year or multi-year contract will be presented to trustees.

Your  
Local

## NEWS

Wheeling COUNTRYSIDE

Nov. 14, 1996

Crash  
cause  
elusiveBy CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

The cockpit voice recorder of the Gulfstream IV jet that crashed Oct. 30 after attempting to take off from Palwaukee Municipal Airport has given investigators few clues as to what caused the fatal accident.

The announcement came last week, as crews continued to reassemble what is left of the corporate jet.

"We realize the (voice recorder) may not give us any information, and we start the investigation assuming we will get none," said Jim Silliman, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board.

A loud hissing sound covered most of the conversation between the two pilots, Silliman said.

"We did the best we could and got some good information, but not as much as we had hoped. It doesn't tell us probable cause," Silliman said. "It had a high squeal on it and is of limited value to us."

Investigators in Washington, D.C., who listened to the tape tried to filter out the squeal, but doing so made the poor voice quality suffer even more, Silliman said.

Silliman said the pilot and co-pilot can be heard going through a preflight checklist on the tape. However, the rest of the tape stops about five seconds after the jet left the runway, Silliman said.

The transcript of that tape is expected to be released in a couple of months, he said.

Investigators hope the information garnered from the voice recorder can be pieced together with other evidence to determine what caused the crash that killed all four aboard the Burbank, Calif.-bound jet. The jet landed just 20 to 30 feet from the Foxboro Apartments on Wolf  
(Continued on page 15)



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

## Super saints

Portraying St. Nicholas, Timmy Smith of Arlington Heights, a first-grader at St. Alphonsus School in Prospect Heights, stands during the morning Mass. Smith was one of 23 students dressed as their favorite saints for the eighth annual All Saints Day service held recently at the school.

## Dems: GOP veto session push likely

By MARAH SHUMAN  
STAFF WRITER

It was rare during the past two years for State Rep. Lauren Beth Gash, D-Deerfield, to be the lead sponsor on popular state legislation both parties endorsed. Republicans tended to steal the thunder on issues such as drive-through deliveries and crime bills.

But voters in the Nov. 5 election changed that. For the next two years Gash and her Democratic peers will be back in the driver's seat, having gained a 60 to 58 House majority in last week's election.

Democrats must now maneuver their way through what could be a jungle of legislation during the fall veto session, as lame duck Republican leadership pushes for its agenda.

"I am very wary that they will try to push things through very fast," Gash said. "I hope the Democrats have learned something by being out of power."

Democrats predict Republicans will try to enact some gambling legislation in the veto session and tinker with Meigs Field.

Officials from House Speaker Lee Daniels' office refused to comment on

any business that might occur during the fall veto session, saying that the Attorney General is continuing an investigation into a downstate election that gave Democrats the majority. Until that investigation is complete, they could not say what Republicans are planning.

Republicans alleged that five ballot boxes disappeared for a few hours from retiring Republican State Rep. Jay Hoffman's district near Collinsville. Democrat Glen Bradford won the race. State police, who conducted an investigation, said they found no wrongdoing.

## Cooperation pledged

Following the veto session, Democrats intend to take control of the House, but cooperation, not chaos, will be the theme, according to spokesmen for Minority Leader Michael Madigan.

"Madigan will approach the session with an attitude of wanting to cooperate with the governor," said Steven Brown, Madigan's press secretary.

Madigan has a full plate. He is considering a gambling tax to raise increased funds for education. He also wants to clean up the Department of Corrections, overhaul school funding and give more accountability to teachers, while

strengthening basic education.

Despite Madigan's congenial comments last week, many legislators predict gridlock unless the parties bend over backward to work together this time.

House Democrats will need 60 votes to pass any legislation.

State Rep. Rosemary Mulligan, R-Des Plaines, said: "It is hard to keep a caucus focused with 60 votes. I think it will be hard to move things forward."

"Absolute gridlock has been Michael Madigan's pattern," said Mike Cys, Lee Daniel's spokesman. "Madigan will hold out for the most he can get."

"It's going to be more difficult to accomplish what I wanted to do," said State Rep. Verna Clayton, R-Buffalo Grove. "When the Democrats were in charge (during Clayton's first term), I was able to get some bills passed and I'm hopeful I'll be able to do so again. I'm taking a wait-and-see attitude."

State Rep. Jeff Schoenberg, D-Evanston, said he hopes Democrats will not shut out Republicans this time, as has been the case in the last year for the Democrats.

"For the first time in memory, leaders from the minority party were not in-  
(Continued on page 14)



# WHEELING COUNTRYSIDE

November 14, 1996

**The Wheeling Countryside wants your news.**

Here's who to contact and how to get in touch with them.

Mail all correspondence to:  
Wheeling Countryside  
291 N. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL  
60004

To send your news by fax, call 797-5151.

To visit our online service on the Internet, go to <http://www.pioneerlocal.com>.

Be sure to include your name and telephone number on all correspondence.

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317-3590

• Food

Betty Nicolai  
486-7345

• Arts and entertainment news

Martin Bartels  
797-5102

• Community news tips, photos

David Kirkpatrick  
797-5100

• Letters to the editor

• Obituaries

Susan Parker  
797-5100

• Weddings and engagements

• Births

• Clubs, organizations, support groups

• School and campus news

• Religion news

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## WEEKLY DIGEST

### 'Wheeling: 2000' unveiled Saturday

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz will unveil the results of the yearlong "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement program from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16, at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and rolls served until the meeting begins. The public is invited to hear what suggestions have been put forward to make Wheeling a better place in which to live. Schultz expects the Village Board to begin implementing some of the suggestions after the new year.

### Village accepting credit cards

Wheeling will soon begin accepting Novus credit cards for payment of village debts, such as parking tickets and water bills.

Because Wheeling is one of the first municipalities in the state to accept credit card payments, Novus is providing all necessary equipment to the village free of charge.

Those paying by credit card would be charged a fee for the convenience, ranging from \$3 to \$25 based on the amount of the transaction. Novus issues Discover, Private Issue and Bravo cards.

### Police receive reaccreditation

The Wheeling Police Department received its five-year reaccreditation standing at the Nov. 4 Village Board meeting. Accreditation is a voluntary review that police departments request. Receiving the accreditation status means the department is upholding standards set by the Commission of Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"I personally believe it's tougher to get reaccredited than the initial accreditation," said Skokie Police Chief William Miller, who presented the certificate to Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger.

Miller is a member of the Commission of Law Enforcement Accreditation.

### Gingerbread houses wanted

Time is running out for local bakers who want to enter their gingerbread houses in the Long Grove Merchants Association's contest.

Entries can be dropped off at the Long Grove Information Center located adjacent to Fountain Square, just east of the village crossroads, through Nov. 15.

Judging, based on originality, neatness and general appearance, will be held Dec. 20, and the houses can be picked up between Dec. 21 and 23 to be used at home.

Cash prizes are \$200 for first place; \$100 for second; and \$50 for third. All entries must be handmade, edible and no larger than two feet in height, width and depth. Entrants must be 18 years or older. For information, phone (847) 634-0888.

### Local dancers in 'Nutcracker'

Eight ballet students from Dance Center Evanston have been chosen to dance in productions of "The Nutcracker" this holiday season.

**Kirby Carroll** of Glenview, **Emily Fields** of Evanston, and **Megan Fried** and **Jennifer Wedekind** of Northbrook will perform in the Joffrey Ballet's "Nutcracker."

**Kim Merwin** of Buffalo Grove and **Lauren Rust** of Long Grove will perform in the Schaumburg "Nutcracker."

**Kim Maciorowski** of Northbrook will dance in the Winnetka "Nutcracker," and **Tracy Lande** of Skokie will perform in Highwood's "Nutcracker."



# Village sniffs around for best deal

Nov. 15, 1996

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials think Waste Management-Northwest does a fine job of collecting the village's trash.

But they want to see just how good of a deal the village is getting.

The village this week is accepting proposals from waste haulers for a new garbage-collection contract.

Waste Management for the past three years has had a contract to serve Wheeling. But officials want

to open the new contract to other companies to ensure that the village gets the best service possible.

"Their record is great, but I want to make sure they are the best buy," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "I look at it like a business ... you shop around, you look at the best product for the dollar."

The current contract with Waste Management was recently extended by two months — from Dec. 31 to Feb. 28 — to give officials time to review proposals for the new agreement, Village Manager Craig Anderson said. The proposals

must be submitted by today.

The village intends to have a new contract forged by the end of February, Anderson added.

During the review that may take until January, officials will consider the cost to homeowners, how often garbage will be collected, what items can be recycled, and other features of the service, Anderson said.

"If you have contracts ... you have to open them up and see if you are missing anything and see if you are getting the best deal," Anderson said.

Anderson added the village

receives few complaints about Waste Management.

Before getting the village's first waste-hauler contract, the company was hired by village homeowners for several years.

Trustee Jeanne Selander said Waste Management's good track record will be one of the factors taken into consideration when she casts her vote for the new contract.

But Selander says it is important the board see what other companies could do for the village.

"We'll see what the others have to offer," Selander added.

## Space war <sup>Proper Press</sup>

Wheeling/ This letter is in response to the letter from Gary Cohn, which appeared in the **Countryside** dated November 7, 1996.

This letter solicits financial support from members of the community for three members of SPACE who are being sued by Reaten Homes, the developer of Union Square in Wheeling.

I read this letter with disbelief. Your newspaper continues to provide way too much editorial space to issues regarding SPACE, despite the fact that the story and issues surrounding it are dead. I believe that I speak for many people who are tired and fed up with your biased coverage of this one single issue. Staff writer Cheri Bentrup must have other things to do besides cover this one story. This will surely not win her a Pulitzer Prize. Any time SPACE has anything going on, your paper covers it without giving opposing views. It prints every letter from SPACE organizers that it receives. The volley of letters in the past several weeks serves to underscore that all sides in this issue have resorted to name-calling and one-upmanship.

Our community has many things that need to be openly discussed and covered in your pages, including, but not limited to: raising school test scores; the renovation or complete rebuilding of the Chevy Chase Club House; lengthening of the runways at Palwaukee and potential

## LETTERS

upgrades to the facility now that Meigs has closed; redevelopment along both Dundee and Milwaukee Road corridors; economic and new business development; and planned residential development.

When the residents around Wolf and Mayer fought against a potential townhouse development, we brought our concerns to the village committees and the village board, just as SPACE did. At first, we were confronted by opposition from the developer, just as SPACE was. We were also confronted by village committees that wanted development at our expense, just as SPACE was. But we tried to work things out with the help of the village by sitting down with all of the parties involved. Even after the developer was advised to change their plans, we did not stop. We sought zoning changes that would have prevented a repeat of that very same proposal in the future.

Fellow residents, SPACE clearly has other objectives on the horizon. They no longer represent a neighborhood group looking to modify development in their area. They have become a political group and are acting as such by seeking candidates for next April's election. They want to keep their name in front of you every chance they get. Don't let them drag our village

back in time. As a community, we must move forward, or be left behind while other neighboring communities take the development that could have been ours. We've been here a lot longer than they have, and deserve a bigger share.

There are too many important issues that need to be resolved in our village. Your time, efforts and funds would be best spent on causes with results in which we can all take pride. I advise my neighbors to not support any funds being sought by SPACE. I also advise those three residents being sued by the developer to find another attorney and settle, before only the lawyers on both sides come out as winners. The legal efforts of SPACE to stop development has already cost you and I lots of taxpayer dollars.

Steven Appelbaum

## Wheeling 2000 plan outlines community's goals, direction

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Archways that span over Dundee Road to welcome people into Wheeling and a corridor of beautified and thriving businesses.

Residents who have better accepted and embraced their differences through community diversity fests and a campaign that encourages people to say "I'm sorry, but that's not right" when they hear someone say something bigoted.

And a town that has boosted its image in the eyes of people in the surrounding area and its residents.

These were just some of the future goals that were laid out to the community Saturday morning by "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond," a group of 100 officials, business and community leaders and residents.

The ideas were the fruits of more than a year of brainstorming on ways to improve for the future the community's schools, government, image, infrastructure, businesses and relations between residents.

But as the ideas were presented in the Chevy Chase Country Club Clubhouse to a crowd of about 150, the question was

raised of how they would become reality.

"I don't know how we get from here to there and it bothers me," said Gary Hittleman, a resident who worked on the project.

The project's steering committee will decide what agency — such as the village or a school district — should be responsible for considering and achieving the various ideas, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Community members, also, are encouraged to join committees that see that the goals are accomplished.

"It takes a village to improve a village," said Don Hammer, who also worked on the project.

Of the crowd, less than 40 were residents who didn't work on the project. But Schultz said the ideas will still be spread to residents by committee members, who represent all facets of the community.

However, resident Steven Appelbaum was disappointed by the turnout. Not only were there not enough residents there but the people who did show up are those who are always active in the community.

"They are preaching to the choir," he added. "It is important that all residents get (an idea) of where we are going."

## WEEKLY DIGEST

### Village offices to close

Wheeling village offices will close at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, and remain closed Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

### District 214 levy hearing tonight

Taxpayers in High School District 214 can expect to pay more property taxes to the district in 1997. The district has set its tentative levy — what it expects to collect in property taxes — at \$128.5 million, up 7.8 percent over last year's levy of \$119.2 million.

The tax rate is expected to be \$2.33 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation, up about 9 percent over this year's rate of 2.131. The tax rate dropped 5.6 percent decrease from 1995 to 1996.

A hearing on the levy is scheduled at 8 p.m. Thursday (today) at Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebert Road, Arlington Heights.

### Car wash collecting food donations

America's Car Wash, located on Milwaukee Avenue between Dundee and Lake-Cook roads in Wheeling, is collecting nonperishable food items through Nov. 25.

All food items will be donated to the Wheeling Food Pantry at the Wheeling Township Office. The car wash will be donating turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners.

Items in particular need are pasta, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, rice and beans. For information, call the car wash at (847) 459-9799.

### Tonight is Family Reading Night

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz has declared Nov. 21 as Family Reading Night in the village.

The evening is set aside for families to turn off their televisions and spend time reading together. The purpose of the local proclamation is to improve the quality of life in the northwest suburbs by raising the level of literacy in the community and to encourage reading.

# Flood becomes learning tool for students

11-15-96

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For a couple of days last May, the heavens opened up and poured rains of near biblical proportions which flooded several Northwest suburbs.

The flooding caused millions of dollars in damage and countless heartaches among its victims in towns along the path of the Des Plaines River, including Des Plaines, Libertyville and Wheeling.

Holmes Middle School in Wheeling became the focal point of national attention as television news showed knee-high flood waters surrounding the building and making it impossible for children to attend classes.

However, if there was a silver lining arising from those dark days, Holmes students found it.

Teachers at the school are now using the flood as the basis of their "problem-based learning" unit where students use math, English and other academic disciplines as they try to find a solution to a community issue.

"We're teaching group work, interview skills, note taking, writing thank-you letters, what a good handshake is," Julia Rosinski, a sixth-grade teacher at the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school, said.

During the seven-week study, the students have interviewed emergency officials, visited water treatment facilities, the nearby reservoir that overflowed its banks last spring and read news stories about the flooding.

The 114 sixth-grade students are divided into different groups studying the roles of government, the school, business and the environment related to the late May flood.

"I like that we're trying to find out what happened with the flood and how it affected the school," Raquel Naranjo said. The 11-year-old sixth-grade student witnessed flooding first-hand near her home.

The teachers say they like the unit because there are no right or wrong answers available for the students and it encourages independent thinking among them.

"Some leaders have emerged (among students) that aren't normally leaders because they're forced to be because their teachers don't have all the answers. It's been interesting to see," Stacy Anderson, a Holmes sixth-grade teacher, said. District 21 officials encouraged



George Lang watches from his Wheeling home as flood waters enter his yard from Wolf Road last May. Holmes Middle School students studied the flooding for their problem-based learning unit.

Daily Herald Photos/Bill Zars

use of problem-based learning in its 12 schools covering parts of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

They have said it is a part of the school system's mission to prepare its students for the global marketplace and the real world.

While the flood is still fresh in the minds of many at Holmes, using a community issue as the focus of a classroom project isn't new in the school system.

Previously, students at Tarkington Elementary School in Wheeling took on planning for the village's redevelopment district at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

That area has been earmarked by Wheeling officials for redevelopment funds. Students' recommendations for the district ranged from placing playgrounds, video arcades and even riverboat gambling there.

In the Holmes project, students will assemble a multi-media presentation for public officials and a brochure for the community on what residents can do in the event of a flood.

"I've gotten a lot of ideas about



Wheeling Fire Department Lt. Dick Wydra talks to sixth-grade students at Holmes Middle School about last May's flooding. The students are learning about the flood as a part of a seven-week study where they suggest solutions to the problem.

the (emergency evacuation) plan. I've learned about the command and flood plans," Ryan Clark, 10, a Holmes sixth-grade student, said. "The plan is a very good plan, it

worked for this one. But it might not work if they had a bigger flood," Clark said, recommending that

See FLOOD on Page 2

## FLOOD: Students can offer suggestions on how to handle disaster

Continued from Page 1

uate their homes.

Clark developed his idea after hearing from emergency officials the students interviewed that some people decided to remain in their houses during evacuation efforts at the height of the flooding.

During a visit to Holmes by

Wheeling Fire Department Lt./Paramedic Dick Wydra, students asked him questions that homeowners may have had. The questions included how fires start during floods and why the fire department won't bail out residents' basements.

Wydra told the students that during the review of the flood response

by police, fire and village officials they pinpointed the communications between the emergency command and emergency crews in the field for improvement.

The students said one of the most challenging, yet enjoyable, aspects of the project for them was to schedule appointments to interview authorities such as Wydra to

gather information about the flood.

"I like talking to people we've never met before," 11-year-old Cori Adkins said.

"It's really fun to find out the things that happened. We weren't here last (school) year. We heard a lot about it, but we really didn't learn about it," she said.

# Family blasts runway expansion plan

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

11-21-96  
Countryside

Survivors of flight attendant Catherine Mio Anderson, who was killed Oct. 30 in the fatal jet crash at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, are gearing up for battle against a proposal to extend the airport's main runway.

The flight attendant's widower and sister-in-law pleaded with Wheeling trustees Monday night to scuttle the idea before there is a repeat of last month's tragedy.

"We will do anything humanly possible to make sure no one else endures this pain," said Kristine Anderson Shirley of Wheeling, Anderson's sister-in-law.

Officials of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the local airport, are debating whether

to add 400 feet of pavement on the runway's north end and re-stripe the south end to provide a 280-foot safety buffer. Airport officials have said the available length of the runway would remain 5,001 feet.

Shirley said her family is forming a Citizens Airport Safety & Environmental group to closely watch proposed development at Palwaukee.

"We will work against longer runways. We will work against larger planes," Shirley said. "Over the years we have witnessed the erosion of safety regulations at the airport."

Shirley and others present at the meeting told trustees they fear a longer runway will allow heavier and larger planes to use Palwaukee, posing even more of a danger to nearby residents. The Gulfstream IV jet that crashed on takeoff Oct. 30, killing all four aboard, landed just 20 to 30 feet

from the Foxboro Apartment complex. "The cost of even one life is to high a price to pay," Shirley said.

Anderson's husband, Craig, also addressed trustees.

"I am shocked, appalled and very offended that your board four days after the accident, he said. "I am here to plead with you not to let this extension go through. It's dangerous."

The Anderson family said they approached the Prospect Heights City Council earlier in the evening with the same concerns.

Similar complaints were lodged by residents of the Plum Creek Condominiums during an Airport Commission meeting last week. Commissioners suggested they take their concerns to the municipal-

(Continued on page 15)

## Runway Continued from page 5

palities, which will have the final say in whether the main runway is extended.

"It's an insult to our intelligence to tell us it's (for) safety reasons," Dolores Jacobson, president of the condominium association, told members of the commission. "We strongly

object to this proposal and ask all concerned to reconsider and abort this project planning."

If the municipalities agree to extend the runway, Jacobson said, the condominium association would request an environmental impact study.

"We will fight this matter to the highest level," Jacobson said.

When the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads was redesigned and moved farther away from the runway, residents said they were told the runway would not be extended.

## Run, George, Run

11-21-96  
Countryside  
Wheeling/ Wheeling never sleeps. From the tragic airplane crash to Monday night village board meetings, where everything that can effect Wheeling is discussed by the Village Board of trustees. President Sheila Schultz keeps the agenda "hopping."

The 93rd precinct in Wheeling has as its polling place the village hall. I, Steven Telow, am the Wheeling Township Republican Org. 93 precinct captain. It is also the precinct in which George Hernandez is my friendly Democratic precinct captain opponent. It is the one precinct in which we promised each other that no campaign signs would be posted or passed out on Election Day.

It was from this precinct that George Hernandez ran as the first Hispanic to campaign for commissioner of the Wheeling Park District (1995). The 93rd precinct is heavily Hispanic and usually votes Democratic.

I told George to run for Wheeling trustee (1997) and he could gain an easy 500+ votes from the Hispanic citizens. He garnered 500+ votes as a candidate for the Park Board.

So what does the brilliant politician that Pres. Sheila Schultz is do? She appoints him to the zoning board (a nondescript title).

Why is this brilliant? Well, it neutralizes George as an independent candidate for trustee. If he runs independent and criticizes the Schultz administration, Schultz can say, "You're a member of the zoning board of appeals." He's also outnumbered 5 to 1 by the other 5 Schultz appointees. A gain of nothing.

My advice to George is to run as an independent trustee as you originally wanted to. You can be more effective as a trustee for the office of Wheeling trustee for the Hispanics. Don't be harassed. "Run, George, Run!"

Steven Telow

## Another response

Wheeling/ In response to Steven Applebaum's letter stating that the Countryside is biased toward SPACE, I must say poppycock!

The new editor wrote an article several months ago that told SPACE to stop its fight to save the 100-year-old trees and one additional acre. Anyone who writes to the Countryside has an equal

## LETTERS

chance to get published. The real reason that there have been so few letters in opposition to SPACE is because most Wheeling residents were opposed to the village buying "park land" (per original Comprehensive Plan), and selling it at a \$310,000 loss for a non-public project.

To correct you, Steven, SPACE is not anti-development, we are for balance and economically-wise development.

I continue to get letters and e-mails from stunned residents who wanted the village to put the Realen homes project on the Milwaukee and Dundee property that the village foolishly grabbed from three profitable businesses and has sat vacant for many years. Residents are outraged that we are pumping taxpayer money into private developments.

I have only lived here for 14 years, but I have invested thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of my time to keep Wheeling beautiful and economically healthy. As a Wheeling 2000 member, I have given the village my input as to how Wheeling can prosper in the future.

I continue to provide Wheeling.com as a free forum for businesses and residents to speak their minds and promote their businesses. I make no money from Wheeling's home page, and all are welcome to have free hyperlinks . . . just ask me.

I am here to serve Wheeling, and I am available at (847) 272-7737, or Email SPACE@Wheeling.com.

Gary W. Cohn,  
President,  
Wheeling.com



## Nasty Nitro

11-21-96  
Countryside  
Wheeling police officer Randy Olsberg and his "partner," Nitro, demonstrate the police dog's training with the help of volunteer

tim Jim Rostron of Lindenhurst during a Citizens Police Academy class last week at the Wheeling Recreation Center.

Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

# Town house project gets rolling

*CountrySide 11-21-96*

The controversy surrounding a townhouse development on Milwaukee Avenue certainly hasn't affected interest in the project. Builders say several people have already expressed interest in living there.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Construction is under way on the controversial Union Square townhouse development on South Milwaukee Avenue, and already eight units are spoken for.

Realen Homes of Inverness is building 40 townhouses on nearly six acres of land located within the village tax increment finance district at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave.

For now, construction crews are working on the first building, which will be used as a model to show potential buyers the four styles of units that will be available at Union Square.

If the weather cooperates, Andy Kiener, director of sales and marketing for Realen, expects that model to be open in late February. The first homeowners could move in as early as March, he said.

Kiener expects sales to be



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

Construction is under way on the Union Square town house development on South Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling. After more than a year of studying the townhouse development, the village approved the proposal in September.

brisk, because the development is close to transportation options, both the Tri-State Tollway and the North Central Metra train line. It is also surrounded by Wheeling's "Restaurant Row" and is only a short walk from a Cook County Forest Preserve.

Kiener expects the development to attract potential buyers from as far away as Chicago.

"I think some people who are living in the city in apartments and condominiums are saying maybe the quality of life in the suburbs is better,"

he said.

Kiener said the eight potential buyers already showing interest represent a variety of people, including young couples.

"The appeal of a townhome is there to a young couple, maintenance-free community

living," he added.

Realen is relieved to have the project under way. The company received final approval from the Village Board in September after trustees and local residents debated the project for more than a year.

Residents were concerned the townhouses would increase traffic, destroy open space, create drainage problems and jeopardize the safety of their children at Whitman School, 133 S. Wille Ave.

"I think the project will be really nice. I know not everyone feels that way," Kiener said of the townhouses.

Realen has a \$3 million lawsuit pending against three residents who were vocal in opposing the townhouse project, saying the residents have filed lawsuits against the village to maliciously harass the developer and halt the project.

"We're looking forward to bringing that area back. It looks like Wheeling is headed in the right direction and we're happy to be a part of it," Kiener said. "We feel we're taking a piece of property and beautifying it."

The townhouses will range in size from 1,327 square feet to 1,938 square feet and sell for a base price of \$140,000 to \$200,000. Options, such as basements, would cost extra.



*CountrySide 11-21-96*

**TRY IT ON**  
Firefighter/paramedic Emmett Gribbens helps Ryan Kroeckel fit into some fire gear during a visit to the Wheeling Fire Department by the newly formed Moms Club.

# '2000 and Beyond'

## Vast plan revealed; will village meet challenge?

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
With balloons hovering above each table, the ballroom of Chevy Chase Clubhouse was decorated for a celebration of sorts as Wheeling residents met Saturday to hear what suggestions would improve the quality of life in the village.

For the last year, residents have been meeting in focus groups to brainstorm recommendations that would make Wheeling a better place in which to live.

The project, called "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond," was facilitated by The Denniston Group of Naperville, which the village hired for a minimum of \$22,000.

The committees, which collectively have donated over 4,000 hours to the project, focused on community services, economic development in both the large corporation and retail-commercial arenas, community diversity/integration, education, government, image/public relations and infrastructure.

### Day of pride

"We at the village are really proud to have initiated and started this project," Village President Sheila Schultz told about 150 residents gathered at Chevy Chase. "The village is in a good position now to move forward with the recommendations."

Before the year ends, Schultz said, the executive committee, consisting of all committee chairmen and her hand-picked steering committee which represents the various entities in the village, will review the recommendations and distribute them to appropriate agencies. After the new year, implementation committees will form to ensure that the recommendations are not ignored and will go into effect, if feasible.

A full report on the recommendations of "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" will be available for residents to view later this year at Village Hall and Indian Trails Library. A highlight of some of the committees' suggestions announced Saturday include:

■ **Infrastructure:** Encourage bicycle and pedestrian trails in the village; request that government agencies coordinate efforts and share information on properties they manage; enhance aesthetics of buildings and future developments.

■ **Community service:** Expand the Pavilion Senior Cen-

ter; open a teen recreation center; increase affordable child care for residents; and establish an ombudsmen of government information.

■ **Economic development (retail/commercial):** Build a hotel/convention center near Palwaukee Airport and a hotel/banquet facility on Lake-Cook Road north of Wal-Mart; create a well-defined attraction and retention strategy; and review requirements for businesses operating in the village, including fee structures.

■ **Government:** Refine existing zoning codes; adopt a zero-tolerance policy pertaining to guns, gangs and graffiti; change format of Village Board meetings to maximize interest; and improve accessibility and dissemination of information to residents.

**'I've gotten a greater sense of the priorities of the community. I think this is a threshold we're crossing.'**

### Village President Sheila Schultz

■ **Education:** Develop business-community education partnerships that encourage lifelong learning; and create a community education commission to focus on lifelong learning.

■ **Community diversity/integration:** Create a campaign to discourage bigoted remarks; create a community folk festival where diversity is celebrated; start a "meet your neighbors" program where residents can meet in a social setting.

■ **Economic development (large corporations):** Establish an independent economic development group that serves as a partnership between government and business and involve representatives of this group in business, government and community affairs.

■ **Image/public relations:** Create a slogan for Wheeling; hold biannual town meetings; erect a band shell next to Village Hall for summer events; host major celebrations that will attract regional residents; hire a public information officer for the village; create a town center next to the Metra station; improve relationship between businesses and the village; improve the appear-

(Continued on page 12)

## Plan *Continued from page 10*

ances of buildings along village's thoroughfares; and remodel Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

"There are several things that have been done and many things are already in progress," Schultz of the recommendations. "It's a validation of some previous conversations."

Schultz said many of the recommendations are not new ideas, but the report will help the village determine what is most important to residents.

"I've gotten a greater sense of the priorities of the community," Schultz said. "I think

this is a threshold we're crossing."

Schultz noted there is no time line for implementation and some of the recommendations may be impossible to implement due to financial constraints.

"The commuter line took many years and it was well worth the perseverance," Schultz said. "The key of this to me is having people understand that what they say does make a difference."

Though the majority of those in the audience had served on committees or were associated with the village, business or other local governments, Schultz said she was pleased with the turnout. At least a quarter of those present were residents who had not been previously involved, Schultz estimated.

"You have to consider the large representative you already have" on the various committees, Schultz said. "I think as it gets going more will be included. We're really looking forward to the next step."

Just as Schultz was excited the plan is entering its implementation stage, so were the various committee chairmen who presented their recommendations.

"We have so much to be proud of we should be standing up and shouting," said Avi Poster, principal of Tarkington Elementary School and chairman of the image/public relations committee. "We have a wonderfully active Park District, a wonderful library system, our schools are great, we have Restaurant Row and the airport."

"We had a good time last year working on this plan, and I think we'll have a better time implementing it," said Christine Dolgopol of the steering committee. "There is a lot, as private citizens, we can begin doing. We can all spruce up our properties, make sure our streets and roads are clean."

Those who want to volunteer to serve on an implementation committee can call Village Hall at (847) 459-2600.

## Wheeling homeowners likely to see tax increase

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

*11-23-96*  
Wheeling residents in next year's tax bills are expected to feel the effect of losing a contract to provide fire protection to unincorporated areas.

The village is projecting that it will need to collect \$5,609,407 from property owners to pay for operating expenses and debt. This is a 5.76 percent increase from last year's \$5,304,061.

The tax rate is expected to increase by 4.7 percent — from .802 to .840 for each \$100 of assessed property valuation. Using the most current tax formula, the owner of a \$200,000 home would expect to pay \$533 compared to last year's \$509.

One reason for the projected increase is that the village this year lost about \$400,000 in contracts from the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

"It hurts," Anderson said. Between June 1995 and April 1996, the Wheeling Township district made several changes in how its area is covered. Wheeling in this time went from serving most of the 10,000-home district to about 5 percent. The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District now serves about 90 percent of the district.

Aside from this loss in revenue, the amount expected to be collected by taxpayers also may be hiked because of increased expenses, Anderson said.

The fact that the village hired additional employees this year is also expected to increase the amount of taxes needed, he said.

The three fire officials, two police officers and an administrative employee will cost approximately \$200,000 annually, Anderson said.

The village will hold a public hearing on the proposed tax levy at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said.

# Mayoral campaigns gearing up

By Jean Latz Griffin  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The leadership of several large northwest suburbs will be on the line over the next few months as the terms of more than a dozen village presidents and mayors expire in the spring.

The major issues cited by those who have decided to seek another term in the April 1 elec-

tion are economic development, funding for road repairs and new public buildings and a growing need for human services, including programs to combat drug abuse and to help troubled children.

Top elective posts will be filled in Arlington Heights, Barrington, Barrington Hills, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates,

Mt. Prospect, Palatine, Park Ridge, Rosemont, South Barrington, Streamwood and Wheeling.

"Am I running again? Of course I am," said Mayor Rita Mullins of Palatine, who is completing her second term. "I've got petitions out on the street. I've been so busy, I just haven't had time to do a formal announcement."

Elections in Palatine will be non-partisan for the first time. Residents recently voted to drop the long-time practice, rare among suburbs, of having candidates run as members of a political party.

"We are working on getting a new train station and condominiums in the downtown area," Mullins said. "I have just been appointed to the drug task

force of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, so I will be looking at ways to deal with drug use. We are also exploring tighter licensing of tobacco vendors."

In neighboring Hoffman Estates, Mayor Michael O'Malley said he will seek a third term to continue to bring economic growth to the village and to seek new opportunities

SEE MAYORS, PAGE 8

## Expansion a dangerous step for airport, village

By DOLores JACOBSON

*Countryside*  
Please be advised that I am the president of Plum Creek Condominium Association located near the intersection of Wolf Road and Hintz Road in Wheeling. As you probably are aware, there was a tragic air crash on October 30, resulting in the death of four individuals. What you are unaware of is the fact that this letter was in process of being composed prior to that tragic occurrence.

### GUEST ESSAY

Plum Creek Condominium Association is located to the north and east of the accident site. Recently, there has been a push by the village of Wheeling and village of Prospect Heights to extend the runway at the Palwaukee Airport so that larger planes would be permitted to land. The citizens of Plum Creek wish to let you know that they are absolutely opposed to this runway expansion for the following reasons:

- The expansion will mean larger airplanes.
- The expansion will mean more frequent landings and takeoffs.
- The expansion will create more noise pollution and air pollution.
- The expansion will endanger the schools in the area.
- The expansion will endanger those using the nearby parks.
- The expansion will endanger the mid-rise and low-rise residential buildings in the area.

Although some cynics may say that the residents who reside in the surrounding areas

11-21-96  
knew or should have known of the existence of the airport before their residency, nevertheless, representations were made that the airport was utilized by small aircraft. With the expansion of the runway, international flights and larger aircraft will be possible. This is a significant difference from the utilization of the airport as represented by public officials and developers.

The residents of Plum Creek Condominium Association recognize that the village of Wheeling and village of Prospect Heights are looking for ways to increase revenues to pay for the many services they provide. However, the question must be asked, at what cost to human life and living conditions?

As we all know, one of the main campaign issues of the 1996 presidential election was one of credibility of government officials. Years ago when the relocation of Wolf Road was promoted, representations were made by the local officials of both the village of Wheeling and village of Prospect Heights that no further expansion would be done. Obviously, those representations have been forgotten. If citizens are to have faith in their public officials, public officials must make good on their promises.

In conclusion, not only is the expansion of the runway at Palwaukee Airport a dangerous step, it is one more indication of the practice of public officials not to honor their word. Although the safety factor is a major issue here, the effect of loss of confidence in public officials to honor their words is an equally important issue. Please see that this attempt to expand the runway at Palwaukee Airport is stopped once and for all.

## Mayors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for residents. The equalized assessed valuation of Hoffman Estates increased to \$731 million in 1994 from \$309 million in 1985, O'Malley said. "A lot of that is due to commercial development that went in at Prairie Stone (the location of the Sears headquarters). "I am very proud of that, but I am also proud of the Children's Advocacy Center that is located here. That helps a lot of people." The center is an agency that interviews children who are suspected victims of abuse or neglect to help police decide whether to take the case to court.

O'Malley said he has started negotiations with officials of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb to expand their Hoffman Estates campus to include junior- and senior-year undergraduate courses. Currently, only graduate programs are offered there.

Park Ridge Mayor Ron Wietecha plans to announce officially on Sunday that he will run for one last term as mayor so he can continue to work on redevelopment issues and to fight noise and runway expansion at O'Hare International Airport.

"We've been very close for the last three years," said Wietecha, who is vice chairman of the Suburban O'Hare Commission. "... I'm hoping that in one more term, we can at least get some meaningful agreement."

Wietecha was first elected to replace Martin Butler in 1991 and was elected to his first, full term two years later. He said he would make a second full term his last because he favors voluntary term limits.

Des Plaines Mayor Ted Sherwood, who led the pack when he announced in July he would run again, cited downtown development as one of his major accomplishments. Richard Ornberg, a 25-veteran of the city's Fire Department, has said he will oppose Sherwood.

In Elk Grove Village, Dennis Galitano announced this month that he will not seek re-election. Elk Grove Village Trustees Paul Rettberg, Craig Johnson and William Grunzynski have announced their intention to run for the office.

In Hanover Park, Sonya Crawshaw has said she will step down after 12 years as village president and 12 years as village clerk.

Arlington Heights Village President Arlene Mulder, who has faced challenges ranging from the future of Arlington International Racecourse to an attempt by an abortion clinic to locate in the village, has said she will seek a second term to continue her efforts to broaden the town's tax base by attracting businesses.

In neighboring Mt. Prospect, Village President Gerald "Skip" Farley said this week he would seek a third term. Farley pointed to flood control projects and a revitalization of the downtown as two of his major accomplishments.

In Streamwood, Billie D. Roth will seek a third term.

"My campaign promise in 1989 was not to mortgage the future of Streamwood, and by strict fiscal planning, we will be debt-free by 2003," Roth said. "We are now doing a marketing study of the 300 parcels we have left in the village as part of our economic development plans."

Don Stephens, the only mayor Rosemont has had since it was incorporated in 1958, said he also plans to run again. He has built a convention empire in the town and has expressed a strong interest in getting a license for a riverboat gambling casino.

A handful of mayors are still considering whether to seek another term.

In Barrington, Ronald Hamelberg said he would make a decision on whether to run for a second term within the next two weeks.

One of the longest-serving northwest suburban mayors, Sheila Schultz of Wheeling, said she had not yet made up her mind on whether to run for a fifth term. She was elected to the Village Board in 1979 and became mayor in 1981.

Barrington Hills Village President James Kempe also said he has not made his final decision.

Warren Fuller's term as village president of South Barrington is also up, but he could not be reached for comment about his intentions.

Tribune reporter Stephen Lee contributed to this article.

# Panel: Wheeling's image needs boost

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

How residents and outsiders perceive the community is seen as one of the areas in which Wheeling should focus to improve itself for the future.

Several of the ideas generated by the "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" project focused on how the village can improve its image.

The proposals that are now being considered by the community included promotional campaigns for the village and its businesses, beautification projects along major thor-

oughfares, and teaching Wheeling history in local schools.

"The essence of our ... report is that we have a lot to be thankful (for)," said Avi Poster, a volunteer who worked on the project. "We have a lot. We should celebrate what we have."

The recommendations regarding the community's image accompanied those that focused on improving the village's government, schools, infrastructure, business and relations between residents. The ideas were the fruit of more than a year of brainstorming by 100 officials, business and community

leaders and residents.

Image was focused upon because the perception of some that Wheeling is not "up to snuff" with some other communities and other concerns were raised about the issue, said Diane Siles, a parent of a Wheeling High School student who worked on the project.

The project is proposing to boost the community's image by highlighting its qualities, such as its school system, restaurants along Milwaukee Avenue and park system.

"We don't pretend to be any other community," said Siles, who is also a public relations consultant hired by

the village. "We want to celebrate the things we have."

Some of the ideas also focus on promoting the village and its attributes to its residents, such as teaching Wheeling history in its schools and publishing directories of local businesses and professionals.

"Don't we all need reminders that the glass is half filled instead of half empty?" said Poster, who is also the principal of Booth Tarkington Elementary School.

The project's steering committee before the end of the year will decide which agency should be responsible for considering achieving the ideas.

Matt Giebelhausen, 9, recently was honored by Wheeling police officers Frank Lozano, left, and Brian Baird, right, at Tarkington Elementary School for turning in a wallet containing \$301.

Photo courtesy of Avi Poster



There are 301 reasons Matt Giebelhausen is a good kid.

The Wheeling 9-year-old slid down a piece of equipment at a playground near his home recently, kicking up some wood chips beneath his feet. The rustle turned up a wallet.

It contained \$301 and no identification.

Matt took the wallet to his parents, Hollis and Michael Giebelhausen, who let him decide what should be done with the surprise discovery.

"They said 'What should we do?' And I said, go to the police," Matt said.

Wheeling police made a big deal out of Matt's honesty. At Tarkington School where he's in the fourth grade, they gave him a T-shirt, a pin and a certificate for his honesty. They also told him that if no one claims the money in a year, it's his.

Given this news, one could forgive Matt for making plans. If he gets the money, he'll buy a new bike for himself and give \$100 to his grandparents.

Did he ever consider keeping the money for his own use and not telling anyone about it? "I'm in Cub Scouts. You have to be honest," he said.

## Palwaukee crash prompts concern over airport safety

airport officials claim, but as a beginning to allow larger corporate jets to use Palwaukee.

Officials have said the extension would accommodate new jets, which are heavier because they can pack more fuel and need more space to take off.

"We understand that we must live with the airport," said Shirley. "But airport officials must understand they have to live with the community."

Craig Anderson, Mio-Anderson's husband, noted that he was shocked and appalled that the airport commission approached the village board with the plan less than a week after the crash.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said that the discussion of the airport extension was on the agenda prior to the crash and that the board did not intend to make a decision then. Schultz said that the village is working continually to make Palwaukee "the safest airport it can possibly be."

Schultz was steadfast in her position that the board was carefully reviewing several options for the airport and said there were still many unanswered questions about the plan.

By SANDRA RUROEDE  
Daily Herald Correspondent

In the wake of the Oct. 30 plane crash at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, a citizens group led by a victim's family members is pushing Prospect Heights and Wheeling to make the airport safer.

Citizens Airport Safety and Environmental Group spokeswoman Kristine Anderson-Shirley, whose sister-in-law died in the crash, addressed Wheeling trustees recently over fears about the airport.

Catherine Mio-Anderson, 33, was one of four people who died when the Gulfstream IV crashed just north of the airport after takeoff.

The group is opposed to any extension of the airport and allowing heavier corporate jets to utilize the field. In particular, it opposes a proposal that would see 400 feet added to the airport's main runway. Officials from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights — the airport's owners — are reviewing the proposal.

The group fears that the extension will not serve as a safety area in which troubled planes coast, as if a flight is aborted, as

## WEEKLY DIGEST

### Five firefighters promoted

Five firefighters were promoted Nov. 18 as the Wheeling Fire Department celebrated its 100th anniversary with a short reception during the Village Board meeting.

Daniel Dieter, Richard Theobald and Charles Gallant were promoted to battalion chiefs. James Callanan and Robert Leipzig were promoted to lieutenant/paramedics.

"This is a wonderful, special occasion for these men. The professionalism showed in the recent (Palwaukee crash) incident reflected glory on everyone.

"It was a tragedy handled well by everyone. I heard people in Wheeling say they felt an extra degree of safety when they saw the response to that tragedy," said Village President Sheila Schultz.

### Santa coming to Lollipop Lane

Once again, Santa and Mrs. Claus are headed to Wheeling for a week-long stay at Lollipop Lane in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road.

A Santa parade will begin at 1:40 p.m. Dec. 7 at Dundee and Elmhurst roads, head east on Dundee and north on Wolf, taking Santa to Chamber Park.

The event, sponsored by the Wheeling Historical Society and the Wheeling Park District, is free.

Children can visit Santa from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sundays and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. weekdays, Dec. 7 through Dec. 15. Parents are invited to bring their own cameras and videocameras to record the visit with Santa, and visitors may stay as long as they wish.

A cookie sale during Santa's hours benefits the Wheeling Historical Society, a group of local volunteers. For information, call the Wheeling Park District at (847) 465-3333.

### Village thanks bank

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger and Village President Sheila Schultz thanked Cole Taylor Bank of Wheeling for sponsoring police officer Michael Kirby's DARE cards.

The cards, similar to baseball cards with the officer's picture on front and a message on back, will be distributed to students as part of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

# Night Landings

## Palwaukee Airport Has No Air Traffic Controllers

Journal of Legal 11-28-96

By JO NELLE ROBINSON

Words spoken at the Prospect Hills, Nov. 18 city council meeting were almost an eerie premonition — although the airport catastrophe they foretold occurred in downstate Quincy rather than at Palwaukee Airport.

The airport is owned jointly by Prospect Hills and the Village of Wheeling.

At that city council meeting, Plum Creek resident Marvin Tegrin said flights land at Palwaukee Airport after the control tower closes down from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"You've got planes coming in there at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning," Tegrin said. "It's a wonder they don't run into each other out there in the middle of the night."

Less than 24 hours later, that's evidently just what occurred at the downstate Quincy airport, although the tragic accident took place during the daylight hours. The Quincy airport has no control tower. A landing commuter jet collided with a smaller plane which was taking off leaving 14 persons dead.

Dennis Rouleau, assistant manager of operations and main-

tenance at Palwaukee Airport told the Journal & Topics Newspapers that one or two planes land nightly without anyone in the control tower.

"It does happen. It's not heavy traffic. We don't keep official polls on it," he said.

The control towers are operated by Federal Aviation Administration personnel. The airport does have personnel on the ground 24-hours-a-day.

In the wake of the Oct. 30 crash of a Gulfstream IV jet at Palwaukee Airport resulting in four deaths, residents had packed the city council meeting to protest expansion of the airport.

While not on the official agenda for consideration, the recent request by the airport for the addition of a 400 foot "safety stop-way" to the main runway at Palwaukee has many nearby residents fearing for their safety.

Denise Krase, PTO President at Frost Elementary School, 1805 Aspen Dr., Mt. Prospect, urged the council to oppose any expansion at the airport.

"There are over 1,500 children between Frost and Holmes Junior High (Wheeling) near the airport. I hesitate to even consider what might happen if a plane came into

one of these buildings," she said. "I work on the playground at Frost and we don't want more noise and pollution. We don't want larger planes or more frequent flights. Please oppose any expansion which would result in just those things happening." Krase continued.

A large contingent of Plum Creek residents joined Tegrin at the city council meeting. Spokesman Lowell Stolerow said they were united in fighting any expansion at the airport.

"Be forewarned, we will join with our neighbors to demand a new environmental study and we will vigorously pursue all avenues to abort this folly," Stolerow said.

A member of an earlier watchdog group — the Citizens Airport Activity Group (CAAG) — Stolerow said elected officials should have listened to that group's reports and taken action to avoid the current problems.

"Where was everybody when CAAG was suggesting that Glenview Naval Station — with its 12,000 foot runway — should serve as the main reliever of O'Hare and not Palwaukee? Now it's too late. The Naval station is a housing project," Stolerow said.

He urged the city council to consider the safety of the com-

## Village tax requests increase

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

general fund this year, showing a 10 percent increase over 1995.

Wheeling Village officials say new debt service and additional strains on the village's general fund are expected to keep the local property tax levy on the rise for years to come.

Trustees recently approved a \$6.4 million levy for 1996, and scheduled a public hearing on the levy for Dec. 16, prior to the regular Village Board meeting at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. After abatements, the levy is expected to drop to \$5.6 million, representing a 5.76 percent increase over the 1995 tax revenue collection.

The general fund, the largest of the village's five funds, accounts for more than half of the total levy, said village finance Director Robert Fialkowski said. Trustees have budgeted \$3.1 million for the

As costs in the general fund rise, the village also is dealing with revenue lost by not receiving a contract for fire protection service from the Wheeling Rural Fire Department, he said. However, the village has enacted a home-rule sales tax and a telecommunications tax that will generate additional revenue for the general fund, he said.

"This is the most important of our funds and provides funding for most of our operations in the village," he said. The general fund provides revenue for fire and police services, administrative services of the Village Board, finance and community development departments and maintenance costs.

The village's other four funds showed smaller in-

creases, the least being 2.8 percent for the road and bridge fund levied at \$792,659.

Though the village's contribution to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund continues to decrease, the budget amount continues to rise.

"Our actual percentage contribution from the employer, the village, has been going down every year but that is offset in (increasing) salaries and an increase in personnel," Fialkowski said.

The village will levy \$690,163 for the IMRF fund.

The net levy to pay off village debts, \$790,000 after abatement, represents a 3.6 percent increase over last year, Fialkowski said. The village will contribute \$201,207 to the police pension fund, while the fire pension fund is 166 percent funded due to investment revenues, Fialkowski said.

## Property's zoning prompts concern over school, homes

12-2-96

By DWAYNE T. WONG  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With Target no longer aiming at land on Wheeling's north side, concern is building that elementary schools could become more overcrowded if homes are erected there.

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 officials say they are concerned about the possibility of a residential development being built on the Horcher Farm property on the south side of McHenry Road and east of Weiland Road.

"If Horcher farm goes residential, we wish you well," District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie told the school board.

Currently, the district has 7,052 students enrolled in its 12 schools. The district's enrollment is expected to increase to 7,211 next year.

Last month, Wheeling officials said Chicago-based Centrum Properties Inc. ended plans to build a Target store on 15 acres of the parcel for unspecified reasons.

Over the next few years, the district expects 75 children from the 361-unit Concord Development Co. housing

development now being built south of Palatine Road and west of the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village hasn't yet received any new proposals for the property.

"There's no active proposal before us at this time," he said. Anderson also said the Horcher property retains its residential zoning designation and is targeted for housing on the village's comprehensive plan.

Uncertainty over the property's future had District 21 officials openly speculating about its fate.

"Would you not conclude from that what they (Wheeling officials) want to do there is residential?" District 21 board President Arlen S. Gould asked Assessment Director Robert F. Gerry.

Gerry said he believed Wheeling officials still want a commercial development at the Horcher Farm to expand the village's tax base.

Gerry also said they'll discuss the Horcher Farm issue further with Wheeling officials when a developer makes a formal development proposal for it.

## Election petitions available

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

In just four months, local residents will be heading to the polls to elect their municipal and park leaders.

Already, nominating petitions have been picked up at the Wheeling Village Hall and Recreation Center, but very few residents have formally announced their candidacies in the April 1, 1997, election.

Prospective candidates in the Wheeling Park Board election can pick up their nominating petitions at the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road. Four residents will be elected to four-year terms on the Park Board.

There is no deadline when petitions must be picked up, but petitions with at least 53 residents' signatures and a statement of candidacy must be filed at the Recreation Center between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 13 to Jan. 21, Monday through Friday.

Five residents who have picked up petitions from the Recreation Center are Paul G. Philipp, 119 Berkshire; Kenneth Kent, 121 Palatine Drive; Tom Stoyas, 712 Lakes; and Mike Kurgan, 133 Berkshire; and

62 Mayer Ave. All four incumbents whose seats are up for re-election, Greg Klatecki, Fran Melamed, Tom Webber and Mark Parkinson, have been given nominating petitions in their regular board packets, but none has formally announced their intention to run for re-election.

For the upcoming village election, only resident Stuart Shapiro, 125 Meyerson Way, has picked up a nominating petition for trustee. Petitions can be picked up at Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Three trustee seats, as well as the position of village president and village clerk, are up in the April election.

Petitions can be filed during regular business hours at Village Hall from Jan. 13 to Jan. 21 with a minimum of 125 signatures, representing at least 5 percent of the 2,496 votes cast in the April 1995 municipal election. Signatures from 8 percent of the voters is the maximum allowed on nominating petitions.

Village Hall is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and will be open until 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, the last day to file. Also, statement of economic interests must be filed with the county clerk by Jan. 21.

## Mobile-home provisions considered

By Bonita Brodt  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The Village of Wheeling has opted not to enact a rent-control ordinance in response to mobile home owners who have complained bitterly about what they characterize as unfair rent increases for space in the Whippletree Village mobile home park.

Trustees are, however, considering a new village ordinance that would prohibit certain practices and offer residents certain protections. These, according to Village Atty. James A. Rhodes, include prohibiting mobile home park owners from requiring that homes be purchased from them and requiring that all land renters be provided with written documents that detail what is a part of the

rental agreement. After conducting a series of public hearings on problems between mobile home owners at Whippletree Village and the owner of the 413-unit park, Capital Development Corp., the village staff recommended against becoming the first community in Illinois to approve special rent-control legislation to protect mobile home owners.

Capital Development Corp., however, is not pleased with the proposed ordinance and its attorneys are now preparing written challenges.

Trustees on Dec. 16 are to vote on the proposed ordinance, as well as consider Capital Development's challenges.

Free-lance writer Patrick O'Toole contributed to this article.

community and not rely on data supplied by those standing to profit from the airport's expansion.

This might be the right time to re-examine the environmental and safety records of the airport," O'Donoghue said. "It could be the subject for the council to meet as a Committee of the Whole and listen to as many experts as possible."

# Runway opponents: many dislike expansion proposal

By **CHERI BENNETT**  
STAFF WRITER

Survivors of flight attendant Catherine Mio Anderson are looking for area residents to join them in their fight against lengthening the main runway at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Anderson and three others aboard a Gulfstream IV jet were killed when the plane crashed on takeoff from Palwaukee Oct. 30.

Just five days after the crash, the Wheeling Village Board was presented with a proposal to consider lengthening the runway by adding 400 feet of pavement on the north end and re-striping the south end to provide another 280 feet. The issue was on the meeting's agenda prior to the Oct. 30 crash, and trustees decided to discuss it rather than table the issue.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart has told village officials that the available runway space for pilots would not increase from its current 5,001 feet, but residents are concerned more pavement will translate into larger and heavier aircraft using the facility.

That's a charge denied by Stewart, who said the additional pavement would increase safety at Palwaukee. The maximum take-off weight for jets at Palwaukee is 77,000 pounds,

but three jets have been given permission by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the municipalities that own the airport, to exceed that limit.

Stewart said a user survey conducted in 1994 indicated that pilots would like to see a longer runway at Palwaukee. But a draft of the survey results states, "Respondents were more positive in their assessment of runway length with 56.1 percent of the respondents saying they are either satisfied or extremely satisfied with runway lengths."

Among areas of concern listed by pilots, including those based at Palwaukee and transient users, were cost of aircraft parking and storage; cost of aircraft maintenance, parts and services; fuel costs; hangar availability; capacity for additional based aircraft at Palwaukee; security of aircraft; condition of airport pavements; and availability of parallel taxiways.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said there are several factors that determine how much runway a plane needs for take off.

"Every plane needs different lengths of runway it can use depending on a number of factors — air temperature, plane configuration, weight, number of engines, dew point,"

(Continued on page 11)

## Runway *Continued from page 5*

the spokesman said. "There's no such thing as a runway used for one type of plane."

Meanwhile, the Anderson family has formed a Citizens Airport Safety & Environmental group, and expects to circulate petitions soon protesting the proposed extension.

"After the accident, we started talking with other residents, and people contacted us. We found out there (are) a lot of concerned people out there," said Leslie Anderson, of Prospect Heights, sister-in-law of Catherine Anderson.

The family has heard from residents who live near the airport and who are concerned about the possibility of future crashes. They have also been contacted by those who live in neighboring communities concerned about airport noise and pollution, Anderson said.

"We wanted to do something to prevent this tragedy from happening again," Anderson said. "We started talking with neighbors and neighbors of neighbors who have been concerned about this issue for years. When they did the reconstruction of Hintz and Wolf roads, they

swore up and down they wouldn't lengthen the runway."

In addition to the petition drive, the group plans to put its message on the Internet using the wheeling.com page created by a Wheeling resident. They also plan to work with an O'Hare Airport residents group, as many of the issues at the two airports dovetail, Anderson said.

"We're also going to get involved in the elections (for trustees) in April. There's a possibility someone from our group will run. If not, we plan on interviewing the candidates and then coming out in support or opposition to them," she said. "That appears to be the crux of this — the legislative side" of Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

"Unfortunately, people get complacent (until) some tragedy like this happens," Anderson said.

Already, the family has heard from hundreds of people voicing their opposition to the runway extension, Anderson said. Those wanting to join the residents' group can call Anderson at (847) 459-6570.

# Wheeling president says she'll run again

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

One of the big issues in Wheeling hasn't really changed much since the early 1970s for Sheila H. Schultz.

Schultz says the government isn't nearly as closed off now as it was then, when as a resident "activist" she objected to community members not being allowed to voice their opinions in board of trustees meetings.

But making the village more receptive to residents' views, is one of the areas which Schultz says she wants to further improve during another four years in the village president's office.

"We have a good foundation ... progress has been very steady," said Schultz. "(But) I want to run to see some things through to completion."

Schultz, one of the longest standing mayors in the Northwest suburbs, announced Monday that she will seek her fifth term in the April 1 municipal election.

Schultz will be challenged by Trustee Judy Abruscato, who thinks that more needs to be done to prepare the village for the future — primarily in the area of economic development.

"People are looking for a change," said Abruscato.

Though no one besides Schultz and Abruscato have announced that they are seeking the four-year term, people have until Jan. 21 to declare their candidacy.

Prior to first being elected village president in 1981, Schultz, 66, served for two years as a trustee.

"It does go way back," she added.

Schultz believes that the village has made some improvements in the years she has been involved in village government. But Schultz also says that there is more work that needs to be done.

For instance, Schultz since the late 1970s worked to establish what is now Metra's North Central Service commuter line, which began operation this summer.

But now that the train station has been built in Wheeling, Schultz says she would like to see more businesses built in the surrounding area.

"I'm going to talk about the good things that we have now," Schultz said. "(But) no one should vote for me because of what I did in the past, but what I will do in the future."

Preparing Wheeling for the future is one of the main goals Abruscato says she would have as village president.

"The biggest thing is changing ... the image by moving our town forward," said Abruscato, 62, who will finish her third term as trustee in April. Abruscato ran unsuccessfully for village president in 1992.

One area of the village Abruscato would want to see changed is economic development.

Abruscato thinks that the village has not done enough to attract



Sheila H. Schultz



Judy Abruscato

**Ten-year-old honored by police**  
Ten-year-old Matt Giebelhausen of Wheeling was recently honored for his honesty by the Wheeling Police Department's SPAN (Solving, Preventing and Analyzing Neighborhood Problems) Unit for turning in to police a wallet he found containing \$301. Police said the wallet contained no identification so Giebelhausen brought it to the Police Department.

## WHEELING *tribune 12-5-96* Suit for play area settled

The children of Whitman School will be the beneficiaries of an out-of-court settlement of a lawsuit brought by a Wheeling resident and two parents of Whitman pupils against the developer of a nearby town home development.

Realen Homes Developers Inc. of Inverness, which earlier this year received approval to build a 40-unit town home development on six acres of property near the District 21 school, has agreed to set up a \$12,000 escrow account to purchase new play equipment for use by area children.

"We thought it was important to get back to the real focus of our effort and that was the kids," said William C. Spangenberg, attorney for Mary Mozal, Gary Hittleman and Thomas Graf, the Wheeling residents who tried to stop the Union Square development, which encroaches on the school's play area. The agreement also resolved a second countersuit by Realen against the three plaintiffs.

Patrick O'Toole

## Wheeling's economy

businesses, especially retailers. "Economic development need to continually be addressed and move forward," Abruscato said. "The village needs to be the pursuer instead of the pursued."

Schultz acknowledged that economic development is an area in which the village needs to focus. But though she said the village retail base needs some improvement, it is not in a bad state.

Schultz added the issue is more broad than retail, and includes such areas as the village's industrial base, which she said is strong

# Former trustee decides to seek office again

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*Countryside*  
12-5-96  
Citing the proposed airport runway expansion and increased truck traffic on residential streets, Bill Rogers has announced his candidacy for Wheeling trustee in the April 1, 1997, municipal election.

Rogers, 70, served as a Wheeling trustee from 1980 to 1992 and has been a member of the Palwaukee Airport Commission for the last 10 years. He wants to return to the Village Board so he can address quality of life issues on behalf of village residents.

"In the last four or five years, I've

been very concerned about the quality of life in Wheeling," Rogers said. "We have pollution, flooding, the truck traffic is getting worse and the airport expansion has me concerned. The quality of life is going down and the taxes are going up. That's a contradiction. What are the residents getting for paying more?"

Going door to door to collect signatures on his nominating petitions, Rogers said many residents are voicing concerns about the proposal to lengthen the main runway at Palwaukee. Rogers does not want longer runways at Palwaukee or larger jets using the airport. Instead, those jets should be routed to O'Hare.

"It violates a trust we placed in the intergovernmental agreement when we purchased the airport (with Prospect Heights) that we would not expand the runway," Rogers said.

Rogers, who lives at 146 S. Wolf Road, also is concerned about increasing truck traffic on Wolf Road between Hintz and Dundee roads. The village should be working on a plan to take over maintenance of Wolf Road from the state and restrict the weight of trucks that use the thoroughfare, he said.

The problem may be worse now that Milwaukee Avenue is under construction, but Rogers said action is needed

to preserve Wolf Road as a residential street, and to keep it safe for children walking to and from Holmes Middle School at 221 S. Wolf Road.

"Wolf should be retained as a residential street. It's an issue we should be talking about and be getting excited about," said Rogers, who once counted 130 semi-trucks using Wolf Road in a day. "It's a quality of life issue."

A member of the economic development committee of the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement project, Rogers said those basic life issues need to be resolved before the suggestions in that plan are implemented.

## Board's revision delays mobile home park law

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

*12-3-96*  
A group of Wheeling residents for two years have been lobbying the village to pass an ordinance that would limit rent increases on mobile home park lots.

But officials Monday night said such a measure would spur costly litigation without doing much good because recent rent increases have been under the cap it would set, about the rate of inflation.

"The benefit would not outweigh the risk," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Instead, the village proposed an ordinance that would require full disclosure of fees in lease contracts and address other concerns that were raised by residents of the Whippetree Village Mobile Home Park.

The village's plan, however, was coolly received by both residents and owners of the village's two mobile home parks, Whippetree and Fox Point.

"They're appeasing us ... giving us something," said Robert Hettinger, a Whippetree resident.

Hettinger told board members that the residents need a cap to pre-

vent rent increases from rising faster than the rate of inflation.

But fully describing lease terms and charges to residents is one of the provisions that would address concerns residents had, said Hettinger, who is the president of the Mobile Home Association of Illinois.

Owners of the parks, however, complained that the ordinance didn't take into account their interests.

"It seems like some of these things in the ordinance don't deal with the reality of life," said Lawrence Fischer, president of Deer-

field-based Real Estate Investment Partners Inc., which owns Fox

Point.

For instance, Fischer said that a \$300 cap on security deposits would enable tenants to move out without paying a full month's rent, which is about \$325.

Alex M. Vercillo, a lawyer for Lake Forest-based Capital Development Corp., which owns Whippetree, also urged the board to delay taking action on the ordinance until some his company's concerns were addressed.

The board decide to delay for two weeks any action on the proposal so that the concerns of the property owners could be reviewed.

**Airport can't handle it**

*Countryside*  
12-5-96  
Wheeling/ Let's talk about a 77,000-pound private jet plane taking off at 286 mph and crashing 20 feet from the Foxboro apartment complex, burning four people alive. If G-d had been glancing away for 1/300ths of a second (the time it would have taken for the plane to travel the 20 feet), hundreds of people could have been burned alive in their homes. Jet fuel would have splashed and set Plum Creek on fire.

You want to know the cause of the crash? The trustees and aldermen who lifted the weight limits that allowed a plane like this to take off from Palwaukee Airport are the cause. The plane shouldn't have been there to begin with. The airport can't handle it!

But the airport wants to extend the runway even further so that these corporate machines can have a "safety apron" and have even greater use of this small airport.

Enough!  
Trustees and aldermen, stop the airport expansion

and put a lid on the weight tonnage back to where it was.

Palwaukee has responsibility only to its bottom line — money. But you own the runway. Your responsibility is to our life and limb in Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

I live in Plum Creek, directly in the flight path. Also in the flight path is the Holmes Middle School. One jet which shouldn't be there could cause hundreds of children to be in flaming danger.

Do something! Do something now, for G-d's sake!

Michael Gilbert

### Supporting rent controls

Wheeling/ The village of Wheeling government was a big disappointment, as usual. Again and again, attempts have been made to bring relief to hundreds of people who are residents of this village. These people have appealed for relief from financial burden being imposed upon them. The

village has been given information that could pass an act for rent justification or rent control, but like an ostrich with its head in the sand, they refuse to see what's going on around them.

It has been said that the village is concerned about lawsuits against them, but they have copies of the Supreme Court opinions upholding this type of action in California. Hard work and research has been done before presenting this plea to the Village Board to have this act passed under home rule. Other communities with home rule would also benefit from a positive action by our Village Board.

That is why we came to our village for help. They have the ability and the power to pass this law under home rule. We also felt that, as our elected officials, they would feel an obligation to help the citizens of this municipality.

We do feel there are three trustees that are sympathetic to our cause, however, they cannot work alone. We are striving to bring the citizens of Wheeling into a new  
(Continued on page 18)

century with hope and security for all.

This means a place to live that is affordable for both young and old.

These large corporations are thriving on the life blood of the average worker and the village is just standing by allowing this to happen.

Why? They are afraid of lawsuits from large corporations! Who has the most power? Doesn't it scare you?

A large corporation can dictate regulations that govern large numbers of individuals, and our government (representing these large numbers of individuals) won't even attempt to regulate these large corporations.

Wake up and get with it, Wheeling, and start paying attention to all the little guys that put you there in the first place — remember we can vote you out!

Elayne Hettinger

# Schultz ready to make another run

Countywide

By CHERI BENTRUP

STAFF WRITER

12-5-96

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz announced Monday that she will run a solo campaign as she seeks her fifth term as the elected leader of the village.

In a break from her traditional style of campaigning,

Schultz said she will not run with a slate of chosen candidates, opting instead to seek the office on her own.

"When I first ran for office, the challenges were so great that only a strongly united group of candidates could hope to bring about the essential changes that were ultimately achieved," Schultz

said in a prepared statement announcing her candidacy. "We needed to speak as one and support one another completely."

Schultz said the state of village politics has allowed her to move beyond the slate style of politicking. She did say, however, that she will continue to support candi-

dates she believes will represent the village as a whole and who are best able to work with others and stick to their convictions.

"I believe voters can better judge the individual strengths of candidates when they run independently, and candidates can better convey their qualifications and posi-

tions," Schultz said.

Schultz served as Wheeling village trustee from 1979 to 1981 and was elected village president in 1981. She currently sits on a number of regional government-related boards including the Northwest Municipal Conference, the Solid Waste Agency of (Continued on page 9)

## Schultz Continued from page 5

Northern Cook County, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and the Mayors Task Force on the Wisconsin Central Commuter Rail.

### Achievements

Working to bring the Wisconsin Central/Metra train service to Wheeling is one of Schultz's recent accomplishments as president. She also lists securing federal funds for the ditch relocation at Palwaukee Airport and establishing the village's Human Rights Commission.

Schultz believes her relationships with these groups have benefited the village and its residents.

Economic development is a concern of many village residents. And the recent unveiling of the village's

comprehensive approach to dealing with future challenges, "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond," lists an improved economic climate as a vital cog to the village's success.

Schultz said she is addressing that issue by attracting new restaurants, industrial building expansions and residential developments. She also cited the progress of the Milwaukee Avenue road construction as another example of how the village is preparing for the future.

### Confident candidate

With the results of "2000 and Beyond" recently announced, Schultz said the village is ready to move ahead and address many of the concerns raised by residents in regard to an increased community vitality.

"I am confident that during the next four years, I can take the village even further toward that vision of the ideal community in which to work and live," Schultz said.

Schultz, who lives at 393 S. Meadowbrook Lane, retired in 1994 as circulation librarian at Indian Trail Public Library in Wheeling.

# Kids come out on top in settlement

12-10-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It wasn't exactly what a group of Wheeling residents wanted, but it will help their cause.

A developer and three residents have decided to drop lawsuits stemming from a controversial town house project.

And instead of the suits resulting in residents paying Realen Homes Inc. \$3 million, or the project being spiked, the developer will contribute \$12,000 worth of playground equipment to Walt Whitman Elementary School.

The three residents, who belong to the group SPACE, or Save Precious Acreage For Children's Enjoyment, sued the village to kill the 40-home project targeted for 7.9 acres at 124-192 Milwaukee Ave.

The suit claims the project, which was approved by trustees in September, will lower nearby property values and bring other problems to the neighborhood.

Mary Mozal, Thomas Graf, Gary Hittleman and other residents opposed the project because they wanted to preserve the then-wooded open space that is adjacent to

Whitman school.

Realen in October sued Mozal, Graf and Hittleman for \$3 million because it claimed they delayed the project with the suit and might have caused it to lose money.

The residents and the developer this week filed the settlement in Cook County Circuit Court to drop both suits, said Larry D. Johannesen, a Realen vice president.

Attorney William C. Spangenberg said the residents he represents believed they accomplished as much as they could with the suit.

The \$12,000 in playground equipment furthered their effort to bene-

fit schoolchildren, he added.

Johannesen said the litigation could have been costly and "it made more sense to sit down and say, 'Look, let's work this out'."

Spangenberg added the residents' gripe wasn't with the developer as much as with the village board.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz maintained that the village acted "lawfully" in allowing the town homes to be built.

The settlement also states that both the developer and the three residents agree the "zoning (of the project) is deemed proper."

# Train station arrives in time for cold

12-9-96

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Riders on Metra's North Central Service line now have a place to get out of the cold while waiting for the train in Wheeling.

The village recently finished construction of the station and parking lots for the train line that on Aug. 19 began shuttling people between Antioch and Chicago.

"Now that the station is open, people can get out of the weather," said Village Community Development Director Michael Klitzke.

Construction of the approximately \$4.7 million station on Town Street and its two parking lots began in May.

Officials have said construction of the station was delayed because it took two years, instead of the anticipated six months, to complete land negotiations.

Though the station wasn't finished when the line began operating on the Wisconsin Central freight line, the stop has been open since the first Metra train rolled through town.

And Klitzke said having the sta-

tion completed may attract riders who sought shelter at nearby stations, such as Prospect Heights and Buffalo Grove.

Gradually, more commuters have been taking the train from Wheeling despite the unfinished parking lots and station.

The station now gets an average of 122 riders each day, said Metra spokeswoman Audrey Renteria.

But, the count of cars that park in the station's lots indicate that this number has increased since the train began running.

The number of parked cars has

increased from about 40 each day in August, to 60 in September and to 81 in late October, Renteria added.

She added that ridership is expected to build as more people get accustomed to using the station.

Village officials are now negotiating with vendors to open a coffee and doughnut counter inside the station that mostly will cater to morning commuters, Klitzke said.

The village next week also intends to install a traffic signal at the corner of Town Street and Wheeling Road, Klitzke added.

# The early line on April

*Herald 12-11-96* ▲ = incumbent

The face of leadership could change markedly in April, when voters will cast a critical eye on hundreds of municipal candidates. Most important of those are the mayors and village presidents. Here's how the races are stacking up.

## Lame ducks

■ **Elk Grove Village** — Dennis Gallitano won't go for second term, leaving the field wide open. So far, candidates include trustees **Craig Johnson** and **Paul Rettberg** and local businessman **William Gruzynski**.

Trustee **Jim Petri** might get in, too. Candidates will scrap over revitalization of the industrial park and the Grove Mall and are expected to pay close attention to the village's west side, where some residents say they feel disenfranchised.

■ **Hanover Park** — **Sonya Crawshaw** is hanging it up after a dozen years. No declared candidates; Trustee **Irv Bock** is the heir apparent. Biggest issue is public safety — curbing gangs after a summer of unrest.

## Going for it

■ **Arlington Heights** — **Arlene Mulder** wants a second term. No declared opposition, although Trustee **Steve Daday** might run. No overpowering issues drawing candidates to the fore, as yet.

■ **Barrington** — **Ronald Hamelberg** is going for a second term. He was first elected village president in 1993. He said one term was not enough time to accomplish all his objectives, including downtown redevelopment and getting a new village hall. There are no challengers.

■ **Bartlett** — **Catherine Melchert** is going for a second term. No identified opponents. People in town talking about whether Bartlett should break away from the Elgin schools to form its own district. Economic development, Town Square are the other issues.

■ **Des Plaines** — **Ted Sherwood** wants a second term. Opposition includes former firefighter **Rick Orberg** and retired District 62 Superintendent **Paul Jung**. Sixth ward alderman **Carmen Sarlo** is thinking about jumping in. Voters will hear a lot of discussion about downtown redevelopment and the city's aging water and sewer lines.

■ **Hoffman Estates** — **Michael O'Malley** wants a third term. Opponent is **Douglas Gardner** who works for a leasing firm in Itasca. He says O'Malley shouldn't have free path to presidency. Telecommunications tax has rankled residents and may come up as issue.

■ **Inverness** — **Donna Thomas** is going for a third term. No one else has declared. One issue will be getting the village's first police station built and negotiating with Barrington for a new police contract.

■ **Long Grove** — **Lenore Simmons** will run for a second term. No declared opposition. Some controversy may erupt over whether to keep individual waste haulers or put town under one contract.

■ **Mount Prospect** — **Gerald "Skip" Farley** going for third term in a town eager for economic development downtown. Trustee **George Clowes** will try again to win presidency.

■ **North Barrington** — **George Larrain** will run for two years remaining on term; he was appointed in July 1995 after **Walter Clarke** died. Whoever runs will face litmus test over position on proposed North Barrington mall. Larrain

Elk Grove Village				Hanover Park		Arlington Heights		Barrington	
▲ Craig Johnson	▲ Paul Rettberg	▲ William Gruzynski	▲ Jim Petri	▲ Irv Bock		▲ Arlene Mulder	▲ Steve Daday	▲ Ronald Hamelberg	
Bartlett		Des Plaines			Hoffman Estates		Inverness		
▲ Catherine Melchert	▲ Ted Sherwood	▲ Rick Orberg	▲ Paul Jung	▲ Carmen Sarlo	▲ Michael O'Malley	▲ Douglas Gardner	▲ Donna Thomas		
Long Grove		Mount Prospect		N. Barrington		Palatine		Streamwood	
▲ Lenore Simmons	▲ Gerald "Skip" Farley	▲ George Clowes		▲ George Larrain	▲ Rita Mullins	▲ Billie Roth			
Wheeling		S. Barrington		Barrington Hills		Lake Barrington		Deer Park	
▲ Sheila Schultz	▲ Judy Abruscato	▲ Warren Fuller		▲ James Kempe	▲ Joanne E. Larson	▲ James M. Peterson			

expects opponents, none has spoken yet.

■ **Palatine** — **Rita Mullins** will run for a third term, so far unopposed. In past elections, her national profile has brought her criticism at home; this time, voters may be more interested in the fate of the commuter rail station.

■ **Streamwood** — **Billie Roth** will run for a third term, so far without opposition. Village interested in drawing business to town; residents want their streets fixed. Finances could be an issue; Village expects to be out of debt by 2003.

■ **Wheeling** — **Sheila Schultz**, 16-year veteran will run again. Her opponent is Trustee **Judy Abruscato**, finishing her third term. Race will center on bringing business to town.

## Still thinking about it

■ **Warren Fuller**, South Barrington, 16-year veteran. May not announce his intentions until January. No one else running yet.

■ **James Kempe**, Barrington Hills. Says he's leaning towards running for a fourth term. No other candidates have come forward.

■ **Joanne E. Larson**, Lake Barrington, has had 2 years in office after appointed to finish term of **Barry Hemphill**. No declared candidates in race.

■ **James M. Peterson**, Deer Park, president since 1989. No other candidates declared yet either.

## No mayoral races in '97

Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, Tower Lakes

Sources: Daily Herald news files, interviews, municipal clerks

# Park Board president challenges Schultz

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

After eight years of serving on the Wheeling Park Board, **Greg Klatecki** has announced plans to enter village politics and run for village president in the April 1, 1997, election.

"For the last two years, people have asked me to run, and I take that as a compliment," said Klatecki, 55. "My major goal is to reunite this community. There's a lot of infighting right now between the village, the park district and the chamber. We're not even in the same book, let alone on the same page."

Klatecki's slogan in the upcoming election is "I want to put the 'we' back in Wheeling," focusing on building better relationships within the vil-

lage and promoting a better community image.

"The biggest problem we have right now is that nobody is getting along. That has to be resolved before you can work on the issues," said Klatecki.

In his eight years on the Park Board, the last two as its president, Klatecki has helped the park district build the Community Recreation Center, build the Aquatic Center, repave the parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, renovate Childerley and Malibu parks and purchase the Denoyer property.

"We've put the park district on the map. It's one of the better ones in the area. I look on the Park Board as going in the right directions. It's a good board with an excellent staff,"

said Klatecki.

Just as the park district surveyed residents to determine that a community center and an aquatic center were the top two requests for recreational facilities in the village, Klatecki said, the village can use the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement plan as a type of residents' survey.

"That was the public speaking. You have to grab that book and see what you can do," he said, adding that he did not work on a committee. "I read the whole thing and there are a lot of good ideas in there, but you have to implement them. I just want to be part of an organization that moves forward."

Klatecki said he's giving voters a choice in the president's election this

spring. Village President **Sheila Schultz** already has announced plans to run for her fifth term.

"The village needs new blood and people willing to take some heat. If you believe in something, you should be willing to take the heat for it," Klatecki said, noting that the Park Board faced mounting opposition when it planned to build the Aquatic Center.

Klatecki, a teacher at Holmes Middle School, was honored by the village in November 1994 for his heroic effort in apprehending a suspected child molester in front of the school at 221 S. Wolf Road. Girls had told Klatecki that a man approached them on their way to school, and Klatecki grabbed the man and held him until police arrived.

(Continued on page 14)

Klatecki and his wife, Sue, have two sons, one a sophomore at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, and

the other a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He lives at 278 N. Fifth St.

# Town house battle appears to reach end

12-12-96  
Country De  
By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Realen Homes of Inverness, the developer building 40 town houses on the former Billy & Co. site on South Milwaukee Avenue, has reached a settlement in its \$3 million lawsuit against three Wheeling residents.

The settlement includes a \$12,000 payment from Realen to Wheeling School District 21. The check has been placed in an account at Cole Taylor Bank in Wheeling to be used by Whitman School for the purchase of outdoor play equipment to benefit the students and Wheeling children.

One concern of nearby residents was that the development would eliminate a large portion of open space students at Whitman, 133 S. Wille Ave., used as a play area. At the request of residents, the school district and Wheeling Park District agreed to jointly purchase 1.9 acres of the 7.8-acre site to maintain as open space.

"It's certainly a big help to us, and we appreciate it," said Arlen Gould, president of the District 21 School Board. Because playground equipment is so expensive, Gould said, \$12,000 would pay for part of a playground, but not a playground in its entirety.

"We'll discuss this with the park district and try to cooperate with them again," Gould said.

## Suit specifics

Realen filed the suit against Mary Mozal, Gary Hittleman and Thomas Graf in October, saying they were maliciously filing suit against the village to stop the development of town houses at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave. The village had been discussing plans to build the town houses for over a year before Realen was given approval in September to begin con-

struction on the Union Square development.

The residents were part of SPACE, a group of local activists who opposed the development.

The settlement states that both parties agree the current zoning is legal and proper. The residents' attorney, William Spangenberg, said it also negates a lawsuit the residents had pending against the village about the zoning.

"Hopefully, this is a situation that won't happen again as far as the residents and the village administration coming to this point," said Spangenberg of fighting zoning issues in court. "In the future, hopefully the administration will be more responsive.

"The developer was very gracious about this. He did get caught in the crossfire," Spangenberg said. "We wish the developer good luck with the townhomes and with the sales."

## Burying the hatchet

In reaching the settlement, Spangenberg said, "Maybe they thought it was better to look beyond who was going to win and try to do something constructive for the real victims here — the schoolchildren."

Realen Homes could not be reached for comment.

Gary Cohn, spokesman for SPACE, said the settlement should give residents courage to voice their opposition against government's plans.

"We don't think people should be scared of developers in the village, they should work with them," Cohn said. "(The developer) sued them for \$3 million to scare them off and they lost — they paid \$12,000 for the school. If one thing can be said, it's don't be afraid to speak out. That suit was filed to scare us, and it didn't work."

# Many incumbents ready to join race for spring elections

12-11-96  
By **AMY McLAUGHLIN**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Who's running for mayor in your town? — Page 10

It's just weeks into the campaign season and things are already starting to bubble in Long Grove and Wheeling, where the top office holders have announced they will be seeking re-election on April 1.

Residents of Wheeling, Long Grove and Buffalo Grove will be choosing board of trustee members, while the former two communities will select their village presidents.

In Long Grove, Village President Lenore Simmons has decided to seek her second 4-year term.

Meanwhile, Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz has decided to run again to extend her 15 years in office. Trustee Judy Abruscato, in her third term, is challenging Schultz.

Candidates must file their paperwork, including nominating petitions, between Jan. 13 and Jan. 21 to get their name on the April 1 ballot.

"Certainly, local elections are just as important as national elections," said Sharon Alter, professor of history and political science at Harper College in Palatine.

However, Alter said, local elections do not draw the numbers of

voters that national elections do, especially ones such as the Nov. 5 presidential race. Municipal elections do come in a close second in terms of typical voter turnout, said Larry Frang, assistant director of the Illinois Municipal League in Springfield.

Local elections should be considered critical by voters, political and municipal experts agree. It is at the local level where decisions are made on things like how much you pay to clear your streets of snow or clear your towns of crime.

"When the federal government is making decisions about Bosnia or Rwanda, local officials may be deciding on whether to hire more police officers," Frang said.

Frang noted the contested races are much more likely to draw the most interest, and the mere fact many are turning into true races among many people indicates a good amount of interest.

Frang said a good amount of turnover in local government also indicates voter interest.

"Obviously, I work for an associa-

See RACES on Page 10

## RACES: Number of candidates, turnover show voter interest

Continued from Page 1

tion that believes local government is the most important," Frang said. "Anybody who's

involved would like to see a 100 percent turnout."

One reason voters may not be as attracted to municipal elections may be because they don't often

draw the attention of television.

"In many cases, the voters are not as aware, possibly because there's little television news about it," Alter said. "Voter apathy has

always been with us."

Daily Herald Staff Writer Bob McKee contributed to this report.

# Three more enter Village Board race

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

More independent candidates have entered the race for Wheeling trustee.

Three trustee positions are open in the April 1, 1997, election. William C. Spangenberg, 41, a local private practice attorney; Trevor Lehmann, 29, part-owner of a Century 21 real estate office; and Stuart Shapiro, 40, an insurance broker, have announced their plans to run as independent candidates for trustee. Spangenberg and Shapiro also ran for trustee in 1995, but were defeated.

"I think, as I thought two years ago and now my feelings are more confirmed, we are suffering from poor planning, poor management and a lack of leadership," said Spangenberg, who lives at 109 Wilshire Drive.

Ideas to spur commercial development are talked about by the Village Board, but Spangenberg said he has seen no action.

"There's been a lot of talk

about more cooperation to attract businesses. But aside from all the rhetoric, what we're seeing is the Target proposal (for the Horcher Farm) being chased out of town and the northwest corner of Dundee and Milwaukee planned for more condominiums," he said. "There's been an abandonment of commercial development. It's impractical."

Spangenberg also is skeptical of the village's strategic improvement plan, "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond." Results of that yearlong study

were announced at a public meeting last month.

"The various committees were just packed with all types of people that hold appointed offices in the village. How can that be objective?" asked Spangenberg, who said he did not participate in the plan because of the way it was organized.

"In my opinion, the executive summary could have been written before the meetings were over. There was nothing new in the report. Some (suggestions) were whimsical and

others were very impractical," he said. "It seems some of them were not thought out well."

Spangenberg also favors a rent-justification ordinance sought after by residents of the village's two trailer home parks. However, he wants the ordinance changed from a criminal offense to a civil offense for violators.

"Do you really want someone charged with a criminal misdemeanor because he failed to give someone a copy of the lease?" Spangenberg said.

Rent justification is a serious problem in the village and Spangenberg said Wheeling could be a leader by being the first community in Illinois to approve such an ordinance.

"I think we should show some guts and some gumption and do something for our residents," he said.

## Lehmann's list

As a real estate professional, Lehmann said he hears comments each day of why people don't want to move into Wheeling. The biggest problem, he said, is lack of a positive village image.

"We need to get back on track," he said. "We've got to start to clean up the town. We need to improve the image, and that starts with people in the community and people who work in the community."

Lehmann, who lives at 929 Wilshire Drive, would like to see vacant retail spaces leased and more lights illuminating local shopping centers so customers feel more comfortable shopping there at night. Businesses bring in sales tax dollars to the village and more property tax revenue that could be used to keep residents' taxes down, he said.

"We're not keeping up with surrounding communities. We lost the Target store — that's a lot of sales tax revenue. We should have tried to figure out a way to work that out with the residents," he said.

Residents know Wheeling's positive attributes — good school systems and a good park district — but outsiders remain uninformed, he said.

"We have a lot of nonresidents using the park district and driving through town, but why don't they stop here and shop? We need to work on that," Lehmann said.

Like Spangenberg, Lehmann also wasn't involved in the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" project. However, he believes the final report can be used as a good guideline for trustees.

"Those ideas are nothing new. Those are what residents have wanted for years," he said.

(Continued on page 14)

# Klatecki joins race for village president

By **BOB MCKEE**  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Many people running for office in Wheeling's government have talked about the lack of commercial business and other village problems.

But Greg Klatecki thinks all those maladies could be remedied by improving relations between the village and the Wheeling Park District, business leaders and the rest of the community.

And improving cooperation would be one of Klatecki's main goals if he is elected village president in the April 1 election.

"If you get everyone working together, everything else will fall together, such as economic development," said Klatecki, a 55-year-old science teacher at Holmes Middle School in Wheeling and the park district board president.

Klatecki is the third person who has announced a bid for a four-year term as village president.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz is seeking re-election to her fifth term. Trustee Judy Abruscato, who will have served 12 years on the village board as of April, is also vying for the office.

Klatecki, a 14-year Wheeling resident, ran unsuccessfully for village trustee in 1985.

In 1989, he was elected a park district board member and re-elected in 1993. He was appointed by the board as president in 1995.

Klatecki said some of the board's greatest accomplishments since he was elected was building the Community Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center.

"It's a loss in that Greg has added a dimension to the park district that has helped us move forward," said park board member Francine Melamed. "(But) hopefully he will be elected to the village and it will be an ongoing relationship."

Klatecki said he decided to leave the park district in April because he wants to try to improve how the village interacts with the rest of the community.

Klatecki said one case of the village not cooperating with the community was when in August it prevented the possibility of lighted athletic fields or a new swimming pool on 37 vacant acres.

Village officials said they made the decision because they wanted to protect the land, which is in a flood way.

## Race Continued from page 12

Lehmann would like to streamline village government, and said too many projects are being out-sourced to private companies. Instead of continuing to hire a public relations firm to promote the village, Lehmann believes village employees could promote a good image of the village.

"I think every person in the village needs to be a PR person. Every person should be willing to sell this village," Lehmann said. "We have to promote the entire village. I want to turn this town around and make it a great place to live."

## Shapiro's shots

Shapiro, of 125 Meyerson Way, said he's concerned about many issues facing the village.

"I don't think anything has changed since the last time I ran," Shapiro said. "I think the village still faces the same critical days ahead, and I don't

think the current administration has done anything."

Among the issues Shapiro cites as his top concerns are safety at Palwaukee Airport, improving the village's image, increasing economic development and what he sees as a lack of code enforcement.

Since the 1995 municipal election, Shapiro said, "We gained a grocery store, we lost a grocery store. We lost Target with the potential for \$1.4 million of tax revenue to the various taxing bodies each year. The administration fumbled Target. There's an organization that wants to come in our village and we told them to go elsewhere."

"Everything goes to Buffalo Grove, everything goes to Vernon Hills. They go everywhere except Wheeling and it's unfortunate," Shapiro said.

"We need a change in the administration and hopefully, I'll be one of those people come April," Shapiro added.

## Protect neediest

To the village officials of Wheeling.

Enough of your grandiose plans for the year 2000, while you keep your elderly, disabled and low-income residents hidden in the basement hoping the world won't find out they are there. They came to you with their hats in their hands, they filled the chambers of city hall, spilling out into the hall. One by one they pleaded heart-wrenching tales of abuse by unscrupulous mobile home park owners and the terrible toll the high rent is causing them. They didn't ask for welfare or subsidized housing. They only ask for "a rent justification ordinance" to stop greedy park owners from exorbitant rent increases. After two years, you apparently will not help the neediest of your community. Remember Jesus said, "What you do to the least of my people, you also do unto me." If your plan for the future is only for the elite of Wheeling, you will surely fail.

Georgia Pirron  
Wheeling

## Giving alcohol to minors

When is the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission going to wake up?

Three violations of selling alcohol to a minor in less than three years and all the owner gets is a slap on the wrist. Closing the business for four days and a \$1,000 fine is nothing. The attorney for A-1 Liquors admits a "mistake" was made and steps will be taken so that other minors won't be served. It seems A-1 has misstepped too

many times and revocation of the liquor license would be more in order.

President Schultz says the sweeps are done to "assure ourselves that the liquor laws are being followed." Well, it seems some businesses thumb their noses at the law, and need to be shown that the Liquor Commission has some backbone and will not tolerate repeated violations in a relatively short period of time.

Let's bring in businesses that respect the law.  
Ken Kostorzewski  
Wheeling

## Officials study Wheeling 2000's report on future

By Patrick O'Toole

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

12-12-96  
Wheeling village officials are considering some of the many recommendations from the Wheeling 2000 and Beyond task force, which studied the village's future needs.

At the top of the list: simplifying the business licensing process as well as refining the village's zoning code.

"We have been sitting here talking about doing these things in board retreats for many years," said Trustee Judy Abruscato, referring to the annual daylong planning meetings of trustees. "Now we find out that the people in Wheeling 2000 want the same thing."

Abruscato said she thought priority should be focused on improving the sign ordinances and on informing business owners sooner about the signage limitations so they aren't disappointed late in the approval process.

About 100 Wheeling residents and business owners participated in committee meetings over the past 12 months and presented a final document Nov. 16 that included a range of proposals for governmental and non-governmental improvements.

Villager Manager Craig Anderson, whose staff is busy making budgets for the coming fiscal year, took the opportunity of Monday's workshop meeting to gauge the level of interest among trustees for setting aside funds for items mentioned in the report.

Trustee Patrick Horcher supported a recommendation to hire an ombudsman to shepherd prospective business owners through the process of getting licensed.

## Wheeling adds rules to protect mobile-home tenants

By Patrick O'Toole

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

12-18-96  
After months of studying the tenant-landlord relationship at local mobile home parks, Wheeling officials have enacted rules to protect the rights of tenants, although the measures stop short of rent control.

Members of the Wheeling Village Board passed the legislation Monday night although attorneys representing the village's two

mobile home parks, Foxpointe and Whippletree Village, objected to parts of it.

Alex M. Vercillo, general counsel for Capital Development Corp., the firm that owns and manages the 400-tenant Whippletree development, threatened to take the village to court. He specifically opposed a resident self-help section of the legislation that allows tenants to perform repairs that

have been delayed and to deduct the cost from future rent.

Village President Sheila Schultz was unmoved. "The issue here is that the village should do this," she said. "I object to the constant threats of, 'We're going to litigate.'"

In adopting the measure, the trustees backed off on earlier plans to implement Illinois' first mobile-home rent-control ordinance.

Village Atty. James Rhodes said the legislation prohibits practices such as requiring tenants to buy mobile homes from the park operator.

## Trustees blame tax levy hike on higher costs, contract loss

By Bob McKee

Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-20-96  
The increasing costs of operating the village and the loss of a contract to provide fire protection to unincorporated areas has Wheeling raising its property taxes.

Village trustees this week approved for 1997 a 5.76 percent tax increase — from \$5,304,061 to \$5,609,407.

The tax levy was finalized after trustees approved \$798,058.50 worth of tax abatements.

This included water fees to pay for a loan used to do water system work and sales and property taxes received from the Tax Increment Finance District that will be used for improvements in that area, said village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski.

The tax rate is expected to increase from .802 to .840 cents for each \$100 of assessed property valuation. Using the most current tax formula, the owner of a \$125,000 home would expect to pay about \$319 compared with last year's \$305.

One reason for the tax increase was that the village expanded some of its services, such as by paving more streets and operating a new train station, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

Anderson said the growing village also had to hire more employees.

Three fire officials, two police officers and an administrative employee will cost about \$200,000 annually.

"Obviously, you always like to keep (expenses) down as low as possible," Anderson said. "(But) costs do go up."

The fact that the village lost about \$400,000 in contracts from the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District also contributed to the increase, Anderson has said.

Between June 1995 and April 1996, the Wheeling Township district made several changes in how its area is covered. Wheeling in this time went from serving the majority of the 10,000-home district to about 5 percent.

But Wheeling resident David Smith questioned this week why the village hasn't scaled back the fire department after losing the contract and some coverage area.

Officials said the fire department will be reviewed when next year's budget is compiled.

But Anderson doesn't expect the fire department will be pared down because the village still needs the same amount of firefighters and equipment.

## Village trustees put brakes on road, utility assessment

By Sandy Ruroede

Daily Herald Correspondent

12-14-96  
Wheeling residents living on side streets feeding from West Strong Avenue may breathe easier after several trustees opposed assessing residents for proposed road improvements and utility hookups.

A proposal carrying a \$1.6 million price tag would improve West Strong Avenue as well as several side streets. Fifty-three property owners along Sixth, Ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th streets would carry the burden of paying for road improvements and utility hookups.

The average cost per lot owner was estimated at \$14,000. In addition to repaving the road, the road improvements would include widening in some spots, adding curbs and sidewalks. Village Manager Craig Anderson proposed three other options including:

- An \$850,000 plan to limit the improvements to West Strong Avenue only.

- A \$166,000 option calling for resurfacing of Strong Avenue and

the side streets.

- A \$90,000 plan limited to the resurfacing of Strong Avenue.

Anderson said he would look at a plan where the road improvements would be made to the side streets on a year-by-year basis with the village picking up the tab.

Trustee Jeanne Selander suggested Anderson combine the plan for the road improvements on Strong Avenue and the resurfacing projects for the entire area, eliminating the proposed improvements to the water and sewer hookups. Selander said this plan would not burden the citizens with additional taxes.

Trustee Wayne Wisinski agreed with Selander and felt the village needed to improve Strong immediately. However, he did not think village residents should incur the cost.

Selander added many homeowners have already spent large amounts of money to make water, sewer and road improvements to their properties, and the village needed to find a way to handle the situation equitably.

## Wheeling development office moving next door

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-19-96  
Wickes Furniture in Wheeling is usually where furnishings can be bought for a new home.

But starting in March, it also will be the place to get village permits to build a house.

The village this spring will move its Community Development department out of village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, and into an office in the neighboring Wickes Furniture Company Inc. store, 351 W. Dundee Road.

The main reason for the move is to provide more space for the police department, which is located in the same building as the village hall.

The three-year lease is seen as a temporary way to alleviate the space crunch in village offices. And proposals to find a more permanent solution are expected to surface within a year, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

One such possibility is to construct a new public works building and move some village offices in the current facility.

It will cost about \$3,000 a month to rent out the 4,800-square-foot office in the Wickes building.

It will also cost \$65,816 to furnish the office.

Anderson said the community development department was moved out of village hall partially because it would be easier to relocate the 15-person staff instead of parts of the police department.

The Wickes building was selected because it was close — just next door to village hall — and the rent was the least expensive of other places.

The police department probably will move its records and administration divisions into the 3,000-square-foot office that the community development department now uses, said Chief Michael Haeger.

Haeger said the extra room will be helpful because a study has shown that the 85-person force needs about 10,000 square feet more than the 16,000 square feet of space it now has.

"We're cramped up," he added. Haeger said the added room will be a "quick fix," but a permanent solution is needed.

# Palwaukee runway plan opposed

By Joseph Sjoström  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials face a selling job of jumbo-jet proportions if they ever hope to extend the airport's main runway.

Alarm over the recent fatal crash of a Gulfstream IV corporate jet on takeoff from Palwaukee was amplified by word from airport officials that they want to lengthen the usable length of the airport's longest runway to

about 5,680 feet from the present length of about 5,000 feet.

Airport officials and pilots asserted that a longer runway would enhance airport safety by providing pilots with more room to recover from errors or malfunctions.

Yet dubious residents and officials of Prospect Heights and Wheeling—which jointly own the airport—wonder if airplane operators would just use the extra runway to fly heavier air-

planes.

If that's allowed to happen, nearby residents fear, the next crash could involve a heavier airplane going faster and carrying more fuel, thus wreaking more destruction when it slams into the ground.

"The pilot would have an additional 680 feet of pavement to stop on, if he needs to," said airport manager Fred Stewart. "If you equate runway with safety, when you increase the

runway, you increase safety."

"Ninety-nine percent of the time, aircraft are going to use that extra runway for an extra safety margin," said Charles Priester, son of the former airport owner and now owner of Priester Aviation, an aircraft service company based at Palwaukee.

Most airplanes, Priester said, including the Gulfstream IV—the largest craft currently using Palwaukee—are substan-

tially under their maximum allowed take-off weights on most departures from Palwaukee. That's because typical passenger loads and trip lengths require less fuel than the maximum a plane is capable of carrying.

"In that 1 percent of cases when the weather is warm and the trip is a long one, then the pilot could use that extra runway to carry more weight," Priester said.

SEE PALWAUKEE, PAGE 11

## Palwaukee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He and Stewart emphasized that more weight on a longer runway would not eliminate an airplane's takeoff safety factor. It would, at worst, push the safety margin back to where it is now, with smaller weight limits on a shorter runway.

Palwaukee's longest runway runs northwest to southeast and has nearly 5,300 feet of pavement, although only about 5,000 feet is now available for landings and takeoffs.

The airport's other three runways range in length from about 3,200 to about 4,400 feet. But the bigger jets prefer the long runway, and so do pilots of small airplanes who simply want a greater margin for error.

The airport already has received federal and local approval to add 150 feet of pavement at the north end of the existing runway. That project has not yet been scheduled.

On Oct. 16, two weeks before the fatal Gulfstream IV crash, the Palwaukee Airport Commission asked Wheeling and Prospect Heights to consider adding 400 feet of pavement at the north end of the present long runway, and to make 280 feet of existing pavement on the south end of the runway available for airplane use.

Both additions would be available for takeoffs and for final rollouts of landing aircraft, but incoming planes could not make their initial touchdowns in the new areas.

The Gulfstream crash, which killed all four people on board, galvanized opposition to the runway lengthening proposals. Concerned residents and others, including the husband and sister-in-law of a flight attendant killed in the crash, packed a number of subsequent government meetings

to object.

Chief among their complaints is the assertion that airport officials promised no runways would be lengthened after Wolf and Hintz Roads were relocated away from the northwest end of the airport.

Originally, the intersection of Wolf and Hintz was only yards from the north end of the runway, and airplanes coming in from the north often passed low over the crossroads just before touching down.

A longer runway would enable airplanes to touch down sooner and just as close to surface traffic as before, critics asserted.

Stewart and other officials responded that if new pavement were added, it would be painted with markings to warn pilots they can't touch down any closer to Hintz and Wolf than they do now.

Still, the lengthening proposal remains a tough sell.

"I told the airport manager I want an outside professional consultant to come in and explain this to the city council," said Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz doesn't share the view that longer runways would be dangerous, but she said that just because they're not dangerous doesn't mean they're desirable.

"I am convinced that Palwaukee is a safe airport," she said.

### FENCE POST

letters to the editor

Please limit letters to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include daytime and evening telephone numbers. No letters will be published anonymously. Letters are subject to editing. Mail to Fence Post, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006. Fax to Fence Post at (847) 427-1301. E-mail to fencepost@dailyherald.com.

### Listen to little people

The village of Wheeling government was a big disappointment, as usual. Again and again attempts have been made to bring relief to hundreds of people who are residents of this village. These people have appealed for relief from financial burden being imposed upon them.

The village has been given information that could pass an act for rent justification or rent control, but like an ostrich with its head in the sand, they refuse to see what is going on around them. It has been said that the village is concerned about lawsuits against them, but they have copies of the Supreme Court opinions, upholding this type of action in California. Hard work and research has been done before presenting this plea to the village board to have this act passed under home rule.

Other communities with home rule would also benefit from a positive action by our village board. That is why we came to our village for help. They have the ability and the power to pass this law under home rule. We also felt that as our elected officials, they would feel an obligation to help the citizens of this municipality.

We do feel there are three trustees that are sympathetic to our cause; however, they cannot work alone. We are striving to bring the citizens of Wheeling into a new century with hope and security for all.

This means a place to live that is affordable for both young and old. These large corporations are thriving on the life blood of the average worker, and the village is just standing by allowing this to happen. Why?

They are afraid of lawsuits from large corporations! Who has the most power? Doesn't it scare you? A large corporation can dictate regulations that govern large numbers of individuals, and our government (representing these large numbers of individuals) won't even attempt to regulate these large corporations.

Wake up and get with it, Wheeling, and start paying attention to all the little guys that put you there in the first place — remember we can vote you out!

Elayne Hettinger, Secretary  
of the Mobile Home Owners  
Association of Illinois Inc.  
Wheeling

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### Good will toward all

I would like to put in my vote of agreement with the letter from Joseph and Mary Beth Delaney of Palatine that appeared Dec. 1 regarding Hanukkah and Christmas. It is true menorahs seem to be acceptable in public places although Nativity scenes have been taboo as politically incorrect.

I am of the Jewish faith and my fiancée is an Italian-American Catholic. Joanne participates in the celebration of the Festival of Lights by helping light the Hanukkah candles. We used candles that she bought and my menorah on the first night of the holiday. When I came home for dinner, I found a beautiful woven menorah place mat on the table. After dinner for dessert, she gave me almond crescent cookies that she decorated with blue food dye and gold foil wrapped chocolate coins, which are called Hanukkah gelt, or Hanukkah money, which is a traditional treat for this holiday. After Hanukkah ends, I participate in Christmas with her. After all, there is only one God and it's just a matter of how we choose to honor Him (or Her)!

As the Delaneys stated, although I do not personally believe in Jesus as the son of God, I respect the beliefs of others. I hope for the Delaneys' sake that more Nativity scenes can be put on display for all of our enjoyment.

I also wish to commend the non-Jewish neighbors of the Jewish family in Newport, Pa., as reported in the Dec. 13 Daily Herald. Vandals broke the family's window, took out the electric menorah that was burning there and smashed it. Twenty-five of their non-Jewish neighbors went out and bought the same electric menorahs and placed them in their windows beneath their Christmas wreaths to show their support of their Jewish neighbor. The vandals never returned.

This is true brotherhood and a perfect example of peace on earth and good will toward all men.

Jerry Chudnow  
Wheeling



# Village balks on rent-control ordinance

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

*COUNTRYSIDE*

Wheeling trustees have taken steps to protect mobile home residents in the village, but they stopped short of granting the type of control many had requested.

Trustees approved a mobile home ordinance last week, but it does not include the rent justification language for which residents had been campaigning.

"It doesn't address our problem, our problem is rent," said Bob Hettinger, a resident of Wheeling's Whippletree mobile home park on Old McHenry Road and president of the Mobile Home Owners Association of Illinois Inc. "With the cuts coming in Social Security, there are people here who won't be here next year."

At the village's first public hearing on mobile home park life in June, Hettinger said he pays \$470 a month to rent the lot in Whippletree where his double-wide home sits. When he moved in 21 years ago, the rent was \$85 a month.

Rent was one of many complaints residents of Whippletree and the Foxpoint mobile home park on South Milwaukee Avenue aired at the June public hearing. Complaints focused on the management-tenant relationship and touched on other issues such as landscaping, maintenance and clubhouse usage.

Hettinger said the relationship between Whippletree's management company, Capital Development Corp. of Lake Forest, has improved since the village became involved, but rent remains the residents' chief concern.

"This (ordinance) gives us a little help as far as giving us someone to go to with our problems, but as far as relief, it gives us nothing," Hettinger said.

The ordinance is very similar to the state's mobile home park laws. About the only help it gives Hettinger and his neighbors is providing a local ombudsman, he said.

Village leaders, though, believe the ordinance will help.

"We think this is in the best interest of the community and its residents," said Village Manager Craig Anderson of the newly approved ordinance.

Trustee Judy Abruscato abstained from the otherwise unanimous vote because of the professional relationship she has as a banker with many mobile home park residents.

"In many ways this mirrors the state statute governing mobile home parks on a local level so now we can enforce it locally," Anderson said. "This isn't rent control. It addresses maintenance, credit checks and security deposits, which were a few of the issues brought up by the tenants."

Security deposits, one of the many items addressed in the ordinance, are now limited to no more than one month's rent. The ordinance also prohibits the park operator from collecting fees in addition to rent, unless specified in the rental agreement. Among the fees prohibited, and not allowed to be included in a rental agreement, are entrance and exit fees, fees for the resale of a home, fees for additional family members, short-term guest fees and pet fees.

(Continued on page 13)

## Good Luck

*COUNTRYSIDE*  
12-26-96  
Wheeling/ I'm responding to recent comments made by Stuart Shapiro.

The gist of Stuart's comments is that SPACE (Save Precious Acreage for our Children's and Community's Enjoyment), who I believe is a very active and viable group of home owners in Wheeling, is costing the taxpayers thousands of dollars in legal fees. He claims that the lawsuits filed by SPACE and their attorney, former trustee candidate Bill Spangenberg, are frivolous and counterproductive. Maybe Stuart's problem with Mr. Spangenberg is that although neither of them were elected to be trustees two years ago, Bill beat him by 144 votes; and Stuart is worried about Bill beating him again.

What Stuart very conveniently neglects to mention is that in the course of buying and selling this 7.8-acre parcel of land to the developers (Realen Homes Developers), the village of Wheeling gave away \$310,000 of the taxpayers' money.

At the Save Chevy Chase meeting of the Park Board at the Chevy Chase Country Club, Mr. Shapiro offered to

help pass the referendum that was proposed by Park Board President Greg Klatecki, and approved by the Park Board, to save Chevy Chase. He did this in the same breath that he announced to all present that he was running for Wheeling village trustee, an obvious ploy for attention to his second try for elective office.

It would appear that Stuart's agenda is his own. I wish him all the luck in the world in his upcoming campaign. With this kind of attitude and obvious misinformation, he will need all the luck he can get.

**Jerry Chudnow**

## Offended by Sassone column

Chicago/ My letter is in response to Paul Sassone's column of Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving Day!

After volunteering most of Thanksgiving at Pacific Garden Mission on South State Street outside of downtown Chicago, serving dinner to the homeless population, I must tell you that I was terribly offended with Sassone's column titled "What to be thankful for."

# Village pondering waste proposals

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER  
*COUNTRYSIDE*

Wheeling residents may know soon how much they'll be paying for garbage collection when trustees accept a new hauling contract.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said five proposals from garbage haulers have been received. The current hauling contract with Waste Management expires Dec. 31, but trustees in October extended the contract to Feb. 29, 1997, to give staff more time to review the bids.

Trustees in July agreed to seek bids for garbage collection. This will be the first contract in which multifamily units will be included for village collection services.

## Narrowing the field

"Village staff has met with each firm to go over each proposal," said Anderson. "The next step is to have additional meetings with a couple of the firms to narrow down our choices, so to speak."

Anderson expects staff will present its findings to trustees at a January meeting. He is unsure what the length of the

contract will be and whether staff will make a recommendation or allow trustees to review the material and draw their own conclusions.

In July, trustees said they planned to compare the bids with a price list compiled by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. SWANCC determined that Laidlaw Waste Systems is the most economic hauler for Region 3, which includes Wheeling.

Trustees also said they would be looking at service options such as twice-a-week pickup, changing the length of the yard-waste collection season and expanding the recycling program.

Trustee Patrick Horcher, who favored seeking bids, said residents may be pleasantly surprised if the new hauling contract lowers their garbage rates without decreasing services.

"This is why we need to go out for bids. When you go out to bid and bring in some competition, the prices will go down," Horcher said. "You don't have to go with the cheapest one, just check out everyone's references and clarify everything."

! A 65-year-old Buffalo Grove woman had shopped at Fresh Farms, 291 E. Dundee Road, on Dec. 12 and returned home realizing she left her \$400

! One offender took the boy's wallet containing \$18 cash. After being asked for money, another boy handed the offender his wallet with \$15 cash. The offenders left after taking two of the boys' skateboards.

! A 16-year-old Wheeling boy told police he and two male friends were walking on the 200 block of South Renee Terrace at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 when they were approached from behind by three males, one who indicated he had a gun.

! Someone broke the passenger window of a 1992 Chevrolet pickup truck between 2 a.m. Dec. 14 and 7:45 a.m. Dec. 15 while it was parked on the 1100 block of South Pleasant Run Drive and stole a \$225 compact disc player. Damage to the window was estimated at \$150.

## ROBBERY

## THEFT

! Tor and compact disc player valued at \$130 each, were stolen. The keys were left in the ignition after the burglary.

▶ The stories that affected your community the most.

# Top Ten Stories

of  
1996

COUNTRYSIDE 12-26-96



Todd Heisler/Pioneer Press

Emergency crews extinguish the last of the flames still burning in the cockpit of a Gulfstream IV jet that crashed in Wheeling in October. Four people aboard the aircraft were killed.



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

The Rev. Fred Brandstrader blesses a tree planted in honor of the closing of St. Joseph School. The school closed this year after serving the Catholic community for almost 40 years.

**1** Safety at Palwaukee Municipal Airport came to the forefront of discussion in the village after a Gulfstream IV jet crashed on takeoff Oct. 30 killing all four people aboard. The flight attendant, Catherine Mio Anderson, was a Prospect Heights resident and graduate of Wheeling High School.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board have not yet determined a cause for the fatal crash. The corporate jet, owned by Alberto-Culver of Melrose Park, reportedly veered off the runway about 1,500 feet into takeoff and lost part of its landing gear in the grass. The wing flaps then fell off and a wing punctured the fuel tank, spewing fuel out of the jet.

The jet managed to fly across Hintz Road after hitting an earthen berm at the end of the runway, but skidded across Wolf in flames before landing just 20 to 30 feet short of hitting the Foxboro Apartments.

Shortly after the crash, village trustees discussed a proposal recommended by the Airport Commission to lengthen the main runway at Palwaukee. Anderson's survi-

vors have formed a community action group and have pledged to fight any proposed expansion at Palwaukee.

**2** After 37 years of providing a Catholic education to Wheeling students, St. Joseph the Worker Elementary School at 171 W. Dundee Road closed its doors June 7. The Chicago Archdiocese closed the school citing financial problems.

That final school year, 130 students were enrolled in preschool to fifth grade, with 40 of those in the preschool. In spring of 1995, the Archdiocese announced that St. Joseph would drop its sixth, seventh and eighth grades due to low enrollments at the end of the 1994-95 school year.

Rather than close the school with a day of sadness, the Revs. John Massion and Fred Brandstrader told students and their parents gathered in the sanctuary that they should be glad for the years they've had at St. Joseph's.

"We're sad today because it's the last day of school, but we're happy because it gave us so much to hold on to," Massion said.

The Archdiocese promised that all students who wanted to continue their Catholic education would be accommodated at either St. Mary's School in Buffalo Grove or St. Alphonsus School in Prospect Heights.

**3** An annual village celebration turned to tragedy when a car driven by 83-year-old Norman Jahnke of Wheeling mysteriously accelerated into a crowd gathered for the July 4 fireworks display at the Wheeling Aquatic Center, killing an 11-year-old Chicago boy, Gustavo Del Real.

Seven others also were injured in the accident.

After a thorough inspection of Jahnke's car, Wheeling police decided against pressing criminal charges against the driver. No apparent mechanical defects were found on the 1986 Buick, police said. Police did ticket Jahnke with improper starting of a vehicle and failure to reduce speed to avoid a collision.

So many requests came into Village Hall about how to help the Del Real family that the Wheeling Resource Center opened a fund at Hoyle Savings Bank to help pay for the boy's funeral expenses.

**4** After battling with the village over plans to develop the former Billy & Co. site on South Milwaukee Avenue for more than a year, an agreement between the residents and the developer was reached late last month.

Realen had filed a \$3 million suit against three residents, saying they were maliciously filing suit against the village to stop development. The two sides agreed to a settlement in December that called for \$12,000 to go to nearby Whitman School from Realen Homes to be used to purchase playground equipment.

Neighbors had long voiced their concerns over shrinking playground space at Whitman School because of the proposed town houses. However, the village maintained that the property owners had the right to do as they chose with their property, and School District 21 was not interested in buying all of the site.

Eventually, the School District and Wheeling Park District did agree to purchase 1.9 of the 7.8 acres available for development. This is the first

site in the village's tax increment financing district to be developed.

Facing mounting community opposition, the village held a new public hearing on the 40-unit townhouse plan in September, with trustees approving the plan four days later. Despite objections, Realen is now building the town houses at 124-194 S. Milwaukee Ave., with the first residents expected to move in as early as March.

**5** Years of hard work paid off Aug. 18 when the first Metra train rolled into Wheeling's commuter depot for a celebratory inaugural ride.

The new North Central line carries passenger from Antioch to Chicago's Union Station. The line marked Metra's first new commuter service in the Chicago area in 70 years.

Each of the 10 communities with stops along the line has assumed responsibility for building their own depots and parking lots. Metra noted that the North Central was not started because the rail service wanted to expand, but because municipal leaders

(Continued on page 18)

wanted the service and were willing to help fund it.

Service has been unchanged since the commuter line opened — three in-bound trips in the morning, three out-bound trips at night and one round-trip midday. Metra officials have said that service could be increased if a demand exists. When trains are not running, Pace, the suburban bus system, has routes that parallel the tracks so no commuters are left stranded.

**6** Once again this spring, some Wheeling residents found themselves wading in water and cleaning out their basements when the Wheeling Drainage Ditch jumped its banks in late May.

Police evacuated residents of the Meadowbrook subdivision along Wolf Road, and Holmes Middle School was closed until water receded. Wolf Road was closed to traffic while village crews pumped out water. Heritage Park also was flooded.

The Red Cross set up an emergency shelter at the Wheeling Recreation Center for displaced residents.

A series of downpours caused flooding of Buffalo Creek, which flows into the Drainage Ditch. One resident on South Wolf Road reported three feet of water in his garage but managed to joke about carp that were swimming in his back yard.

**7** For the last year, Wheeling residents had met in committees to develop the village's strategic improvement plan. On Nov. 9, Village President Sheila Schultz unveiled the results of the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" project.

Village officials will now determine which entities would best handle the various suggestions included in the report. Some would be best addressed by the Village Board, while others may be funneled to Wheeling School District 21 or the Wheeling Park District.

The Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce was wary of the project at first, saying the village needed a plan to focus on improving economic development. Chamber officials did work on the project and have said they look forward to its implementation.

**8** Residents of Wheeling's trailer parks are still waiting for a rent control ordinance from village trustees. Mobile home owners in June approached trustees citing a number of complaints at the Whippletree Mobile Home Park located off Old McHenry Road.

Residents want the village



Tim J. Tuffy/Pioneer Press

**Wheeling resident Brenda Sanchez wades her way up her family's flooded driveway after swollen creeks and drainage ditches jumped their banks and caused extensive damage.**

to impose some type of control over increasing rents. The owner of the trailer park, however, said he deserves to make a profit, saying rents have only increased an average of 6 percent a year over the last 10 years. Trustees discussed a rent justification ordinance in which the owner would need to show his rising expenses before raising rents, but no action has been taken.

Many of the complaints residents lodged at the owner concerned use of the clubhouse, who is responsible for landscaping and poor management-resident relations. Several trustees said the issues may be resolved without village involvement if communication between residents and the management company improved.

**9** Wheeling High School could use extra classroom space, but a proposal to close the school's indoor pool to build more classrooms had students and their parents up in arms.

High School District 214 is debating whether to renovate the pool to add classrooms for an estimated \$3.5 million, or build classrooms on the north side of the building for \$4.6 million. A board decision was expected Dec. 19.

Residents who attended earlier School Board meetings to fight to save the pool said it would be unfair to take the pool away from the students.

Residents and students said the school's swim teams would suffer by not having their own pool in which to practice daily.

**10** Brat the cat brought nationwide attention to Wheeling this spring when she saved the life of her owner, 15-year-old Jose Ybarra.

The boy was suffering a meningitis-related seizure during the night when Brat, knowing something was wrong, woke the boy's mother, Karen Hummerich, by licking on her face. The cat ran from the Hummerich's bed back to the closed door of Ybarra's room until the woman went to check on her son.

Wheeling paramedics took Ybarra to Glenbrook Hospital, but the boy was later transferred to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge where he was diagnosed with a type of bacterial meningitis.

Ybarra was in a coma for five days, then recovered slowly, becoming more alert each day.

Doctors told Hummerich that had she woken up 10 minutes later, she may have found her son dead. Fully recovered, Ybarra returned to Wheeling High School after spring break. Brat's heroics were honored by the Wheeling Village Board and state Sen. Marty Butler, R-Park Ridge.

▶ A look back at what you and your neighbors did in 1996

# Year in Review

# 1996

*Countryside 12-26-96*



Rob Dicker/Pioneer Press

Mud volleyball players Jessica Hallberg, left, and Ian Stark, right, give teammate Greg Braden a new hairdo during a Wheeling Park District-sponsored tournament that brought players from around the suburbs and Chicago.



Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

Five-year-old Ramon Arcos of Wheeling was one of many children who were able to enjoy the new playground that was built this year at Childerley Park in Wheeling.

## JANUARY

Residents of the Plum Creek condominium association complain to village officials about the dangerous entrance to their development after the Illinois Department of Transportation relocates the nearby intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads.

The access on Wolf Road now forces southbound drivers to cross a raised median to enter the condominium development, which is in unincorporated Cook County. IDOT says the median is mountable and cars can drive over it, but residents, many of whom are senior citizens, are hesitant to do so. Poor lighting and lack of signs also make the entrance dangerous, residents say.

Wheeling Park District commissioners are sent back to the village's Plan Commission after slight changes are found on the development proposal for Childerley Park on Old McHenry Road. A perimeter path to allow police officers to patrol the park was eliminated, as well as one of the accesses to Old McHenry Road, in the park's latest plan.

In an effort to trim costs, the Park District also eliminated two sand volleyball courts and a shelter. Though trustees send the proposal back to the Plan Commission,

they agree to speed it through the village's approval process so construction can begin.

More than 600 London Middle School students, teachers and parents gather on a Sunday afternoon to rededicate the newly renovated school that opened at the start of the 1995-96 school year. During the ceremony, students present a time capsule filled with recent headlines, listings of students' favorite movies/musical groups and a video of themselves. The time capsule is placed in the library and is to be opened in 25 years.

## February

Village trustees pass an ordinance requiring solicitors to acquire a permit before going door-to-door in Wheeling. If solicitors don't produce the village-issued permit on request of a resident, residents are instructed to report the solicitor to the Police Department.

The village's previous solicitor ordinance did not specify who needed to apply for a permit or what the requirements were to obtain a permit. Now, solicitors have to list a home and business address, phone number, Social Security number, driver's license number and give a

brief description of the activity being conducted on the permit application.

Wheeling's Community Resource Center gets a much-needed financial boost when trustees vote to increase the village's donation to the center from \$20,000 to \$21,500. In return, trustees request a more detailed report of who the center serves and what services they request.

The 3-year-old Resource Center offers residents assistance with housing, family crises, children's programs, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, job readiness and English classes, among a number of other programs targeted to serve Wheeling's minority population.

Wheeling trustees take another step toward bringing commuter rail service to the village when they agree to spend \$2.4 million to purchase the Meyer Material Co. property at 129 Railroad Ave., which later is used to house the train depot and a parking lot. The purchase includes the plant where the company makes concrete, and company officials announce that they hope to relocate in Wheeling, possibly on Northgate Avenue.

## March

Members of St. Joseph Catholic Church pull the plug on the parish's annual five-day Familyfest. The festival, held over the Fourth of July each summer, had suffered in recent years from uncooperative weather and dwindling proceeds. In 1995, rains forced the cancellation of the festival on the Fourth, and wiped out the village's fireworks display.

When Familyfest started 14 years ago, it was unique to the area and attracted between 75,000 and 100,000 visitors during the five-day event. More recently, the festival competed heavily with other summer festivals, organizers say.

A handful of residents turn out for the Wheeling park district's second public hearing on the fate of Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Park commissioners were in the midst of determining whether to renovate

the clubhouse, rebuild it or raze it. The clubhouse is badly in need of updating, including the replacement of more than 300 windows and renovations to make it handicap accessible.

Wheeling village trustees and park commissioners clash on their plans for Concord park, a recreational area being donated to the village by the developers of the Avalon-Sienna subdivision on the village's south side.

Concord Development Corp. of Palatine is building 157 town houses and 204 single-family homes on the 122 acres between Palatine and Old Willow roads, just west of the ComEd right of way. Park commissioners hope to build more sports fields, but trustees were hoping to provide more passive recreation, such as a walking path.

Too much development in the park would create traffic problems for residents of the new subdivision, trustees argue. The village says unde-

veloped, open space is needed as part of the village's flood control system.

## April

**Trustees agree to let the 24 homeowners on Forest View Drive in unincorporated Cook County decide with a vote in November whether to annex to the village of Wheeling.** Northbrook had planned to forcibly annex the homes, located on the east side of the Cook County Forest Preserve. Residents express concerns they would be forced to tap into Northbrook's sewer and water lines if forcibly annexed.

Though the issue was agreed to be placed on the November ballot, homeowners withdraw their petition later in the year after an annexation agreement was worked out with Northbrook officials.

**Wheeling police officer Christine Parr, the department's DARE officer, announces her selection to provide security for the 1996 Summer Olympic games in Atlanta.**

**Wheeling trustees spend \$2,048 to purchase equipment necessary to start broadcasting Village Board meetings on the local cable access channel.** In addition to airing tapes of the meetings, the equipment has the ability to post computer-generated messages on the channel.

## May

**Plans are approved for a McDonald's and a Mobil service station for the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club site at Lake-Cook and Weiland roads.** The Mobil opens in fall but the McDonald's remains unfinished.

Mobil faces numerous obstacles before receiving trustees' approval, due to concern over two service stations abandoned by the company in the past.

**Four officers take to the streets on bicycles when the Wheeling Police Department launches its first bike patrol.** The emphasis on the bike patrols is to get into the various neighborhoods and be more approachable to residents. Officers on the bikes can perform all of the duties of their patrol car counterparts, except transport suspects.

**A dispute about sewer service to the proposed Target store on the Horcher Farm virtually kills the project and sends developers looking outside the village.** The major sticking point is whether Target developers will pay to install a gravity-type sewer along the frontage of the 14.5-acre site on Old McHenry Road.

Rather than front the

money, Target developers want to install a lift-station sewer that is currently used by Wal-Mart and Sam's Club, both located just across Old McHenry Road from the proposed site. Developers say they want to be reimbursed for the sewer expense by recapturing sales tax revenues generated by the Target store. Village officials refuse their offer, and Target withdraws its proposal.

## June

**Addolorata Villa, at 555 McHenry Road, announces its purchase by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago.** The 17-acre continuing care and retirement facility was previously owned by the Servants of Mary. Though Franciscan Sisters announce they will

to Indian Trails Library at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road. Voters in November 1995 approved a \$3.8 million referendum to allow the library to build a 14,000-square-foot, two-story addition on its south side. Construction begins in fall.

**U.S. Postal Service workers picket to show their concern for increasing automation within area post offices.** Postal officials say mail service is becoming more efficient because of automation, but union officials say carriers are actually being slowed down on their routes because of misguided moves toward automation. A Wheeling union representative says the Postal Service seems to be concentrating on serving those customers who mail items, rather than the



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

**Bicycle officers Michael Kirby, left, and Francisco Lozano hit the streets this year as part of the Wheeling Police Department's new bicycle patrol group.**

manage the home, Servants of Mary agrees to maintain an active role in the community, including serving on the board of directors.

Addolorata Villa was opened by Servants of Mary, a Ladysmith, Wis.-based religious order, in 1942. The facility includes independent living apartments, sheltered-care accommodations, a skilled-nursing facility, chapel, dining area, lounges, library and game room.

**Village trustees approve final plans for the expansion**

people who receive mail.

## July

**Bernie Koeppen, who served as Wheeling's fire chief for 36 years, is selected grand marshal of Wheeling's Fourth of July parade.** This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Wheeling Fire Department. Koeppen was elected chief by his peers in 1954, then was hired by the village as the department's first full-time chief in 1969. Koeppen retired from the department in



Todd Heister/Pioneer Press

**A new control tower is rising at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.** The tower, which is expected to become fully operational next year, will allow for safer and more efficient air-traffic controlling.



Joe Shuman/For Pioneer Press

**Rawlins Riles, 8, of Wheeling, dashes to the outside during a 1996 game with the Wheeling Park District's Youth Football League.**

Todd, who was elected to the Village Board in 1993, had planned to move out of the village. Prior to serving as a trustee, he served a two-year term on the Wheeling Park Board.

After Todd's announcement, Village President Sheila Schultz appoints Jeanne Selander as his replacement. Selander had been serving as village clerk, a position she was elected to in 1993.

## August

**Ken Swanson, administrative librarian at Indian Trails Library, announces his retirement from the library effective in October.** Swanson, who served as administrative librarian since 1971, was responsible for implementing the library's first computerized circulation system, making it one of the first small libraries in the country to offer the service when it started in 1974.

A year later, he implemented the Outreach Department, which still manages a summer book van and delivers books to homebound senior citizens. Most recently, he

1990.

**Wheeling forms a Human Rights Commission with Village President Sheila Schultz appointing five charter members.** The group is charged with ensuring that all citizens of Wheeling enjoy their rights. Because discrimination complaints are formally handled through state and federal laws, the village's commission has no legal authority. It can only offer solutions or direct residents to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**Village Trustee Bob Todd submits his resignation.**

(Continued on page 12)

letters to the editor

Please limit letters to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include daytime and evening telephone numbers. No letters will be published anonymously. Letters are subject to editing. Mail to Fence Post, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006. Fax to Fence Post at (847) 427-1301. E-mail to fencepost@dailyherald.com.

1-9-97  
**Where was leadership?**

I am writing about your Dec. 10 article regarding the "Wheeling, 2000 and Beyond" committee recommendations.

I attended the Nov. 16 meeting at which the various committees gave their reports. At that time, I volunteered to serve on four committees to implement these suggestions. Those were the committees on community diversity, cultural integration, government, infrastructure, and image and public relations. To date, no one from the village of Wheeling has contacted me to advise that a meeting is being held.

Now, as reported in your article, a lot of the trustees are jumping on the bandwagon to agree with the findings. Trustee Pat Horcher was quoted as agreeing with the ombudsman suggestion. The facts are that I live in Tahoe Village, and we had a problem with the previous local condominium association board. I went to the village hall and spoke to Dan Oszanich in community development; Rick Glenz, the village engineer; and to Craig Anderson, the village manager. They were all very polite, courteous and helpful. I came away with a good feeling about their attentiveness and encouragement. I agree with Pat Horcher that we can use an existing village employee for the ombudsman position. Spending money for an ombudsman seems really wasteful to me if all village employees are of the same dedication and willingness to help as these three.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who is running for village president, suddenly realized that the citizens were concerned about zoning codes and a better ordinance classification system. She is quoted as saying, "Now we see people are concerned. We need to address these concerns." Where has she been? What has she done for the 10 years she heard these concerns? The answer is nothing!

There are two kinds of leaders. The first sees a problem and starts a movement to correct it. The second sees a movement and gets out in front of it and says, "OK, now that you're moving in the right direction, I will lead you." I'm sorry to say I think Judy is the latter.

It's time for a challenge!

Jerry Chudnow  
Wheeling

■ 1996 Continued from page 9

helped the Library Board with a successful referendum to build an addition to the library.

**Wheeling trustees approve** a telecommunications tax to go into effect Oct. 1. The tax is expected to generate \$500,000 of revenue a year for the village. The 5 percent tax applies to all telephone calls, faxes, cellular phones, pagers, commuter lines and any other communications that are transmitted similarly.

Village Manager Craig Anderson says the tax is yet another source of income for the village and one which many surrounding suburbs already have enacted. Five percent is the maximum tax the state allows a municipality to enact on telecommunications services.

**Janet D'Argo**, who served as Wheeling's village clerk from 1985 to 1989, is again appointed to the position by Village President Sheila Schultz. D'Argo will complete the term vacated by Jeanne Selander, when she was appointed to fill a trustee vacancy left by the resignation of Bob Todd.

The clerk's position is up for election in the April 1997 municipal elections.

**September**

**Village trustees** hire the public relations firm of Siles & Walsh for another six months at a cost of \$12,000 to promote a positive image of the village. The firm was first hired six months earlier. When Siles & Walsh was hired earlier in the year, Trustees Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher voted against the hiring, but the board votes unanimously when extending their contract for another six months.

**Challenges to the testing procedure** for promotion within the Wheeling Police Department are answered, and the test scores will stand, the village's Board of Fire and Police Commissioners decide. Four officers who took the test in hopes of being promoted to sergeants challenged certain portions of the test.

Among the complaints were that assessors were not adequately trained to grade the officers; there was a lack of systematic scoring within the process; and instructions on some portions were not clear. As sergeants, officers move into a supervisory position, receive a higher salary and are given more responsibility.

**A 25-year-old** Wheeling man is awarded \$1.8 million in damages four years after his car was rear-ended by a United Parcel Service truck in Northfield. Steven Froh broke his neck in the September 1992 accident when the 5.5-ton truck struck his compact car on Willow Road. Because of an agreement among both parties' attorneys, Froh will receive a maximum of \$1.5 million.

**October**

**On the verge** of celebrating their 10-year anniversary as co-owners of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, village officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights express interest in rewriting the intergovernmental agreement that governs the airport. Prospect Heights officials are upset to learn that Wheeling extended a water main to provide service to the new control tower and a new Priester hangar at the airport. Prospect Heights officials say they were not notified the main was being installed.

**Less than a year** after it opened, C.K. Finer Foods closes its doors at 550 W. Dundee Road in Lynn Plaza. The grocery store replaced a Dominick's store that left in Feb. 1995. Dominick's had served Wheeling residents for 22 years, but company officials said the building

was just too small to house their current needs.

**With much anticipation**, Crowdaddy Bayou restaurant at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave., opens its doors, bringing a slice of Louisiana cooking to the northwest suburbs. Owners say their restaurant will fit in well with Wheeling's famed Restaurant Row. In addition to authentic Cajun food, the restaurant offers a full-service bar, gift shop of Cajun specialty items and a small theater where customers can view a movie about life on the bayou while waiting for their tables.

**November**

**The suburbs are** typically a suburban stronghold, but Democrats do surprisingly well in the Nov. 5 elections. In Wheeling Township, Bill Clinton beats Republican Bob Dole in the president's race and Dick Durbin is elected U.S. senator over Al Salvi. Democrats Lauren Beth Gash and Terry Link also win in Wheeling Township for state House and Senate, respectively.

**Chevy Chase Clubhouse** is decorated for a celebration as Village President Sheila Schultz reads the final report of the yearlong "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement project. The report offers suggestions about what can make Wheeling a better place in which to live. A year ago, residents volunteered for the various committees that included economic development, infrastructure, community service, government, education, community diversity and image.

Schultz says the suggestions would be forwarded to the appropriate government bodies. She expects the village will begin implementing some of the plan's suggestions in early 1997.

**Catholics are joined** by people of all faiths in mourning the death of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. The Rev. Fred Brandstrader of St. Joseph parish in Wheeling says his parishioners are feeling a sincere loss over the Cardinal's death. Brandstrader says he lost a friend and a role model.

**December**

**The Wheeling Park Board** agrees to place a referendum on the April 1997 ballot to fund an estimated \$3 million in renovations to Chevy Chase Clubhouse. About 200 people pack the Devonshire Room of the clubhouse Dec. 3, telling park commissioners they want the clubhouse saved. The park district was considering razing the building and building just a restaurant for golfers, or a smaller banquet facility that would better suit the district's needs.

**Village President Sheila Schultz** announces plans to run for a fifth term in the April 1997 municipal elections. A first, Schultz announces she will not form a slate of candidates. Greg Klatecki, president of the Wheeling Park Board, soon after announces his plan to challenge Schultz for the presidency.

Klatecki, a teacher at Holmes Middle School in Wheeling, says residents have been encouraging him to run for the village president position for the last two years. In the spring, Klatecki will finish his second term on the Wheeling Park Board.

**Residents also come forward** to run for the three open trustee spots on the Village Board. Bill Rogers, a Palwaukee Airport commissioner and former village trustee, announces his candidacy, along with insurance broker Stuart Shapiro, attorney William Spangenberg and real-estate professional Trevor Lehmann.

# 'Unsolved Mysteries' to look for leads in woman's death

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Twenty million people will be asked this Friday night if they know who killed Jamie Santos.

The murder of the 27-year-old Wheeling woman will be featured on the NBC television show "Unsolved Mysteries."

And it is hoped new leads will surface from the show's reenactment of the Oct. 28, 1991, suffocation murder and the police department's 911 recording of a man who directed police to Santos' body in her Arlington Club apartment in Wheeling.

"I'm hoping that it will bring some leads ... that it will solve the case so we have closure," said Santos' mother, Dorothy. "It's difficult to get up every day and not know who killed your daughter."

The segment will air at 7 p.m. Friday on WMAQ-TV Channel 5.

"We look at it as another opportunity to get the case out in the public's eye," said Deputy Chief Michael Hermes of the Wheeling Police Department. "We'll get much more exposure this way."

The department's investigation of the exotic dancer's death has continued and includes searching for the mysterious male who made the 911 call. Hermes said the man could either be the killer or have information leading to the killer.

The department is still reviewing leads to in case. In an effort to generate new tips, Cook County CrimeStoppers has offered a \$1,000 reward from the

Cook County CrimeStoppers and NBC's "Real Life" morning show aired the story last summer.

That show generated about five leads that didn't advance the case, Hermes said. But he added that the "Unsolved Mysteries" spot will probably give the case more exposure because it is aired during prime time.

The taped, eight-minute segment will include interviews with Santos' family members, friends and Wheeling Sgt. Bill Benson, who worked on the case, said Tim Rogan, a coordinating producer for Cosgrove Meurer Productions Inc., the Burbank, Calif., company that produces the show for NBC.

Rogan said the segment will also review what police have learned about the case and a reenactment of the murder.

Wheeling police requested Santos' case be used on the show, which reaches 20 million viewers weekly.

When the show is aired live Friday night, Wheeling's Detective Richard Benbow will be at its California studios, where tips generated by the program are received through a hotline. Benbow's role will be to help evaluate any "hot" leads.

"If we get anything in California, we can give it to the Wheeling department and take it from there," Benbow said.

In its 10 years, the show has helped authorities reunite people or catch fugitives in 266 cases, a success rate of about 30 percent, Rogan said.

# Wheeling considers making village hall entrance safer

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is considering adding a traffic light at its village hall entrance on Dundee Road and making some other improvements there to make it safer.

The village also is thinking about replacing a pedestrian bridge that connects Jack London Middle School and Eugene Field Elementary School with a crosswalk and traffic light because of high maintenance costs.

But officials want to know if the village will get financial help from the state or any of the organizations benefiting from the improvements, estimated to cost as much as \$1.3 million.

The village board this week reviewed a proposal to conduct traffic studies for the intersection of Dundee Road and Cedar Drive, near the schools, and at the entrance of the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The engineering work, a \$25,500 cost, also would include designs for a crosswalk with a traffic light near the schools and a new driveway and traffic light at the village hall.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Wheeling pays annually to repair and maintain the pedestrian bridge, adding that it may be less expensive to replace the bridge with a crosswalk and a traffic light, a project that could have cost as much as \$300,000.

Trustees also were presented with an idea to reconfigure the village hall's driveway so that it is aligned with the post office entrance across the street and to install a traffic light. The goal of the work, estimated to cost as much as \$1 million, would be to make it safer for motorists to exit and enter the two facilities.

But trustees delayed making any decision and asked village staff to inquire if other organizations would be willing to share in the projects' expense, such as Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 paying part of the cost to dismantle the pedestrian bridge and the U.S. Postal Service contributing for road improvements and a new traffic light in front of its building.

Anderson said the village will also ask the Illinois Department of Transportation if the state would contribute money and if \$1 million in repairs is necessary to improve the hall's entrance.

# FIRE: November swearing in canceled because of illness

Continued from Page 1

posed to be sworn into office in November, but that meeting was canceled because the two board members were ill.

Rotchford said he did not know of Dean's appointment and was just trying to fill what he thought was a vacancy. Viso, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday, had been interested in serving on the fire board for two years, Rotchford added.

Because it is a legal issue, Rotchford would not comment on whether Dean should get the spot. "It's up to Tina Dean to sit down and show us a letter," Rotchford said. "I'm open to talk about this."

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who nominated Dean last year, said Stroger's appointment should be upheld. "One thing that has to be looked at is Tina Dean has a letter from Stroger ... She was appointed," Schultz said.

Prospect Heights 3rd Ward Alderman Greg Koeppen said he knew in November that Dean, whom he also nominated, was appointed. Koeppen said he was "surprised" by this week's appointment of Viso and didn't know Rotchford was making his request to the township this week.

"Tina was appointed and I think her appointment should stand," Koeppen added.

# New law causes mix-up on fire board appointment

By Bob McKee  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

begin serving a term that ends in May 1998.

Stroger spokesman John Gibson said Dean was appointed in October. This was before a state law Jan. 1 transferred from county boards to townships the responsibility of appointing fire district trustees.

But saying he did not know Dean was appointed, Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford successfully got Viso appointed to the same seat by Wheeling Township board trustees. A township official has said the township was unaware Dean already had been appointed.

Who gets the seat — either Viso or Dean — is a legal debate now, said fire district's attorney Karl Ottosen.

One question is if a county board appointment is valid if it happened before the new law went into effect Jan. 1. And another issue is if the appointment is nullified because Dean had not yet been sworn onto the board before the change in law.

"The question becomes does the county appointment fall to the township resident, intended to

See FIRE on Page 4

Tina Dean next week expected to sit in her seat on the Palwaukee Area Fire Protection District board for the first time.

But it just might not be there. The board is expected to decide whether to seat Dean, who was appointed last fall by Cook County Board President John Stroger, or Joe Viso, who was appointed this week by the Wheeling Township board.

There's only one seat, so the winner will depend on the other two board members' decision of which appointment is valid.

But Dean doesn't see it this way. "They don't want me on the board," said Dean, one of the district's biggest critics. "(But) it's not their decision to make."

A controversy ignited this week over who will serve as trustee of the district that primarily serves Prospect Heights and parts of unincorporated Wheeling Township. Dean, an unincorporated Wheeling Township resident, intended to

# WEEKLY DIGEST

## Election filing begins

Five residents filed Monday morning as candidates in the April 1 election for Wheeling park commissioner.

Incumbents Tom Webber and Mark Parkinson filed to run for re-election to their four-year terms. Residents Paul Philipp, Mike Kurgan and Ken Kent also filed nominating petitions Monday morning. A lottery will be held to determine the placement of names on the ballot for the five who filed simultaneously Monday morning.

Four positions are open on the Park Board. President Greg Klatecki, whose seat is up for re-election in April, has filed to run for village president. Park commissioner Fran Melamed's seat also is up for re-election.

Candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 21 to file their nominating petitions.

## Officers sworn in

Dorann Hitzler and Marcia Gerould took the oath of office Jan. 6 as they were sworn in as Wheeling police officers.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger presented the women with their badges. After the ceremony, a short reception was held in their honor in the Council Chambers.

## Firefighters receive certification

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac recently honored three firefighters for their successful completion of the American Association of Airport Executives and the Federal Aviation Administration's national certification for airport emergency response.

Receiving the certification were Lt. Richard Wydra and firefighters Thomas Piemonte and Patrick Trunda.

"It's to their credit that the department performed so well in the recent accident" at Palwaukee Municipal Airport on Oct. 30, 1996, that claimed the lives of all four on board a corporate jet, said MacIsaac.

Village President Sheila Schultz thanked the firefighters, on behalf of the community, for their initiative in becoming nationally certified.

# Metra likely to add later train to new line

By JON MARSHALL  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Riders on Metra's newest train line soon might be able to sleep and work later.

Metra's staff is recommending adding a later morning and a later evening train to the North Central Service, which operates between Antioch and Chicago's Union Station.

The North Central now only has three morning and three evening rush-hour trains plus a round-trip afternoon service. It has no weekend service. Currently, more than 1,200 people take the morning trains each weekday and about 1,100 take the evening trains.

Metra's board is expected to vote Wednesday to approve the two additional trains.

The later morning train would leave Antioch at 7:03 a.m., 26 minutes after the current final train, and arrive in Chicago at 8:28 a.m. The additional evening train would depart Union Station at 6:17 p.m., 39 minutes after the current last train, and arrive in Antioch at 7:42 p.m.

If the board approves the new ser-

vice, it would begin Feb. 3. It would add \$300,000 a year to the cost of running the line, Metra spokesman Tom Miller said.

Metra also is looking at slightly adjusting the times of other trains on the North Central. Under the proposed schedule, the train that now departs Antioch at 6:37 a.m. would leave two minutes earlier and the 4:23 p.m. and 5:38 p.m. trains out of Chicago would leave seven minutes later, he said.

Surveys of riders showed many people wanted later morning and evening trains, Miller said.

"A later train seemed to be what people preferred," he said. "The later train gives people who work a little later more opportunity to use the North Central."

The last train in the morning and the last one in the evening have been the most popular runs on the existing service, he said.

Leaders of communities along the line have been encouraging Metra to add the later trains.

"I would predict a substantial boost in ridership with these extra two lines," Buffalo Grove Village President Sidney H. Mathias said.

## New train times

Metra is considering adding later morning and afternoon trains to its North Central Service starting Feb. 3. Here is the proposed timetable for the additional trains:

Station	Inbound	Outbound
Antioch	7:03 a.m.	7:42 p.m.
Lake Villa	7:09 a.m.	7:34 p.m.
Round Lake Beach	7:13 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Prairie Cross./Libertyville	7:19 a.m.	7:24 p.m.
Mundelein	7:25 a.m.	7:18 p.m.
Vernon Hills	7:31 a.m.	7:12 p.m.
Prairie View	7:34 a.m.	7:09 p.m.
Buffalo Grove	7:38 a.m.	7:05 p.m.
Wheeling	7:43 a.m.	7:01 p.m.
Prospect Hts.	7:47 a.m.	6:56 p.m.
O'Hare transfer	7:58 a.m.	6:46 p.m.
River Grove	8:07 a.m.	6:37 p.m.
Chicago	8:28 a.m.	6:17 p.m.

Source: Metra

The next step is for the North Central to get a second track so it can run even more trains, Mathias said. Mayors along the line are lobbying Congress for the additional money for a second track, he said.

The North Central opened Aug. 19. It was the first new commuter line in the Chicago area since 1928.

## LETTERS

### Positive change?

*Countryside*  
Wheeling/I read with disappointment the statements regarding the "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" project made by some of the candidates for trustee of the village of Wheeling.

I found the comments intimating that only "village movers and shakers" were placed on committees quite interesting. I am quite new to the village and joined the Wheeling 2000 and Beyond project because I felt it was a good opportunity to become more acquainted with the village and some of the residents.

I was pleased that there were people who cared enough about their village to volunteer their time for an entire year to bring this project full circle.

I think the negative comments from some of the candidates are inappropriate

and unnecessary! Such negativity is what keeps a village from moving ahead and doing good things and making residents feel good about where they live.

I'm glad that I was involved in the Wheeling 2000 and Beyond project before I read the statements, or I would have gotten a very negative feeling about Wheeling. Instead, I was welcomed by some very nice people who gave me a sense of belonging.

With such negative comments, how could anyone think that you, as a candidate for trustee, bring about positive and meaningful change for the village of Wheeling?

Pam Dorband

### Street scenes

Wheeling/ Today, Jan. 9, we are having a snow storm. It is 12:30 in the afternoon. I have yet to see one snow

plow. I find it hard to believe that the entire town of Wheeling has yet to be plowed even once.

I know for a fact that part of our village taxes go to the streets and sanitation department. I see no reason not to use that money to pay village employees to plow the streets of the village.

I left for work this morning and my street was not plowed. Strong Street was not plowed. Wolf Road was not clean. Hintz was not clean. Chaddick Drive was not plowed. I did not see one plow the whole way. Chaddick Drive is in the Palwaukee industrial park. I would have thought that business taxes would include street cleanup.

If by some chance there is a far-fetched reason not to plow the streets, please feel free to inform the general public. As far as I know, it makes more sense to keep up with the snow removal, if not ahead of the build-up of

snow.

Hannelaura Hopp

### Come on, Wheeling

Wheeling/ I have read many articles in the local papers that state that Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato often abstains when votes come up of importance to the residents of Wheeling. She uses the excuse that she has a professional relationship as a banker, with either one side or the other, on the issue being voted on. I feel that this is a cop-out.

When you don't want to offend either side on an issue, you take the line of least resistance, which is a vote to abstain. Then you use the excuse that it is because of your job. If her job is so much in conflict with her duties as a trustee, she should either find a different line of work or step down as a trustee and let someone who will not

straddle the fence take the heat that goes with this position of public trust.

In 1993, when the time came to cast her vote on the allowable weights of the jet aircraft that land and take off from Palwaukee Airport, she abstained. We all know what came of that, because of the recent jet crash. The runways are not long enough for these larger jets, and they never should be made longer.

On Sept. 5, 1995, when she held the key vote on the proposed "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond," she went against her promise to the Wheeling business community and voted with the administration, and doomed the businessmen and women in Wheeling to more of the same.

When are we going to get new trustees in Wheeling who care more about the business climate than their grand plans? When Target  
(Continued on page 23)

## Letters Continued from page 17

stores wanted to come in, the village placed too many demands on them and we lost them to Palatine. Brown's Chicken is gone and then there is no Checkers restaurant to replace it. Sportmart, the Chinese restaurant and the florist on Milwaukee north of Dundee were forced out of business. They have been trying to push out the Wheeling Auto Repair for 10 years. This business has been on that corner for as long as anyone can remember, and from what I am told by the local community, has always been honest, fair and reasonably

priced. I could go on and on with examples of this anti-business attitude.

Look around you. Palatine, Prospect Heights, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, everyone has numerous large shopping centers except us.

Steve Telow put it very eloquently.

"We have a railroad station, but since they chased Dominicks supermarket out, there are no major supermarkets. We have to give our tax dollars to other suburbs when we shop for food.

"We have a Library

District, but we are trying to destroy our old downtown area at Milwaukee and Dundee and have built no other.

"We have an aquatic center, but no decent ecological parks along the river.

"We have a fountain, but no plans to keep Milwaukee Avenue a viable commercial area.

"We have a recreation center, but no shopping malls.

"We have a T.I.F. district, but not enough common sense trustees."

Now, we want to extend the

runway at Palwaukee to bring in larger, heavier jets . . . so we can have more people killed?

When residents of Whippetree Trailer Homes came to the village attorney and trustees regarding the rent control ordinance issue (because of the property owner who lives in Lake Forest and who gouges them for increased rents), they came away empty-handed. What good is an ombudsman, when your problem is paying the rent and keeping a roof over your head?

When the present president of the village of Wheeling,

Sheila Schultz, was last elected, it took only 1,400 of our residents to put her in a position of great importance to the future of Wheeling. Our trustees are elected with about 1,000 or 1,200 votes.

Come on, Wheeling, wake up and realize that if we stay home on election day, we get what we deserve. Nothing!

Plan to come out and vote on April 1st, or if you cannot make it because of illness or an inability to get to the polling place, vote by absentee. But for God sakes, vote; for your children and the future of Wheeling.

Jerry Chudnow

# Mayoral ballots starting to fill up

By Jean Latz Griffin  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

## Monday first day for filing nominating petitions

Mayors in at least five northwest suburbs will face challengers in the April 1 election, based on nominating petitions filed Monday, the first day of a six-day filing period.

Three-way mayoral races are set for Barrington Hills, Des Plaines, Mt. Prospect and Wheeling. Two candidates have filed for mayor in Elk Grove Village.

Although additional challengers may file before the deadline of 5 p.m. Jan. 21, only sitting mayors and village presidents filed Monday

in Arlington Heights, Barrington, Hanover Park, Park Ridge and Streamwood.

In Mt. Prospect, Mayor Gerald Farley will face trustee George Clowes and Ernest Lasse, two men who also ran for village president in 1993.

In Des Plaines, Mayor Ted

Sherwood will be opposed by Richard Ornborg, a 25-year veteran of the city's fire department, and Paul Jung, a former school superintendent and a current member of the Des Plaines Fire and Police Commission.

In Wheeling, Mayor Sheila

Schultz will have a rematch against trustee Judy Abruscato, whom she defeated in 1993. Greg Klatecki, Wheeling Park District Board president, has also filed in that race.

In Barrington Hills, Mayor James Kempe will face Tom Nestrud and Henry Mohr.

In Elk Grove Village, trustees Craig Johnson and Paul

SEE FILINGS, PAGE 6

## Filings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rettberg have filed as candidates for the open seat of village president.

Mayors who filed Monday and so far have no opposition are Arlene Mulder in Arlington Heights, Ronald Wietecha in Park Ridge, Ron Hamelberg in Barrington and Billie Roth in Streamwood.

In Hanover Park, where veteran Mayor Sonya Crawshaw is retiring trustee Irwin Bock has filed for the post.

Those who filed for aldermanic or trustee races on Monday were:

■ **Barrington:** David Schmidt, Daniel Frommeyer, Michael Ryan and Jerry Conners.

■ **Barrington Hills:** John Kuechmann, Francine Fossler, Lorraine Briggs and Bonnie Duresa.

■ **Des Plaines:** 1st Ward, Patricia Beauvais and Sally Wiggins; 3rd Ward, Wayne Elstner and Arnold Agnos; 5th Ward, O.J. "Jim" Curley and Peter Nichols; and 7th Ward, Richard Ahlman, Judy Lambert and Don Smith.

■ **Elk Grove Village:** Ted Thompson, Pat Feichter, Alva Kreutzer, Jane Trotter, Bill Dart and Chris Prochno.

■ **Hanover Park:** Wesley Eby, William Manton, Robert Packham and Joseph Nicolosi.

■ **Mt. Prospect:** Timothy Corcoran, Richard Lohrstorfer, Dan Nocchi, Scott Stassen and Tom Davies.

■ **Prospect Heights:** 1st Ward, Philip Herman and Nicola Teramami; 2nd Ward, Robert Donovan; 3rd Ward, Thomas Shirley; 4th Ward, Denise Krasicki and Gerald Anderson; and 5th Ward, Edwin Shipanik.

■ **Streamwood:** David Stoves, William Carlson and William Harper.

■ **Wheeling:** William Rogers, Stuart Shapiro, Wayne Wisinski, Elizabeth Hartman, Trevor Lehmann and William Stangenberg.

## Early filing flurry for village election

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and Wayne Wisinski and residents Stuart Shapiro, William Spangenberg, William Rogers and Trevor Lehmann. The candidates will be vying for four-year terms.

The third open trustee seat is currently held by former village clerk Jeanne Selander, who was appointed to the position in the fall. No one filed for the four-year village clerk term, filled by Janet D'Argo when Selander accepted the appointment to the trustee position.

Candidates have until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, to file their petitions for the April 1 election. A lottery will be held Jan. 28 to determine the placement of names on the ballot for the village president and village trustee candidates who filed at 8 a.m. Monday.

At 8 a.m. Monday, the first day for candidates in the upcoming election to file their nominating petitions, three residents presented petitions to run for village president.

Village President Sheila Schultz, Trustee Judy Abruscato and Greg Klatecki, president of the Wheeling Park Board, filed petitions to run for the four-year village president's position.

Six residents filed simultaneously Monday morning for run for the three open seats as village trustees.

Filing were incumbent

# Candidates pack spring ballot for races in Wheeling

By BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

One thing was clear Monday as suburbanites filed their candidacy for local offices: It's going to be a contest in Wheeling.

In the first day of filing for candidacy in the April 1 municipal election, three people put their name on the ballot for the village president's race and six for the three village board seats.

Meanwhile, three incumbent Buffalo Grove trustees made official their campaigns for re-election, as did Long Grove's village president and four incumbent Long Grove trustees. So far, the Long Grove trustee race is the only one that saw a challenger in those three races.

People have until Jan. 21 to file their candidacy.

There were few surprises Monday regarding the filings for village offices in Buffalo Grove, Long Grove and Wheeling, with most of the candidates already having made their intentions known.

As was expected, Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz will seek her fifth, 4-year term. The Schultz, 66, is one of the longest standing mayors in the Northwest suburbs.

She will be joined in the race, however, by two challengers — village Trustee Judy Abruscato, 66, and Wheeling Park District President Greg Klatecki, 55.

With six people filing their candidacy, there will also be a contest for three, 4-year seats on the village board.

Incumbent Trustees Elizabeth



Hartman, a homemaker, and Wayne Wisinski, a 45-year-old plant manager, will be joined by at least four independent challengers.

Filing to get on the ballot were William Rogers, a 70-year-old former trustee; Trevor Lehmann, a 29-year-old real estate business owner; Stuart Shapiro, a 41-year-old president of a financial company; and William C. Spangenberg, a 41-year-old attorney.

In Buffalo Grove, three incumbent trustees filed their candidacy for three, 4-year terms — William Reid, a 63-year-old education consultant; Jeffrey Braiman, a 44-year-old attorney; and Charles Hendricks, a 55-year-old general contractor.

Members of the Long Grove Nominating Committee filed its slate of candidates — mostly incumbents — for village president, clerk and four trustee seats.

The party backed Village President Lenore Simmons, a 48-year-old part-time financial controller, in a bid for her second four-year term.

Also backed by the committee, which selected its slate in a recent caucus, were four incumbent trustees — Jeri Monroe, a 55-year-old retired school teacher; Donald Pochopien, a 50-year-old lawyer; Ed Hoak, a 57-year-old retired cor-

See RUN on Page 4



Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, from left, Trustee Judy Abruscato and Greg Klatecki line up to file their petitions to run for the village president's seat.

Daily Herald Photo/George LeClaire



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# Dundee safety concerns persist

Countyside 1-16-97

**With traffic always on the rise, Wheeling officials are revisiting past concerns over pedestrian and motorist safety along Dundee Road. Their plans may even include demolition of the pedestrian overpass leading to London Middle School.**

By **CHERI BENTRUP**  
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling trustees are once again discussing whether a stoplight would improve traffic safety in front of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

"I think it is no question sometimes it is difficult to get out of this location," said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

As part of the village's discussion on improving safety near Village Hall, officials also are investigating the possibility of removing the pedestrian ramp over Dundee Road that serves students at London Middle School.

Part of the plan to improve safety is to align the west drive of the Village Hall complex with the entrance at the Wheeling Post Office, across the street at 250 W. Dundee Road.

Anderson said.

Village staff also has spoken with St. Joseph the Worker Church at 181 W. Dundee Road about tying in to the village drive system to allow parishioners to safely exit at the traffic light.

The Wheeling Park District also indicated it would like to see whether its north parking lot at the Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, could be connected to allow visitors to exit at the light through the village driveway, Anderson said.

Currently, drivers who exit the Park District's lot must turn right onto Dundee.

Though the village would seek funds from those entities, Anderson said the actual contributions would not be significant enough to relieve the village of the majority of the financial burden. He doubted whether IDOT would be willing to fund some of the improvements.

"I think this project has some merit, but the question is, at what cost?" Anderson said.

Anderson also would like Benes to investigate installing a traffic signal at Dundee and Cedar Drive, between Field Elementary and London Middle schools. The existing pedestrian overpass would be removed if the traffic signal were installed.

"(The overpass) requires ongoing maintenance and gets hit from time to time. Let's face it, it's an eyesore," Anderson said.

Benes & Associates representatives said adding the overpass to the study would account for an additional \$9,200. The cost to remove the overpass and install a traffic signal is estimated at \$300,000.

"From a long-term perspective, it may be cost effective to do something different over there," Anderson said, noting that the village annually budgets about \$60,000 to maintain the overpass.

Police Chief Michael Haeger said he has been contacted by a parents group about installing a traffic signal to make the crossing safer for children, but he has not heard from Wheeling Elementary School District 21.

"It has been a parental concern, not a school concern,"

About a year ago, the village spent \$8,370 to hire Barton-Aschman of Evanston to complete an engineering study on whether the west drive could be reconfigured to improve traffic safety.

The next step would be to hire an engineer to draft construction plans, conduct traffic counts and create an

**"I think this project has some merit, but the question is, at what cost?"**

intersection design to present to the Illinois Department of Transportation, which has jurisdiction over Dundee Road. James J. Benes & Associates has proposed to do that work for \$16,300.

Anderson roughly estimated the cost for the construction project at \$1 million. That figure includes necessary land acquisition, widening of Dundee Road, driveway reconstruction and the cost of the traffic signal.

"The board needs to decide if that (study) work is done; whether you're ready to proceed with the project," An-

(Continued on page 14)



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

**London Middle School students climb the steps of the pedestrian overpass to safely cross Dundee Road after school last week. Village trustees are considering removing the overpass and replacing it with a stoplight at Dundee and Cedar Drive.**

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"It has been a parental concern, not a school concern," Haeger said.

Even if the traffic signal is installed by the schools, Anderson said, a crossing guard may be necessary.

Trustee Jeanne Selander said she would be willing to go along with Benes' study for the light in front of London Middle School, but not until knowing whether the school district would participate financially.

# Runway expansion grounded



Palwaukee Municipal Airport's main runway won't see an expansion anytime soon after Wheeling officials Monday night rejected the plan.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

## Waiting in the wings

### DuPage airport hopes to lure business after Wheeling quashes Palwaukee's plans

BY DAN CULLOTON AND BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

1-14-97

Corporate jet operators are not expected to abandon Palwaukee Municipal Airport even though a proposal to lengthen its main runway has been rejected.

But at least one of Palwaukee's competitors, DuPage County Airport, thinks it could benefit from the Northwest suburban airfield's loss.

Palwaukee sought from its two owners — Wheeling and Prospect Heights — permission to expand its 5,000-foot runway by 400 feet for an emergency stopping area. Aside from safety, the extra room could have allowed some new, heavier jets to use the airfield.

Prospect Heights never considered the plan.

And Monday night, Wheeling officials unanimously rejected the proposal, which attracted community-wide opposition after the Oct. 30 crash of a corporate jet that killed four people just north of the airport.

"This really brought out fear in people and ... you really can't ignore something like this; you have to respond," said Trustee Jeanne Selander. "We certainly don't want to be a negative force to business, but we have to look out for our residents."

But officials said that they didn't really see extend-

### Fighting for corporate flights

Could Palwaukee see fallout from loss of runway extension?

# of flights	# of runways	Longest runway	Airport size
180,702	3	5,000 feet	412 acres
<b>Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Wheeling</b>			
190,000	4	6,700 feet	1,500 acres
<b>DuPage County Airport, West Chicago</b>			
80,000	1	3,800 feet	81 acres
<b>Schaumburg Regional Airport</b>			
93,395	2	6,000 feet	535 acres
<b>Waukegan Regional</b>			
N.A.*	1	3,804 feet	25 acres
<b>Lake-in-the-Hills</b>			
51,058**	1	4,000 feet	90 acres
<b>Meigs Field, Chicago</b>			

Note: Number of flights is an annual figure.

\*Airport does not keep this statistic, they get an estimate from IDOT.

\*\* 1995, last full year of operation

Source: Airports

Daily Herald Graphic

ing the runway as bringing that much of a benefit. The airport is already safe and not expanding the

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runway shouldn't hurt its economic viability, said Village Manager Craig Anderson.

"(There is) no compelling reason to make that runway any longer than it is," Anderson said.

But the DuPage County Airport "absolutely" expects to reap more business now that Palwaukee's extension plans have been thwarted, said its spokesman, Brian Kulpin.

Even if it can't lure pilots from Palwaukee, the West Chicago airport thinks it has the edge over Palwaukee in the competition for new corporate tenants thanks to a newly extended take off and landing strip of its own and more room for expansion.

"Palwaukee is in a completely different situation," Kulpin said. "They are landlocked."

DuPage reopened a 6,700-foot runway on Christmas day after extending it from 5,100 feet to attract more corporate planes looking for a place to take off fully fueled for coast-to-coast or international flights.

"We can't wait to see how much our business increases this year because of this new runway," Kulpin said.

Palwaukee manager Fred E. Stewart Jr. admitted the loss of the runway extension could have some affect on his airport's operation.



At least one competing airport thinks it may benefit from new corporations looking for a runway longer than that at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, above.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

But talk of Palwaukee — the state's third busiest airport — losing tenants and business is "all supposition," Stewart said.

"I don't know how it will be perceived," he said. "It could be extremely detrimental to business or it could have no effect at all."

Stewart said the project's chief goal was safety but added that several corporate and private users said in a recent survey that they would prefer a longer runway.

About three or four tenants have left Palwaukee in recent years in

search of longer runways, but all of them have been replaced by other operators, Stewart said.

It's possible others could follow, said Rich Bogoff, vice president of the Palwaukee Airplane Pilots Association. Bogoff said he has not heard anyone say they would shun the airport without the extension.

"I would imagine there would be some businesses that wouldn't come or would vacate. I don't know," Bogoff said. "From the business side of it, if you've got more options you get more response."

## Palwaukee fire district expected to seat new members

The Palwaukee Area Fire Protection District is expected to seat two members at tonight's meeting. The district will hold its meeting at

new members at the meeting, but also will decide which of two people, who were appointed to the same seat, will come in the position.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford last week nominated and successfully got appointed Prospect

# Wheeling rejects plan to extend Palwaukee runway

but thought the issue had come up at the wrong time.

"I felt we need to get the information on whether the runway played any part in the crash," he said.

Said Anderson, "I don't expect the proposal to be raised again anytime soon."

happen because there is still a [77,000-pound aircraft] weight limit, and that is what regulates the size of airplanes using Palwaukee."

Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford said that given Wheeling's rejection, the proposal is "a moot point." He said he supported the concept of a safety extension,

quencies to not doing so.

"It appeared ... there was no compelling reason to extend the runway," Anderson said. "One concern was that if extended, it might attract commercial traffic and make the airport more attractive to larger planes."

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A proposal to extend the main runway at Palwaukee Airport — the site of a fatal Oct. 30 plane crash — faded after the Wheeling Village Board voted unanimously against the idea, officials said.

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission had sought to extend the runway to 6,700 feet, which already is 5,000 feet long. The extra length would have allowed a safety apron to be used by pilots aborting takeoffs in emergencies.

The airport commission is an advisory board for Palwaukee's owners, Wheeling and Prospect Heights, where the facility is located. Before such an extension could be built, both municipalities would have to amend an intergovernmental agreement that bans runway extensions, officials said.

Runway 16/34 was the site of the crash of a Gulfstream G-IV business jet that claimed the lives of four people.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Jim Silliman said that the final crash report was not ready. He said aviation experts are scheduled to examine the wreckage's nose wheel steering device

is week at NTSB facilities.



SUN-TIMES

# DuPage airport hopes to lure business after Wheeling quashes Palwaukee's plans

By DAN CULLOTON  
AND BOB MCKEE  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

1-14-97

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The Palwaukee Area Fire Protection District is expected to seat two members at tonight's meeting.

The district will hold its meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District office, 10 E. Camp McDonald Road. The district had planned to meet at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport, but changed the location.

The board is expected to seat its



At least one competing airport thinks it may benefit from new corporations looking for a runway longer than that at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, above.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black

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new members at the meeting, but also will decide which of two people, who were appointed to the same seat, will serve in the position.

Tina Dean, a resident of unincorporated Wheeling Township, was appointed to the position by Cook County Board President John Stroger.

But saying he did not know the appointment had been made.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford last week nominated and successfully got appointed Prospect Heights resident Joe Viso to the post by Wheeling Township trustees.

District trustees will decide which nomination is valid. On Jan. 1, the authority to appoint people to fire district boards was switched from the county board to townships.

# Wheeling rejects plan to extend runway

By GILBERT JIMENEZ  
TRANSPORTATION REPORTER

A proposal to extend the main runway at Palwaukee Airport — a fatal Oct. 30 plane crash — faded after the Wheeling Village Board voted unanimously against the idea, officials said. The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission had sought to add 400 feet to Runway 16/34, which already is 5,000 feet long. The extra length would have served as a safety apron to be used by pilots aborting takeoffs in emergencies.

The airport commission is an advisory board for Palwaukee's owners, Wheeling and Prospect Heights, where the facility is sited. Before such an extension could be built, both municipalities would have to amend an intergovernmental agreement that bars new runways, officials said. Runway 16/34 was the site of the crash of a Gulfstream G-IV business jet that claimed the lives of

four people. National Transportation Safety Board investigator Jim Silliman said that the final crash report was not ready. He said aviation experts are scheduled to examine the jet's nose wheel steering device this week at NTSB facilities in Savannah, Ga.

At Monday's board meeting, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he saw no significant benefit to extending the runway and no economic conse-

quences to not doing so. "It appeared ... there was no compelling reason to extend the runway," Anderson said. "One concern was that if extended, it might attract commercial traffic and make the airport more attractive to larger planes. "I didn't think that was going to happen. It [77,000-pc] size of air traffic, and the Prospect Heights Rotchford's rejection of the proposal mooted the concept."

# Board rejects runway expansion request

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

1-16-97

*Countryside*

As the National Transportation Safety Board awaits various factual reports regarding an Oct. 30 fatal jet crash at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Wheeling trustees on Monday voted to reject a proposal to extend the airport's main runway.

It was from Runway 16/34 that the Gulfstream IV corporate jet crashed after an unsuccessful takeoff. The plane landed only feet away from the Foxboro Apartments on Wolf Road. All four aboard the California-bound flight were killed.

Trustees on Monday decided there is no need to consider lengthening

the runway by 400 feet as proposed by the Palwaukee Airport Commission. Talk of extending the runway only days after the crash outraged residents and family members of one of the victims.

While rejecting the proposal may not sit well with some corporate users, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the amenities of Palwaukee and its proximity to Chicago and major roadways should outweigh any inconveniences.

In a memo to trustees, Anderson said there "is no compelling reason to proceed with such an extension."

Though airport officials cited safety improvements as the primary reason to extend the runway, Anderson said

the facility is safe as it exists today.

"It's a safe airport," Anderson said. "I don't think (the runway extension) would enhance the safety."

Residents argued that more pavement would allow heavier planes to use the airport and would create a more hazardous situation in the event of an accident. Airport officials, however, said the extension would not be used to accommodate larger, heavier planes.

Because the issue has attracted extensive public attention, many had suspected no action would be taken on the proposal until after the April 1 municipal elections. In Wheeling, Village President Sheila Schultz is running for re-election, and three trustee

spots are open.

But with little discussion at Monday's special Village Board meeting, trustees unanimously agreed to reject the proposal.

Residents greeted the trustees' vote with applause, but they also voiced concerns that the proposal could be revisited, especially after the heat of campaigning dies down.

While Schultz could not promise that future boards won't re-examine the issue, she urged residents to stay informed on the topic and continue to make their feelings against expansion known.

Meanwhile, the NTSB's investigation into the fatal October crash continues. By the end of January, Jim

(Continued on page 12)

## Police continue hunt for clues to five-year mystery

By CHERI BENTRUP  
STAFF WRITER

1-16-97

*Countryside*

More than five years after an exotic dancer was found dead in her Wheeling townhouse, police investigators still are searching for clues to the murder.

On Friday, they again broadcast the story to the nation for help.

The facts surrounding the death of 27-year-old Jamie Santos were broadcast on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" Friday night and resulted in about 30 calls that may shed some light on the 5-year-old murder case.

It was Oct. 28, 1991, when Wheeling police received an anonymous 911 call from a man who said a woman was turning blue and not breathing at 1765 Stone Hedge in the Arlington Club apartments near Dundee and Buffalo Grove roads.

"Most everything we heard is new information," said Wheeling investigator Rich Benbow, who was in Los Angeles to take calls during and after Friday's program aired. "A couple (of calls) were from the Chicago area, but the majority weren't from this area. We figured we'd get calls from all over."

This wasn't the first time Wheeling police have sought help from the television media to solve the case. Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the facts also have been portrayed on "Hard Copy" just about a month after the murder and "Day and Date" last summer. Unfortunately, those programs didn't uncover any new leads for investigators.

"We had thought about it and the (Santos) family was all in favor of doing "Unsolved Mysteries." We submitted the facts of the case to them, they reviewed it and decided to air it," said Hermes. "Of all them that have been done so far, this was by far the best. It was very victim-friendly."

The program highlighted details of the case, some theories investigators have been considering and interviews with Santos' surviving family members.

"All of the leads will be followed up on," Benbow said.

"Unsolved Mysteries" also has an Internet web site which will allow browsers to hear the actual phone call as it was received by Wheeling police. Benbow expects the computer site to generate even more leads.

During the show Friday, about five calls about Santos' murder were phoned into the Wheeling Police Department, Hermes said. Those leads also will be investigated by Wheeling detectives.

A key in the case would be to learn who made the 911 call to police informing them of Santos' condition, Hermes said.

"Once we determine who the caller was, the case should be solved," said Benbow. "It just puzzles us why we have not been able to positively identify the voice."

Santos' case is the only unsolved murder Wheeling investigators have pending. Anyone with information regarding the case is asked to call the Wheeling Police Department at (847) 459-2632.

Silliman, an NTSB investigator, said he hopes to compile the various factual reports about the crash. The reports, which will include basic facts about the plane, weather conditions at the time of the crash and other accident specifics, could be released to the public as early as the end of February.

"What we feel is appropriate will be released to the public," Silliman said.

From the facts presented, investigators will see whether they can pinpoint a cause of the accident.

"We're still in the process. The people doing the factual

reports are still gathering information," he said.

The NTSB also is sending an investigator to Savannah, Ga., to conduct an inspection of the plane's nose wheel steering system, Silliman said.

Investigators already have traveled to Canada and met with representatives of Rolls Royce, the manufacturer of the Gulfstream's engines. They found nothing to indicate any mechanical defects that may have contributed to the crash. Silliman said the various plane parts recovered after the accident remain stored at a Palwaukee hangar.